



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm
on Teams**

Present: Keith Williams, Chair (KW), Mary Goulder, Secretary (MG), Donna Gilchrist. Treasurer (DG), Russell Smith (RS), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Kay Smart (KS)

Apologies: Marcus Munro, Vice Chair (MM), Brian Coghill (BC)

Also present: David Watson, KoSDT (DW), Caroline McMorran, Northern Times, Highland Councillor Michael Baird (MB) from 7.50pm.

Police representative: Report received by email

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Chair Keith Williams opened the meeting and confirmed that in spite of the drop in remaining elected members, THC has stated that the CC may continue to function as normal as the number of co-opted members is in accordance with the Standing Orders. Therefore the CC is not in abeyance. Four elected/co-opted members present will make any meeting quorate. An interim election will be held by THC on 2nd March aiming to elect enough people to meet the required figure of nine. Nominations for this election will open on 9th January 2023. The four already elected members will remain in place; co-opted members must seek election to continue.

Item 2. One minute's silence in memory of Community Councillor Rikki Vettors. The minute's silence was observed after which the Chair expressed condolences to the family and thanks for Mr Vettors' service to the community.

Item 3. Minutes of October meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Kay Smart; seconded by Russell Smith. (1) Inveran road. Residents confirm that the work has been completed. This item will be removed from future agendas. (2) Inveran bridge. The ownership debate continues. KoSFT will write to THC to pursue the issue. Ownership must be established so that he/she can apply for funding for the essential repairs. KW will keep CC updated. **KW Action.** (3) Land opposite Bonar Bridge Post Office. Negotiations continue with the old Skibo Estate through William Thompson. It is suggested that the community could become involved in providing/maintaining a feature community garden on the site. If approval can be reached KoSDT is willing to be part of discussions/plans. (4) Speed indicator signs. No update at this point in the meeting. (See also Item 4.9)

Item 4. Regular updates:

- 1. Chair's report.** (KW) Time spent with THC establishing the right of the CC to continue meantime. Letter sent to Hayley Bangs regarding request for support for a community business plan for the Falls of Shin. Sallachy meeting the previous week, KW partook of the hospitality provided. Sallachy development has Planning Permission and community benefit arrangements have been agreed. The management arrangements are yet to be confirmed. Connection is projected for 2028. KW has become the standby CC rep to the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Board with NM remaining as the main rep.
- 2. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (DW) (1) Full details of work/projects can be had from the Trust office at The Barn. (2) Board meeting scheduled for 7th December). (3) KW was thanked for belatedly officially opening the Bonar Bridge Post Office. (4) Portaloos at Falls of Shin. Existing funding ends in January. After discussion it was agreed to remove the cabins during January, February and March 2023 and if funding is secured reinstate them from April. MB to confirm if funding may be had from the Ward Discretionary Fund. **MB Action.** (5) Falls of Shin Visitor Centre. The CC confirmed it is in favour of whichever plan is finally chosen to reopen the facility. Whatever plan that is chosen must provide benefit to

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the local community, therefore the best solution must be found. (6) South Bonar Development Plan. Scottish Government upheld the objection by SEPA regarding the one in one thousand year flooding risks. Regrettably the Trust must therefore abandon the plans previously proposed. Thanks to the Trust were expressed for the work in seeking to benefit the site and the community.

3. **Resilience Plan update.** Nothing to update this month.
4. **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant Planning applications. Asked about the Local Plan, Cllr Baird advised that an overall Highland-wide Plan within the National Planning Framework is with Scottish Government now with smaller areas to be considered later. The former is due for implementation in February 2023. There will be little detail concerning local areas at this stage. DW stated that local community place planning should be encouraged by Scottish Government with THC making this a priority. There is no real funding currently available.
5. **TECS.** (1) MB advised of issues with grass cutting machines for cemeteries as not all of them can fit into the sites. (2) Investigations continue to identify all sources of the water across the main road at Drumliath. (3) Lack of salt/gritting at Oakwood Place is causing dangerous conditions. A salt bin should be provided at the road end. (See also 4.9)
6. **Treasurer's report.** (DG) No. 1 account balance stands at £1,908.64 reflecting the incoming payment of the Admin Grant from THC. Outgoing payments were for the Remembrance Day wreath, KoSDT for website/Facebook maintenance, room hire at Invershin and secretarial services. The No 2 account balance is unchanged at £48,144.
7. **Rosehall.** (MM) JW once again raised the issue of horrendous potholes on the Glen Cassley road, especially at the far end. **MB Action.**
8. **Invershin/Bonar Bridge.** (KW) Nil of note
9. **Highland Councillor's report.** (MB) KS confirmed that work has started at the playpark. RS advised that the cattle grid at Craigton Road has been replaced. NM noted that the 20mph lights are still not functioning properly. **MB Action.** Cllr Baird advised of a 20mph speed limit trial on approaches to 130 villages. Also of concern is that the local bus contract has been awarded to Rapsons but the Saturday service will be withdrawn. He urged the CC to complain as many local people will be adversely affected by this change. He will provide details to the Chair then the CC will write to THC. **MB/KW Action.**
10. **Police report.** Received by email the report noted eighteen calls in total: one assist member of the public, 2 animal related calls, three suspect persons/vehicles, one disturbance, three damage calls, one noise complaint, one explosive find (WW2 mortar round), one concern for person, two road traffic matters, one drink driver and two thefts. RS felt that the report was not particularly helpful wondering if anyone looks at trends or analyses the data, for example is there an increase/decrease in RTAs? Is the information passed on and if so to whom/where? KW offered to enquire further. **KW Action.**

Item 5. Windfarm updates. (1) Cleansaid by Dalnessie. Section 36 application has been approved by THC. (2) Pentland, 12.5km offshore at Reay, has been approved. (3) Meall Buidhe appeal submitted to Scottish Government. CC has reiterated its objections.

Item 6. Correspondence. Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded. (1) Ongoing communications between MG and the Trust re the upgrading of the website. Spanglefish has done some of the preliminary work. Meeting scheduled between MG and Kirstin to flesh out details. (2) KW kindly hosted this meeting on Teams, opening his office for others to attend if they have difficulty with access online.

Item 7. Any other competent business. (1) None raised.

Item 8. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 14th February 2023 and will be held on Teams..

Item 9. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea/Coire na Cloiche fund applications.

Beinn Tharsuinn. Application by Bonar Bridge Football Club was approved for £2,500 towards car

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park and playing field lighting; Invershin Hall Committee's application was also approved with £126 towards Balance Bikes. **CnC.** Annual awards approved from this fund to help support local halls and groups. £2,000 each was approved for village halls in Bonar Bridge, Rosehall and Invershin, plus the Bradbury Centre and Lairg Learning Centre. Awards of £1,000 each were approved for the two Parent Council Groups, at Bonar Bridge and Rosehall Primary Schools. The awards were increased this year in light of the present energy/cost of living crisis. The awards will be reviewed again this time next year.

Meeting closed 9.00pm.