



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.30pm
in Invershin Village Hall**

Present: Keith Williams, Chair (KW), Mary Goulder, Secretary (MG), Donna Gilchrist. Treasurer (DG), Russell Smith (RS), Rikki Veters (RV), Kay Smart (KS)

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

Also present: Highland Councillor Michael Baird (MB), David Watson, KoSDT (DW), Shona Paterson (SP)

Police representative: Report received by email

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Police report. Chair opened the meeting. Police report indicated eighteen calls in total from 11/09/22 to 11/10/22. Four road traffic matters, one fraud, two concern for persons, one assault, one alarm activation, six assist members of the public, one animal call, one road traffic collision and one damage to property. The report stated that regular/static patrols have been carried out in the area in relation to speeding vehicles and that has provided a visible presence however CCs remain concerned that a higher profile is required as there has been no reduction in issues with most saying they had not been aware of the police activity. **Police Action.**

Item 2. Minutes of August meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Rikki Veters, seconded by Kay Smart (1) KS updated the CC regarding progress with playpark improvements. Productive discussions with THC which will continue to provide grass cutting and will install approved equipment if the newly established playpark group fundraises to cover the equipment costs. A new trampoline is to be sunk into the ground. A safety report from 2020 was flagged which should lead to the replacement of the damaged slide. The group is grateful to officers at KOSDT for the help and support in setting up the group and achieving this progress. DW highlighted this as an indication of what can be achieved with groups, the CC and the Trust working together. Other groups/individuals should be encouraged to attend the CC meetings and be involved in making things happen locally.

Item 3. Speed indicator signs update. Cllr Baird still pushing for action on the signs – the issue has been long running and is making no progress. Similarly the issues with the 20mph flashing warning signs at the school has been ongoing with no resolution. Cllr Baird was requested to urge a conclusion to both issues asap. **MB Action.**

Item 4. Inveran bridge/Inveran road. update. (MB) THC Legal department has conducted research which has reached the conclusion that Skibo Estate is the owner of the bridge; a decision which is categorically denied by the Skibo Estate Trust. A meeting is to be scheduled with William Thomson of the Trust of Skibo Estate, KW and MB attending. **MB/KW Action.** Inveran Road. Roads Dept advise that surface tarring work is scheduled for this week. A damaged storm drain at 8 Inveran has been repaired.

Item 5. Regular updates:

- 1. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** (DW) (1) Full details of work/projects can be had from the Trust office at The Barn. Funding was sourced to provide baking kits for school kids to use during the holidays; £14,000 also secured for home growing starter kits and training in growing produce with classes for young families to be held in Bonar Bridge hall. Westminster Fund providing £2,000 for children's Christmas boxes and a further £100,000 could be secured for emergency funding support during the winter. Falls of Shin. The provision of toilets is in place for a three month period. Discussions continue as to the future of the restaurant with some expressions of interest received. The Lottery has offered to help

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support a community group to take this over if this might be a viable way forward. Community Larder. Opening hours will be extended on Fridays to include a session from 4pm – 6pm. More working people are now coming forward to access the help. Cases of residents/businesses struggling to meet electricity costs are increasing. Discussions to be held at fund meetings to seek pooling of resources to fund core groups. The energy crisis is proving more difficult to cope with than the pandemic.

2. **Resilience Plan update.** Defibrillator points are now in place throughout the area and training in use of the equipment will be arranged. The equipment must be checked on a weekly basis. SSE will hold training regarding use of hook up points for support equipment.
3. **Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant Planning applications. Concerns raised about the lack of infrastructure in various outlying areas which are seeing an increase in house building. Water supply may also be an issue in some places. Planning applications appear to be dealt with on an individual basis with little consideration given to the cumulative effects of such increases in demand for services. Cllr Baird asked to ascertain the date for the next Local Plan when such points can be raised. **MB Action.**
4. **TECS.** (1) Nil of note.
5. **Treasurer's report.** (DG) No. 1 account balance stands at ££1,668.93 reflecting outgoing payments to Secretary, Treasurer, meeting room hire, and website hosting annual fee. The No. 2 account balance stands at £48,144.73, which includes a recent annual payment from Core na Cloiche.
6. **Rosehall.** (MM) Nothing raised.
7. **Invershin.** (KW) See Item 4 above. **Bonar Bridge.** Water across A836 at Drumliath road end. THC survey indicates this is drainage water therefore a new waste pipe is to be put in place from the property Burnside.
8. **Highland Councillor's report.** (MB) (1) Barrier around the telephone cabling work by Creich Church on Migdale Road has been made more secure with use of cable ties. Dispute between Scottish Water and BT continues as to why this has not been completed. (2) Still no decision reached regarding Ardgay-Bonar Bridge straight speed restrictions. This long running debate should be urged to reach a conclusion asap. Danger to children and pedestrians. **MB Action.**

Item 6. Windfarm updates. (1) Strathoykel. It is understood that THC Planning recommended refusal of permission for all the same reasons as it already refused Meall Buidhe. This will now go to a Public Enquiry. (2) Meall Buidhe. The Developers have submitted an appeal against the decision by THC and the matter will pass to Scottish Government. SP expressed the most grateful thanks from the communities of Rosehall and Altas for the support of the CC in the campaign urging rejecting of all proposed developments on the south side of the Kyle of Sutherland. (3) Chair advised that he had been made aware of an email sent to the Planning Committee ahead of the Strathoykel Planning meeting which might have been misconstrued as giving Creich CC's support for the application. It is important that any statements made to the official bodies on such matters are only issued by the appropriate CCs. Negotiations with developers will continue to take place ahead of Planning decisions regarding the provision of community benefit which is not a Planning consideration. It is essential that satisfactory outcomes are reached in order that, should an application receive approval, the best possible deal has been secured to benefit the appropriate communities.

Item 7. Correspondence. Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded.

Item 8. Any other competent business. (1) Land opposite the Post Office in Bonar Bridge. Discussions between Cllr Baird and KOSDT ongoing with a view to creating a community asset here to provide an attractive area in the centre of the village. Funding might be sourced if plans can be produced by local groups working together. Any action must include long term maintenance plans. DW advised that formal approval from the landowner is critical. KW and MB agreed to discuss this with the landowner. KW/MB Action. **KW/MB Action.** (2) Energy vouchers. KS advised that some vouchers are not valid for use in the Spar shop and some of those receiving them

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are unable to get to the Post Office where the vouchers can be redeemed. She will discuss further with DW and the Trust to find a way to improve the situation.

KS/DW Action. (3) Website. CC approved the upgrading of the website through Spanglefish to provide a more professional appearance and to enable the proposed changes to the operation of the secretariat. Further efforts on the website and elsewhere should be made to encourage applications to the Training and Development Grant. **MG Action.**

Item 9. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 6th December and will be held on Zoom following the decision to use this platform for winter meetings. The Trust will be asked if the CC can do this through its account as before. **MG Action.**

Item 10. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea fund applications. Rock by Sea application by Michelle Henley which was approved by email decision was ratified.

Meeting closed 9.05pm.