



## CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held  
on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm  
on Zoom

**Present:** Marcus Munro, Vice and Acting Chair (MM), Mary Goulder, Treasurer/Secretary (MG), Norman MacDonald (NM), Keith Williams (KW)

**Apologies:** Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Brian Coghill (BC)

**Also present:** Highland Councillor Kirsteen Currie (KC), David Watson, KoSDT (DW), Colin Gilmour (CG), Michael Baird (MB)

**Police representative:** None present. Report received 26/04/21

**Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Police report.** Chair opened the meeting. Police report received post meeting indicated thirteen incidents in the last month. Five assist members of the public, two road traffic matters (one speeding), two domestic incidents, one vandalism, one disturbance one lost/found property. A point raised tonight regarding resident parking on the Lairg Road was passed to the police for advice after the meeting. In the report that police confirmed that there are no parking restrictions on this road and no offence is being committed. The police would not become involved on an informal basis.

Chair indicated that any relevant matters not on the agenda would be dealt with under Item 6.

**Item 2. Minutes of February meeting/matters arising.** The minutes of the February meeting, also held on Zoom, were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Norman MacDonald; seconded by Keith Williams. (1) It was agreed that MB's complaint would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

### **Item 3. Regular updates:**

(i) **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant applications. He has expressed concern regarding the height of the proposed turbines at all the windfarm developments currently being prepared for Planning applications. All present shared his views and again expressed the opinion that the area will be overwhelmed should all these developments proceed. The perennial problem exists as to how the community may benefit across the board from those that do. Every household should receive some form of benefit.

(ii) **TECS.** (1) Inveran. Letter received from local residents concerned about the appalling condition of the road beyond the power station. This had been forwarded to KC who had succeeded in arranging a site visit by a THC Roads Inspector who indicated that part of the road may be adopted by THC. KC will forward the email report to the CC and make contact with SSEN to enquire if a goodwill gesture might be forthcoming to improve the road condition. (2) Struie Road. PC has emailed KC regarding the disgraceful condition of the B9176 with potholes along the whole length and once again rubbish dumped at Strathroy and left uncleared. In places the potholes are up to eight inches deep, many can/could cause serious damage to vehicles. With the onset of the tourist season adding to the constant use by log and gravel trucks which are far too big and heavy for the road, action must be taken to avoid a serious accident. PC requested KC to push for this action urgently and not to allow the CC to be fobbed off yet again. **KC Action.**

(iii) **Financial report.** (MG) The balance of the Treasurer's account is £3409.23 Only one outgoing payment to Faclan Word Service. MG has also paid the £40 fee to the Information Commissioner's Office and this will be shown on her next invoice. The No 2 account has a balance of £26,830.83 reflecting payments to Invershin Hall, Bonar

Bridge Hall and Rosehall Hall from the Coire na Cloiche fund and Rock by Sea grants to Beth Simco and the Bradbury Centre.

- (iv) **Rosehall.** (MM/CG) Items on social media have resulted in large numbers of visitors attempting to access the Rosehall House, currently in a state of severe and dangerous disrepair. There is no vehicular access resulting in many vehicles being left around the village, in driveways, etc. The Rosehall Trails car park has been full over the last couple of weekends. This causes concern for the Rosehall & District Action Group (RADAG) as the insurance cover is for bone fide trail users only. With Covid restrictions still in place many locals are concerned regarding this large influx of people from wide ranging distances. Litter has also increased as a result and human waste is evident in several places. There are no toilet facilities in the village except for customers at the hotel and tearoom. KC expressed concern over this issue and offered to try to contact the various property owners within the estate to establish any action which can be taken. The Mansion House would need to be made 100% secure before the police could be involved. The owner should be encouraged to ensure that this is the case and also to appoint a local representative as he is apparently abroad. **KC Action.**
- (v) **Invershin.** (KW) (1) Inveran – see Item 3(ii). (2) Inveran bridge. KW reported that some safety measures have been put in place. He is liaising with THC which is still attempting to establish ownership of the bridge.
- (vi) **Bonar Bridge.** (1) MM reported regarding research into speed indicator signs. Information was circulated. £1500 per unit for street light compatible equipment. KC will check as to what assistance THC can give. (2) It was noted that the 20mph signs have been left on during the holidays. KC stated that a fault in the control system has been identified. The issue is across the region. She will check up on repair progress and report back. **KC Action.** Police speed checks have been carried out locally.
- (vii) **Highland Councillor's report.** (KC) Most points covered within the meeting. THC is producing a Visitor Management Plan for the region.
- (viii) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (DW) (1) The Locality Group's Resilience Plan was signed off tonight and will be launched soon. The plan will be regularly updated in each edition of the Kyle Chronicle allowing all residents to have immediate access to the information and contacts. Anyone wishing to update their information within the plan can do so easily via KoSDT. (2) Falls of Shin. Proposals from new operators have been invited with good interest shown. It is hoped to open the facility in July. (3) Bonar Bridge Post Office. Major refurbishment is urgently needed. A funding package is being put in place. It is hard to estimate costs until work commences. Worst case scenario is £125,000. Closure during the work will be necessary but temporary arrangements are being made to ensure there will be no interruption to service. (4) South Bonar site proposals. All funding is in place for the proposed campervan parking facility. Unfortunately SEPA is objecting as the site will not meet its new 'one in a thousand year event' stipulations. The site does meet the current 'one in 200 year event' regulations. KoSDT cannot proceed without SEPA approval. Alternative sites/solutions may be sought if this cannot be overcome. If the plan has to be abandoned the funding secured will revert to its sources.

**Item 4. Windfarm updates.** (1) Meall Buidhe MOU. Those present felt unable to sign off the MOU without the input from CCs experienced in such agreements. It is understood that the amount of community benefit payment proposed is the current level and there are fears that this may change in the future. KW declared a conflict of interest on environmental grounds, due to his position with the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust. For discussion at next meeting or at special meeting if arranged. As there are several windfarm developments proposed in the area a special meeting might be required to establish the stance and responses of the CC. **PC/MM/MG Action.**

## Minutes approved 18/05/2021

**Item 5. Correspondence.** Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded. (1) Info received regarding the North Highland Initiative CISP grant had been circulated and will be passed to DW. (2) Sales material received from Royal British Legion Industries will be passed to CG who will discuss it with the local representative of RBL. **MG Action.**

**Item 6. Any other competent business.** MM returned to MB who took issue with Item 5 in the previous Minutes. While agreeing that he is not and never has been a member of the CC MB wished to record that he has presented the CC with an accumulation of information from many sources on various local issues. He wished to refer all CCs to the Code of Conduct with which, in his opinion, the CC has not complied. MM responded that all MB's points have been recognised and his complaint to the Scottish Government Standards Committee has been noted. It is important that wedges are not built within the community and that what is said in public is accurate and not misrepresented. Individual opinions are not important. There must be clarity in the community with everyone working as positively as possible.

**Item 7. Date, time and place of next meeting.** Due to the continuing restrictions it is proposed (tbc) that the next meeting will also be held using Zoom, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm. Any matters raised by members of the public will be addressed on their behalf. The Zoom link may also be requested from [goulder4929@gmail.com](mailto:goulder4929@gmail.com)

**Item 8. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea funding applications. BTWF.** Application by Rosehall Village Hall for £800 towards a village enhancement scheme was approved. Creich & Kincardine Day Care Centre was awarded £2,000 to assist with costs incurred due to reopening regulations and The Kyle of Sutherland Hub was awarded £2,500 towards its Community Activity Engagement Programme. Rock by Sea. Brian MacKenzie received £400 towards a training course in Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue.

Meeting closed 10pm.