



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm
on Zoom

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Mary Goulder, Treasurer/Secretary (MG), Russell Smith (RS), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Keith Williams (KW)

Apologies: Brian Coghill (BC)

Invited guests: Jodie Ross (JR) and Jason Gardiner (JG), Kyle of Sutherland Community Resilience Plan

Also present: David Watson, KoSDT (DW)

Police representative: None present, report received by email

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Police report. Chair opened the meeting. Police report itemised twenty incidents since 19th January: 3 x road traffic collisions, 3 x road traffic matters, 3 x possible Covid rules breaches, 1 x destruction of firearm, 4 x assist members of the public, 2 x planned shoots, 1 x animal call, 1 x alarm activation, 1 x fire, 1 x weather related call.

Item 2. Community Resilience Plan. JG explained the need for such a plan being available in the event of any wide-reaching impact event, weather, etc, with specific benefit for vulnerable residents within the area. JR has a working document prepared, and an action plan is in place. Much support has been forthcoming with companies and individuals listing equipment and skills they can provide should they be needed. A huge amount of work has been done. A mainstay of the plan will be the 'telephone tree' which will be the most important link, providing relevant contact details for whatever emergency is faced. All information gathered will be held in the plan and not published elsewhere. The plan will be made available to all households via the distribution of the Kyle Chronicle and the information will be updated in each issue. Anyone with assets/resources they can offer should contact Jodie at the Trust to be included. jodie@kyleofsutherland.co.uk The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service liability insurance will cover any equipment/individuals at all times they are called upon during an emergency. New funding is being sought to provide recruitment and training for First Responders. Although the plan is for the Kyle of Sutherland area, the outlying areas, and Lairg and Dornoch will be included as any incident will have wider-reaching effects than just the immediate area involved. NM commented that during his time as a serving police officer in the area, there were similar contingency plans in place. It may be that these still exist and although out of date they may provide further relevant information. The plan will be accessible online, but the main source of the information will be from the Kyle Chronicle. All households should keep the relevant page in an easy to access place ready for any emergency. This is especially important for the vulnerable in the community and those who do not use the Internet. Once the plan is up and running it is hoped to expand the scope to include training, safe havens, etc. Further information can be had from Jodie. With thanks from the CC JR and JG left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Item 3. Minutes of January meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the January meeting, also held on Zoom, were approved as a true and accurate record with one amendment. Proposed by Russell Smith; seconded by John White. (1) RS was unable to attend in January so enquired about how the proposed motorhome site at Stonehenge would be managed. DW explained that there would be insufficient funds/income to support an on-site manager but that someone would always be on call with the maintenance officer attending two or three times per week. Such online management systems are commonplace on similar sites.

Item 4 Regular updates:

(i) **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) Nothing relevant in Creich's district.

- (ii) **TECS.** (1) As in every district throughout the country, the roads are in extremely poor condition with deep and dangerous potholes at countless sites. It was rumoured that Scottish Government had provided funding specifically for road maintenance. Cllr Currie will be asked for more details and Secretary will write to THC requesting updates as to what might be expected here. **KC/MG Action.**
- (iii) **Financial report.** (MG) The balance of the Treasurer's account is £3,534.23 reflecting only two outgoing payments in the last month, to Faclan Word Service and Zurich Insurance. The No 2 account has a balance of £36,003.83, unchanged since last month. No other activity on either account.
- (iv) **Rosehall.** (JW) Nothing other than frozen pipes in the area.
- (v) **Invershin.** (KW) Inveran bridge. No progress in the last month. KW afraid further damage may have occurred due to the recent bad weather. This item will be removed from future agendas with KW reporting as and when appropriate. **KW Action.**
- (vi) **Bonar Bridge.** (1) NM has received several complaints regarding HGVs, specifically log lorries, speeding on Lairg Road heading west. Pedestrians have been drenched as slush, water and mud have been thrown up from the wheels and the windows and frontages of property have been covered also. The police will be asked to consider speed checks/action. **MG Action/Police Action.** (2) CCs agreed to cost compatible speed indicator signs for the three main approach roads into Bonar Bridge. The old sign cannot be converted to operate from a streetlamp power source. MM will be asked to check out costs. **MM Action.**
- (vii) **Highland Councillor's report.** None available.
- (viii) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (DW) 'Stonehenge' proposals. Still in discussion with SEPA to attempt to meet their requirements concerning flooding/weather incidents. Bonar Bridge Post Office is to be refurbished later in the year. It is hoped that the service can be maintained during the works. Trust will soon be advertising for a new operator for the Falls of Shin centre which it is hoped might open in June/July. Other projects are ongoing and well used.

Item 5. Representation of the CC. It is minuted for clarity that Mr Michael Baird is not a member of the Community Council nor does he represent the views of it. Opinions expressed by Mr Baird are his own.

Item 6. Windfarm updates. Achany Extension. Further talks will be attempted with SSE to open discussions regarding proposals for community benefit. The community must be made aware of the plans on offer if considered judgements are to be made regarding the impact of the development.
PC Action.

Item 7. Correspondence. Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded. (1) A letter of thanks received from the Bradbury Centre for the letter of support from the CC regarding the future of the old bus. (2) CC has been invited by Ardgay CC to take part in an online meeting with Joe Perry, THC Climate Change Coordinator on 12th April. KW and NM are willing to attend. Secretary will pass contact details to the Chair of Ardgay CC. **MG Action.**

8. Any other competent business. Nothing raised.

9. 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 16th March 2021 at 7.30pm. Any matters raised by members of the public will be addressed on their behalf.

10. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea funding applications. BTWF. Previously approved in principle, the application by Bonar Bridge Football Club was ratified with the award of £3000 towards the Clubhouse Refurbishment Project. **MG Action. Coire na Cloiche.** The sum of £5,000 will be transferred from the new fund to the CC's Endowment Fund managed by Foundation Scotland. Each of the three local village halls, Bonar Bridge, Invershin and Rosehall will receive an immediate award of £1,000 to assist with ongoing running costs. This award will be reviewed

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annually. Further discussion will take place next month regarding disbursement of the remaining funds.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.