

# GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

of the meeting held at Achnasheen on 4th December 2001

Present: Doug Winship, Pat Campbell, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Eimir Hughes Winship, Councillor Ewen Mackinnon, Dena Ross, Sheree Grant, Marian Mackenzie, Alec Mackenzie, Uisdean Menzies, Nel Macdonald Rolfe and 15 members of the public.

The meeting heard from PC Andy Dobson of Northern Constabulary about setting up a Rural Watch in our area, which would be the first in the Northern Command Area. Discussion took place regarding signs, which it was agreed would point out to people that they may be observed and reported on if seen acting suspiciously. These will need to be weatherproof and may be quite expensive. Lady Eliza as Treasurer stated that the Community Council could bear the cost. The Sign Shop of HC at Strathpeffer make good quality signs, and discussion arose as to how many will be required. Chairman Doug Winship will act as co-ordinator, so anyone noting anything suspicious may phone him (01997 414274) if they do not wish to contact the police direct.

Douglas Miles and Sam Lowe from Highland Council Protective Services then gave a short talk. Protective Services deal with grounds maintenance, waste management, public toilets, burial grounds etc, and the department wish to form better links with the community so as to receive feedback.

There are concerns in both Garve and Achnasheen about the standard of grass cutting. Several contractors cut grass for Highland Council and there are different timings for this, in some instances only 3 cuts a year, in high amenity areas as many as 24 cuts. The contracts are very rigid, and contractors are only allowed to do so much. The contracts were let by Planning and Development, so any alterations are up to them, but if the contractors are not conforming to specifications, then this department will be informed. Early next year, Client Services Officer Douglas Miles will have consultations with the local community.

Mr Fraser Hall expressed concern about litter on the A832, saying there was glass all over the verge, dead deer are not removed, and there are rats in ditches. Most lay-bys have no litter bins. Protective Services should be contacted regarding these problems. Sam Lowe said that it was up to the community as to where bins could be best placed. Mrs Morrison suggested that notices at point of sale "Please take your litter home" might help to prevent sandwich wrappers, bottles and cans being thrown out.

Mrs Smith brought up the question of full wheelie bins. The meeting was told that if there was extra rubbish, to phone Protective Services and let them know and extras would be uplifted. It was generally agreed that the skips provided are very helpful, although Councillor Mackinnon pointed out that too often unsuitable material was being put in them. Sam Lowe said that extra bins/skips do not help fly-tipping problems.

Garve and District Community Council Minutes from 04.12.01 (continued)

The problems with TV reception in Garve continue although the BBC has taken some soundings. The problem appears to be with the self help mast. Alec Mackenzie has been in touch with John Williams who doesn't agree with the BBC. Councillor Ewen Mackinnon will put this information back to the BBC.

The Race Night for the War Memorial Fund raised £605.04, and Uisdean thanks everyone. The money is to be spent on a Flymo and grass blower and leaf collector. Lady Eliza will open another bank account solely for the War Memorial Fund.

Signs are now in place regarding dog fouling in Garve. Scoops and plastic bags are available from Uisdean Menzies at 1 Stirling Drive. The question now is where to site a bin for depositing this rubbish.

Costs for a web page for News and Views would be £600 to set up, £30 per year and £25 per issue. RACE to be approached for funding.

A new sign for the Toilets at Garve Hall has been acquired.

Sue Tarr has now her own computer on which copy for News and Views will be input. The old Community Council computer is therefore redundant. Perhaps a Community Councillor or member of the community could make use of it.

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 18th December 2001 in the Garve Hotel. Unfortunately this date clashes with the children's carol service.

Next meeting in Garve on Tuesday 5th February 2002 at 8pm.