

~~SECRET~~

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Garve Hall on 1st August 1994.

Chairman Mr. A. Logie.

Apologies P.C. Chisholm.

Present: Mr. Menzies, Mr. Allison, Mrs. MacPhail, Mr. Tarr,
Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Winship, Mr. Logie, Mr. MacKay,
Mr. Green. H.R.C., Mr. Stirling, District, Mrs. Tarr.

The meeting was opened at 8.00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Mr. Logie. He asked the secretary to read the minutes of the June meeting. Mr. Allison moved adoption, seconded by Mr. MacKay. - Carried.

Matters Arising and Correspondence;

Copies of letters from Cllr. Stirling to various departments concerning matters raised in the previous meeting were read. One reply had been received - from Mr. Watt Leisure Services.

1. This confirmed the repair of the play area fences and gate.
 2. It passed on the matter of the Village Hall to Dennis Dunbar.
 3. The abandoned motor car was dealt with.
 4. Trees killed by herbicide in Matheson Road was passed to David Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert had replied: The trees were "being monitored" but in the two years had so far shown no sign of coming back to life. No indication of the responsibility for the death of the trees was given and no hope is offered for funds to remove and replace them.
 5. Dead Beech Hedge. This is the responsibility of a different department. H.R.C. not District. No response as yet.
- Mr. Stirling replied that his other letters had so far been unanswered.

Village Hall and Field, Garve. Mr. Logie reported that quite a lot is now happening. Grants have been promised for renovating the Hall, and the owners of the Post Office field have allowed action to clear the field, and tidy it up. The Hall had already been painted.

Mr. Logie presented the following matters brought to his attention, and needing attention.

War Memorial access; Footpath on the river bank behind the school and shop at Garve; growth of weeds on verges near the burial ground. The secretary said these matters were all raised in the sub-report to be presented later on the agenda.

Boundary Changes; Correspondence had been received about the new political boundaries. Two possible problems appeared:

1. Garve would be in a different ward from Achnasheen.
2. It appeared from the map that Garbet might have gone into a different ward from Inchbae. Mr. Green commented that he had made

prior contact to the boundaries officer on this point.

Trunk Road Contin/Garve; P.C. Chisholm had supplied a printout of Police involved R.T.A's for the period 1990/ Feb 1994. The indication is that the road is not particularly accident prone. Cllr. Green said this road was again on the agenda at the H.R.C. roads meeting. He felt the figures quoted in the accident reports and volume flow reports did not reflect the real situation. Mr. Logie said another traffic census was to occur at Gorstan Junction for a 24 hour period soon.

Sign posting at Garve; The question of sign posting was again discussed, including speed limit signs. Mr. Green agreed to raise this with H.R.C. roads department together with our request for speed humps.

Mrs. MacDonald asked why speed humps had not been put in at Achnasheen. The presence of the school on side of the road and the loop road on the other side would be better for them. The correspondence included minutes of the H.R.C. planning applications for two house sites one at Achilty, the other at Silver Bridge. Mr. Green said both had been approved, but were subject to approval by the Trunk roads department of the Scottish Office in connection with their access to the Trunk road.

Sub-Committee on the Maintenance and Improvement in Garve; A report in the form of a video and written version was presented.

Discussion ensued on the items raised in the report.

Roadside Verges and their lack of cutting reared up again. A letter had already been sent to Mr. Colmar.

Paths and Rights of Way A footpath from the Plantation (or Spinney) right through to the Hotel had once been well maintained, but was now in poor condition at the Plantation end. A further footpath from Hazel Brae to Little Garve, Wades Bridge and the Gorstan now seems to have disappeared along with the bridge over the Gorstan Burn

(Allt na Mhuillin) below Hazel Brae.

Mr. Menzies asked if Forest Enterprise would co-operate with sign posting their amenities from within Garve. (Secretary to write to F.E.) This would help visitors to Garve. The footpath from Kinellen to Garve is sign posted at the Strathpeffer end but not at the Garve end.

Mrs. MacDonald asked for enquiries for footpaths or walks in the Achnasheen area. The secretary was asked to follow up any leads on this topic.

The extremely hazardous stretch of road between Garve Hotel and Hazel Brae was the subject yet again of heated discussion. Cyclists and pedestrians between Gorstan and Garve have to jump on the wall or cling to the railway fence on this stretch, too frequently, when traffic particularly H.G.V's pass. Almost every council member gave accounts of bad experiences on the section of road.

Garve Water Supply; Mr. Green indicated that the Community Council's view that we were being "shelved" was basically true. He was not

aware that the system was piped in cement asbestos/bitumen pipes. The suspicion was that complaints about the quality of water led to sampling only after remedial action had been taken. He said the scheme for Garve was being "slipped back". After more fairly angry discussion Mrs. Winshisp said there was an ! Objective One" status ?? Mr. Green was unable to deny that the Inverness Sewer was sucking in the money from other projects. The Council voted to contact Mrs. Ewing.

Flooding at Garve; The meeting felt that H.R.C. was stalling and nothing was in fact being done. Several members gave the opinion that it has long been known locally that the problem was at the exit to Loch Garve, near the B.R. viaduct. It was thought that the expense and delay of a survey by external consultants was not the way to get on with the job.

Bus Shelter; Nothing has happened. Mr. Stirling said to contact Mr. Colmer again.

Any other Business; Mrs. MacPhail raised the question of the violent depression in the road at Craig's Cottage Gorstan. The secretary had written to Mr. Colmar but no response had been yet received. The meeting thought that there might be some mileage in videoing the various hazards in the roads of the vicinity to try to interest anyone concerned with road safety.

This being all the business Mr. Logie thanked Mr. Green and Mr. Stirling and Mrs. Tarr for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

Next meeting 3rd October 1994.

Sp.m. Garve Hall

Appendix. to minutes of Meeting of Garve + District C.C. 15 Aug 94

Report of sub-committee for works + improvements in Garve village

Wisdan Menzies, Cliff Ellis, Ed Tarr.

← War Memorial

The 1st priority is to get the boundary fence of the memorial ~~fixed~~ replaced it is beyond repair for anyone.

The newly built upper access steps + rails are not suitable, but agile young people - hardly the ones who will wish to visit the memorial. The handrail leaves splinters in your hands, the fill between the steps slopes badly and will soon erode. Some older and less vigorous villagers have already indicated the climb is too much for them.

The handrail at the bottom section, placed there when the level crossing was installed, is made of galvanised steel. This should be extended to the stone itself.

The whole area is becoming overgrown with bracken and this prevents the memorial being seen from the road and also prevents a good vantage point from allowing views over GARVE.

It is felt that the maintenance of the area around the memorial should be done by local volunteers to retain pride in the names on the stone.

The memorial itself requires cleaning, pointing and some attention to the lettering. Again this may be a job for local volunteers.

Garve Picnic Area

Landscaping of this area has already been abandoned to thistles etc. The roses etc are no longer visible despite being planted only 4 months. The standard of finish on the new foot pavement is terrible in this area and a considerable subsidence both in the pavement and roadway + kerbs has taken place. These glaring defects were overlooked by an inspection of the new pavement at the ~~new~~ Station house following complaints of pools of water outside the door to Mr Murray's premises - also still uncorrected

Malterson Road

The footpaths on the older side of the street are terrible mainly due to old works done on the water stopcocks and never resurfaced. One stopcock cover at the school end of Malterson Rd is about 2" proud immediately in front of Mason Dalgetty's gate. The paling fences on the same side of the street, to the front side and rear of the houses require attention - they are a danger to passing pedestrians in places.

Ridge tiles have been missing from G. McPake's roof for 2 years. They blew off in a storm, were replaced but blew off again the same week they were reported at that time.

Verges

Landscaping of the verges from the new burial ground to the river bridge

is so overgrown with Thistles you cannot see the newly planted trees. It is so depressing to be told that stumping of the verge to the burial ground gate is District & the rest is HRC. Is our local government so petty that District & HRC cannot communicate & co-operate on such matters?

Stumping around the old burial ground is confined to one area of grass to the front of the gate. No effort is made to tidy the sides and back areas around the old burial ground. A very desirable footpath that could be a good asset to the village, runs along the river bank from the Plantation to the Hotel. One section of this path from the Post Office to the shop is maintained well by Mrs Ritchie MacKenzie, the part from the shop to the school is well used by locals & children at school, but the connexion from the school to the river bridge is not maintained. Steps with wooden retainers are very badly eroded, where the path comes to the river bridge.

There used to be a path along from the Hotel west along the river bank with access to local walkers & anglers. This seems to have disappeared.

In past times a path crossed the burn below Hazel Brae by a foot bridge to what used to be a golf course at Little Garve. This path used to be popular with residents at Little Garve - also now derelict. Near Little Garve is Wade's Bridge, a listed building, stunning falls & rapids on the Blackwater, and the starts to paths on Forestry Ground on both sides of the river. Wouldn't it be good to link it all up to Garve for both residents and tourists?

Mrs Macdonald our council member from Achnasheen says that paths accessing some of the magnificent scenery around Achnasheen & Loch Rosque would be very much appreciated by locals & visitors alike.

There is a British Telecom cable & connector lying in the new pavement at Mrs Campbell's corner, it has been left there since the new pavement was made in April.

The District nurse tripped and fell to the ground, caused by the stopcock outside Marvin Dalgety's gate.