



CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held
on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7.30pm
in Bonar Bridge Hall**

Present: Keith Williams, Chair (KW), Mary Goulder, Secretary (MG), Russell Smith, Kay Smart (KS), Tracey Smith (TS)

Apologies: Vice Chair Marcus Munro (MM), Treasurer Donna Gilchrist (DG), Norman MacDonald (NM), John White (JW), Brian Coghill (BG)

Also present: Cllr Michael Baird (MB), David Watson, KoSDT (DW), Colin Gilmour, Christine Mackay, D Ross, David Baker

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above). Chair Keith Williams opened the meeting which commenced immediately after the closure of the AGM.

Item 2. SSEN proposed power line update. TS attended a recent public exhibition by SSEN which was poorly presented by seemingly unprepared representatives. Information provided on a tiny screen was too detailed for anyone to be able to read it and the reps spoke very quietly causing some present to miss the information/discussions. Contentious questions were avoided. No cohesive strategy was explained. Those present were left with an impression of chaos and no proper communication with the community. No feedback forms were available for completion. CC will continue to refrain from comment until a route decision is published by SSEN. DW advised that if the development is designated as a National Important Infrastructure then it cannot be challenged; the only challenge possible would be over the chosen route. SSEN is indicating that the development is so designated. MB stated that the route is 180miles long and should generate community benefit.

Item 3. Minutes of May meeting/matters arising. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Kay Smart; seconded by Tracey Smith. MB advised that the water issues at Drumliath are ongoing.

- 1. Chair's report.** (KW) Nothing to add to the report given at the AGM earlier. (Content available in the AGM draft minutes.)
- 2. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. (1)** DW confirmed that the Falls of Shin building is now for sale on the open market. Interest will be gauged before a closing date might be set. At present the electric vehicle charging point and the play park will remain within the public area, which is owned by THC, though this may be subject to negotiation. The disabled parking area is included in the sale. The Trust will continue to maintain the footpath in line with the existing agreement. The temporary portaloos are in place and functioning. **(2)** Post Office garden. A community garden contractor has been appointed. It is hoped to involve the local schools with the project. **(3)** The polytunnel continues to operate very successfully. The Trust continues to work to alleviate food poverty locally. A food voucher scheme involving the local shops is in place, benefitting users and businesses alike. Full details of all the activities of the Trust are available from the offices at The Barn, Ardgay.
- 3. Resilience Plan update.** A defibrillator/first aid course scheduled in Rosehall.
- 4. Planning & Licensing.** (RS) RS had forwarded all relevant Planning applications. Nil of note other than recent Government approval of Meall Buidhe and Achany extension wind farm developments. THC has maintained its objection the Garvary. RS recommended the setting up of Community Liaison Groups for both Meall Buidhe and the Achany extension developments impressing the need for these to be chaired by local people. Experience proves

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that such groups can have significant impact on many issues, for example community infrastructure.

5. **TECS.** (1) 'Lethal potholes' described on Bonar Brae, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. Cllr Baird was made aware of ongoing issues with grass cuttings in local cemeteries. The recent complaint referred to a grass-covered flat gravestone. Discussion pondered the setting up of a local team to deal with the issues but this is a statutory duty of THC. Insurance issues would arise. Also it was noted that residents taking trailers to the local recycling points have been refused access. **MB Action.**
6. **Treasurer's report.** (DG) No. 1 account balance stands at £750.68. Various outgoing expenses were itemised. The annual accounts will be submitted following the AGM which should trigger prompt payment of the admin grant from THC. The No 2 account balance stands at £27,492.73. A list of the grants awarded since the last financial report was provided.
7. **Rosehall.** Nil of note.
8. **Invershin/Bonar Bridge.** (KW) Nil of note
9. **Highland Councillor's report.** (MB) The speed limit upgrade on the Bonar-Ardgay straight is at Traffic Order level. The introduction of the 20mph limits in the villages is also making slow progress with the timeline being called into question.
10. **Police report.** As it is proving unworkable to have a regular report it was suggested that perhaps an annual one might be useful. DW offered to investigate this further with a new contact. MB will discuss with the Ward Manager if CC can be included in circulation of reports which go to THC. **DW/MB Action.**

Item 6. Windfarm updates. (1) See item 4 above.

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

Item 8. Any other competent business. (1) 50th anniversary of the bridge in Bonar. KS will liaise with a local gin distillery enquiring about a labelling opportunity. Discussions covered a possible switching on of light displays on the bridge/a ceremony/barbeque event. (2) KW highlighted that this year is also the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Bradbury Centre. At present the board has no chair in place. The staff are hoping to organise celebrations. (3) Register of Interests. CC members are required to register their interests in local groups, etc. MG will check with PT if a standard form exists. If not, CCs should simply email her with a list of their involvements and also state these at any relevant time during CC discussions. **Action All.**

Item 8. Date, time and place of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 15th August 2023 at 7.30pm. The venue will be Rosehall Village Hall.

Item 9. Private session. Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea/Coire na Cloiche fund applications. No applications to be discussed.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.