



Draft Minutes Creich Community Council Minutes of 17/6/24 @ 7pm Bonar Bridge Community Hall

Present:

Scott Veters (Chair SV), Hayley Bangs (HB), Iain Maclean (IM), Caroline Munro (CM), Colin MacFarlane (Cmacf), Norman Macdonald (NM), Russell Smith (RS), Shona Patterson (SP), Iain Bowles (IB), Cllr Michael Baird

Members of public – Creich

Carolyn Gibbs, Margaret Calder, Matt Forrest, Sarah Forrest, Diane Ross, David Baker, Ronald

Members of public – Ardgay

Kerry Hawthorne, Victor Hawthorne, Samantha Kane, Graham Charge, Janet Charge

Visitors - SSENT

Ravi Mahajan, Lisa Marchi, Ryan Marshall

Apologies:

Donna Gilchrist (DG Associate treasurer) David Watson (DW) KosDT

Matters Arising from previous minutes:

All payments have been made to organisations from the CnC fund except Rosehall Primary Parent Council. SF will look into getting details over.

Approval of previous meetings minutes

Proposed IM seconded HB

Chairs Report- SV

No report as followed on from AGM

Cassley Substation

The representatives handed out information regarding the proposals and talked through each section. Questions were then taken from the floor. Any further enquiries can be made to lisa.marchi@sse.com They will be seeking planning submission in February 2025 with a proposed connection date of 2028.

Discussion and questions centred on the inadequacies of the planning process rather than on the forthcoming application for the substation which is required to service the already consented Sallachy wind farm. Wind farm applications are considered in isolation with no reference to the substations or connections to the grid that would be required for them to function so the impact of the wind farm on the local community is underestimated.

KoSDT: Report sent prior to meeting

Points of interest that have arisen in the past four weeks are:

1. The KoSDT/Sutherland Community Partnership crofting questionnaire received 99 responses. One of the most important statistics that has come out of the questionnaire is that only 5% of responses were from those over 60. 55% were between 22-40 and 38% between 41-60. This fits well with the intention of crofting playing a significant part in repopulation with a younger demographic. We are already meeting with partners (including landowners and the Crofting Commission) to try and use the information gathered to advance the creation of new crofts.
2. KoSDT are now back to a full staffing requirement after appointing a new officer to join the Sutherland Community Planning Team
3. KoSDT have spoken to Oberlanders about developing/producing a spatial place plan for the Creich and Ardgay & District CC areas that meets the Highland Council Development Plan deadline for submission. The plan will be informed by the Ardgay, Creich, and Lairg CAP but will also require further community engagement.

The CC discussed previous correspondence received regarding Sallachy Single purpose vehicle community ownership. DW has been invited to the next meeting to discuss this further.

Point 3 will be discussed in the private windfarm benefits discussion as an application has been received.

Resilience Plan update (*if appropriate*):

No Update

Planning & Licensing

RS went through planning requests; no objections were made. RS to forward details of an application for a house near Balblair Farm.

TEC Services & HC Councillor's report – Cllr MB

- Drumliah road problem is ongoing.
- Road in Altass needs attention.
- Speed on roads
- Verge strimming in Rosehall is required.

- Creich & Invershin cemetery gates are away to be refurbished.
- No grass is being collected after strimming as HC do not have the equipment.
- Strathrory cattle grid HC sending letter to Forestry & Agriculture to see if it is still required.
Traffics lights costing £90 per week.

Financial report provided by DG prior to meeting.

As @ 17/6/24

Treasurers No 1 Account	£175.68
No 2 Account	£26,874.77
Balance of Beinn Tharsuinn Fund	£44,504.93
Balance of CnC fund	£3,779.18
Balance of Rock by Sea Fund	£24,095.59
Balance of Investment Fund	£69,571.00

Rosehall - SP

SP presented a letter regarding reports of dangerous dogs and other anti-social behaviour. The CC felt it was not our place to represent to the police at this stage as there is no evidence to support and would require evidence of the number of complainants. At present this remains a personal issue for the individual or individuals to monitor and report to the police. We will ask for police representation at future meetings.

Community are looking at their own option for the Inverauld junction.

Bonar Bridge- HB

Balblair windfarm is the main concern. Agreed to put as an agenda item on next meeting and invite representative.

Path to Balblair woods not usable due to traffic speed. Discussion took place around general speeds in and around villages and how this may tie in with a LPP.

Invershin- IB

Speeding an issue and condition of bridge railings, footpaths need clearing

There was discussion around the new sign put up at Invershinn and why was this only at one entrance to the village- MB to look into this.

MB informed that reducing the speed limit through the village will go to public consultation.

Windfarms & associated storage/substations

- Sallachy- there is a community liaison meeting on 5th June SV will attend HB to notify.
- Balblair- it is understood that there will be another community presentation in July with two turbines changing. HB will invite representative to next meeting.

- Inveroykel/ Creachan – in scoping
- Achceilidh- in Rogart
- Shinness - in Lairg
- - in scoping
- Croick – two turbines
- Cassley Substation- planning submission expected February 2025
- Allt an Tuir Renewable Energy Park – Rosehall correspondence received after meeting HB to invite representative.

SSEN Pylons

HB updated on a call with Ron McAulay (Beaulay) The Highland Council is a statutory consultee the CCs are not so any objections can at this stage be made to the HC, local councillors, and MPs /MSPs. There will be a window of opportunity to submit views when the planning request goes to Scottish Governments Energy Consents Unit.

Correspondence had been received from SK requesting a letter of support. SK was directed to the response from the previous CC which still stands on the website. The CC reiterated it will not support specific routes, with either underground or subsea the proposal supported.

Cmacf will take over as CC pylon point of contact.

Correspondence

SSE hydro new fund – HB and IM will attend this on 24th June. Survey will be put on Facebook.

A.O.B

None

Non community Councillors left the meeting for a private funding discussion.

Funding Applications

Beinn Tharsuinn – 3 application received

Kos Gala application for 515.75 to provide a weekend of activities for all was approved.

Bonar Bridge Childrens Christmas party application for £1,000 for party & gifts was approved

Kosdt application for £2,000 was agreed in principal to develop a LPP, further questions for clarification have been sought.

Rock by Sea- 1 application received

Rachel Agnew received an award of £400 to attend training courses to qualify as a nail technician.

A request from a previous declined application for reconsideration was discussed. Original decision upheld.

CnC

No applications- fund balance is low.

Next Meeting

16th September 2024

Invershin Village Hall 7pm