



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7.30pm
on Teams**

Present: Keith Williams, Chair (KW), Marcus Munro, Vice Chair (MM), Mary Goulder, Secretary (MG), Donna Gilchrist, Treasurer (DG), Norman MacDonald (NM), Kay Smart (KS)

Apologies: Russell Smith (RS), John White (JW), Brian Coghill (BC), David Watson, KOSDT. (DW), Tracey Smith (TS)

Also present: Cllr Michael Baird (MB), Cllr Marianne Hutchison (MH), Caroline McMorran, Northern Times, Highland, Christine Mackay, Deputy Lieutenant (CM)

Police representative: No report received; to be forwarded if one arrives

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Chair Keith Williams opened the meeting, thanking those in attendance.

Item 2. Minutes of December meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Kay Smart; seconded by Norman MacDonald.

Item 3. Regular updates:

- 1. Chair's report.** (KW) Confirmed that the results of the interim election will be official on March 2nd. KW, KS and TS have all been elected with effect from that date. This brings the number of elected members to seven; full complement is nine. The scheduled election will be held in November this year. Encouragement should be given to anyone who might consider joining.
- 2. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** No report in DW's absence. CC confirmed support for any workable business plan to reopen Falls of Shin. The ongoing closure is a loss of revenue to the area as well as the loss of the facilities for the community and visitors.
- 3. Resilience Plan update.** Nothing to update this month.
- 4. Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant Planning applications. A reworked application has been submitted for the Garvary windfarm. Meall Buidhe appeal has also been submitted.
- 5. TECS.** (1) Parking in Bonar Bridge. Issues raised regarding camper vans filling the car park which is used for those attending funerals at the church, also along Tulloch Road, Skips in Migdale Road; sorned vehicles on the roadside causing issues for residents. MB to check out the problems. Other issues reported included water across Migdale Road, continuing problem with flashing 20mph lights at the school, water on the main road at Drumliath road end, and the stone bridge on the A839, opposite Woodside cottage, which has been damaged by collision. MB will take these points to THC. **MB Action.**
- 6. Treasurer's report.** (DG) No. 1 account balance stands at £1,908.64 reflecting two outgoing payments for Treasurer and Secretarial work. The No2 account balance is £36,064.73. The recently authorised payments from the Coire na Cloiche fund to local organisations are itemised in the breakdown report. Reports and bank statements are available on request.
- 7. Rosehall.** (MM) MM suggested the placing of a mirror at the road junction of the A837 and the minor road up to the village hall and beyond. Sightlines are very poor. MB advised that THC will not erect mirrors but landowners are allowed to do so with no THC objection. He will mention the issue to the Traffic Order Team. MM may speak to the landowner. CC would consider an application for funding towards costs. **MB/MM Action.**
- 8. Invershin/Bonar Bridge.** (KW) Nil of note

Minutes approved 16/05/2023

9. Highland Councillor's report. (MB) 128 Highland villages are to be placed under 20mph regulations over the coming months following appropriate consultations with emergency services, etc. Initially new signs will be covered to allow for any legal challenges. Local villages are expected to see the changes by the end of the year. Restrictions at schools will remain at 20mph. A traffic survey is ongoing at Bonar Primary.

10. Police report. Discussion noted that crime appears to be on the increase, especially with incidents of stolen agricultural vehicles and equipment, and also fuel from residential tanks. It is appreciated that local police are severely stretched/undermanned. CCTV on main streets was suggested to help identify unusual activity/vehicles passing through. CCs could be asked to contribute to costs. MB will discuss with Police/THC. **MB Action.**

Item 4. Bonar Bridge War Memorial Centenary arrangements. A service arranged at the war memorial for 23rd February at 11am to mark the one hundred years since the erection of the memorial. CC Chair, David Hannah and Christine Mackay have been working together to help plan the event. Much work has been done by local volunteers to make and place poppies on the gate. Refreshments will be served in the village hall after the service. It was noted that the railings need repainting and quotes are being sought for the materials. The correct paint is very expensive but an application to the CC towards costs would be looked on favourably.

Item 5. Windfarm updates. (1) MB advised of ongoing matters at THC regarding THC's failure to act properly through the Meall Buidhe applications procedures. (2) A new National Planning Framework is to be put in place for future developments. (3) Strathoykel and Garvary applications will both come back for review. (4) A new proposal by Energy 9 for a nine turbine development at Balblair on crofting land north of the big house. This will be a THC decision owing to the size of the development.

Item 6. Correspondence. Any relevant correspondence had been forwarded.

Item 7. Any other competent business. (1) Website. The new site is up and running. (2) Community Action Plan. Meetings, involving all three local CCs, have been taking place, attended by NM for Creich. Various surveys have been carried out but with very low return, only 15 or 20% throughout the area. A steering group of volunteers is being set up to take forward ideas. Any larger projects planned would result in applications for funding to each of the CCs. (3) Friends of Sutherland Veterans are planning events for Armed Forces Day on 24th June to be held in the memorial gardens in Golspie. If an event is planned in either the Hub or Bonar Hall the CC would be open to requests for funding support. (4) Coronation., 6th May. An online ballot on the Lieutenancy website is open for anyone wishing to apply for tickets. Events such as street parties are being considered locally with Culrain Hall holding a ceilidh on the Saturday evening. Local schools will take part in various events. Further information is available from Christine Mackay. (5) Sutherland Community Planning Partnership. MH is involved with a sub group looking at housing issues in all areas. Maintenance of holiday homes, statistics on affordable housing, standard of rented/THC housing stock etc are all being considered. A key problem is the difficulty for young local people trying to rent property. Many leave the area as no housing is available/affordable. Working families can't afford housing here. Too many council houses have been sold in recent years; the same applies to crofts lost to the communities when they have been split or sold out of crofting.

Item 8. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 18th April 2023 in Bonar Bridge Hall at 7.30pm.

Item 9. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea/Coire na Cloiche fund applications. Application by the Bradbury Centre for funding for various training courses was approved. DG will liaise with the applicants regarding payments. **DG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.35pm.