



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Monday 20th September 2021 at 8.00pm
on Zoom**

Present: Pete Campbell, Chair (PC), Marcus Munro, Vice Chair (MM), Mary Goulder, Secretary (MG), Donna Gilchrist, Treasurer (DG), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Rikki Vettors (RV), Keith Williams (KW)

Apologies: Brian Coghill (BC), David Watson (DW)

Also present: Highland Councillor Kirsteen Currie (KC), Christine Mackay, Deputy Lieutenant, (CM), Michael Baird (MB), Eilidh Forbes (EF)

Police representative: Report received by email

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Police report. Chair opened the meeting. The police report covered twenty-six calls in the Creich area over the last two months. None were of great significance and there was no feedback on them from the CC. It was noted that this shows the area to be pretty law abiding.

Item 2. Minutes of June meeting/matters arising. (1) The minutes of the June meeting, also held on Zoom, were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Norman MacDonald; seconded by Rikki Vettors. No matters arising were raised.

Item 3. Speed indicator signs/Bonar – Ardgay straight. MM reported that he has received no communication from Ross Bartlett at THC in response to his requests to proceed with the purchase of the approved speed indicator equipment and subsequent installation by THC on the appropriate streetlight. MM sent several emails and left telephone messages. The CC cannot go ahead without THC permission and is aware of the growing anger of residents on Lairg Road, where they state the problem is becoming intolerable. KC will reach out to her contact in another attempt to facilitate this purchase and siting of the equipment as soon as possible. In the meantime the police will be asked to mount roadside speed tests to enforce the limit and to report results of any survey which may have been carried out. KC advised that a funding initiative is going to consultation with a view to setting up ‘visual gateways’ and road painting on the village approaches. The police will be asked to set up speed check tests to enforce the speed limit. **KC/MG Action.** Chair reported he met with reps from Ardgay CC and THC to discuss the Bonar-Ardgay straight proposal to reduce the speed limit there while also extending the 30mph limit at the Bonar Bridge end. The current proposal would be for 50mph across the straight, with 30mph the limit at Ardgay Game. There is still a desire in local quarters for the whole straight to be 30mph. A decision should be reached shortly. PC expects the proposal to be ratified and will report at next meeting.

Item 4. The Queen’s Canopy. (CM) Christine Mackay addressed the meeting with information regarding this project to plant trees countrywide to mark the Queen’s 70th anniversary. Projects can range from a single tree to forests. CM has discussed with Ardgay CC which is in favour of the scheme; Brora CC is planning an orchard, with Golspie CC working with the Woodland Trust on a forest area. KW stated that the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Board already has several tree planting projects underway and may soon employ someone to take things forward. He will liaise with KoSDT which is keen to see schools and local groups become involved.

Full details are available on the website <https://queensgreencanopy.org>

Item 5. Inveran bridge update. (KW) Nothing to report. THC is apparently still trying to establish ownership. MB advised that Colin Howell THC is on leave until the 24th September.

Item 6. Inveran road update. Residents report there has been no action. KC advised that this has reached the top of the list for when a road team is available. She will enquire as to when that might

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be and advise MG. The Sutherland team was pulled out recently to assist in Ross-shire with urgent works. **KC Action.**

Item 7. Regular updates:

1. **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** No report available as DW is on leave. Full update is available in the current edition of the Kyle Chronicle.
2. **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant applications. Nil of note.
3. **TECS.** (1) Struie Road, B9176, has seen some remedial work carried out on potholes but there remain many areas of concern. It is hoped that the work will continue as this is a main artery for traffic to and from Sutherland. (2) Overgrown bushes and trees on the A837 from the Inveroykel turn off (Bailey Bridge) to Tuiteam are causing dangerous issues to high-sided vehicles. Trucks are hitting those which overhang the road. (3) Cattle grid at the road junction at Craigton Road, Airdens, Bonar Bridge was scheduled for replacement this autumn. So far, no work has been done. KC reported that THC is utilising funds from the Strategic Timber Fund. Meetings are regularly held with haulage companies. **KC Action.**
4. **Treasurer's report.** (DG) Treasurer's account balance is £2,639.65. Two outgoing payments following the last meeting, to Faclan Word Service. No. 2 Account balance stands at £50,457.61 reflecting incoming payments from Coire na Cloiche and Beinn nan Oighrean, the returned grant award from Bonar Bridge Children's Christmas Party and the training grant to Hamish Munro. DG was asked to provide breakdowns for the various windfarm money streams to aid CCs awareness of each. All approved the transfer of £5,000 from the No2 account/Coire na Cloiche fund to the Endowment Fund managed by Foundation Scotland. MG will provide contacts to DG. **MG/DG Action.**
5. **Rosehall.** (JW) Nil of note.
6. **Invershin.** (KW) See Items 5 and 6.
7. **Bonar Bridge.** (1) See also Item 3. (2) Land opposite Post Office. KW hopes to have a team available for further work clearing the site. He was encouraged to seek funding from Beinn Tharsuinn if required. Once cleared it is possible that this area could be planted in line with The Queen's Canopy project. The ground is unfenced at the foot by the river therefore unsuitable for grazing. KW will keep CC informed. **KW Action.** (3) Speed restriction signs at Bonar Primary School. Reported that one of the four 20mph flashing signs is still on all the time, requiring a reset. Two others further down the hill are also malfunctioning. **KC Action.**
8. **Highland Councillor's report.** (KC) Most points covered elsewhere in the Minutes. KC advised that she is no longer on the Planning Committee. Cllr Hugh Morrison is now the representative for Sutherland. No update available regarding Rosehall recycling point.

Item 8. Windfarm updates. (1) (PC) Further meetings with SSE and CC reps have resulted in SSE confirming that the community benefit agreement will remain at £5,000. No details given of how that will be managed. (2) Garvary is in the throes of Planning. THC has been given a further extension till the end of October for their submission to the consultation. (3) MM asked if the recent coalition between the Scottish Government and the Green Party might result in fast-tracking of windfarm projects. KC advised that there can be no immediate changes to the Planning legislation. (4) Planning applications have been submitted for developments at Strath Tirry and Kintradwell. (5) Discussion agreed that there will be no changed to the current CC procedure for assessing proposals, continuing to take each one on its merit.

Item 9. Correspondence. Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded.

Item 10. Any other competent business. (1) Creich cemetery wall. A meeting took place with Fiona Macleod FM), a representative of THC, PC and MG with Dave Goulder. Discussion revealed the will to create a community project which would over time replace the existing and damaged wall with a dry stone dyke. THC policy is for a cement wall but this could be achieved using natural stone. FM will discuss ideas with local dry stone specialist Alasdair MacKenzie as well as THC to establish what might be achieved. Local crofters and farmers would be encouraged to donate stone and remove rubbish. FM will be asked for an update. **PC Action.**

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Item 11. Date, time and place of next meeting. There will be no meeting in October. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm. Venue tbc.

Item 12. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. Beinn Tharsuinn. In private discussion, application from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £3,000 to continue its KALM project was approved. Bonar Bridge OAP Fund was awarded £600 towards its Christmas Afternoon Tea. The application by Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week, which was approved by email with an award of £220 was ratified. Coire nan Cloiche. The CC hopes to finalise its management of this fund at the November meeting.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.