

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes

of the meeting held in Garve Hall on Tuesday 4th February 2002

Present: Doug Winship, Pat Campbell, Ian Dickinson, Sheree Grant, Nel Macdonald Rolfe, Alec Mackenzie, Marianne Mackenzie, Councillor Ewen Mackinnon, Uisdean Menzies, Dena Ross, Einir Hughes Winship and 3 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 8pm by Chairman Doug Winship who introduced Peter Walling of Forest Enterprise, who talked about plans for the Strathbran Forest Block. Every 10 years new plans are designed and revised regarding felling and re-stocking proposals. There are 35 blocks in the Inverness District.

In the Strathbran Block many species are not growing well, and the sheer volume of deer also means failed growth. Fencing is needed, although fences by the road are good, those at the top are not. Also there is a landscape issue, ie get rid of straight lines and use scallops by roads.

Mr Walling had brought along a number of drawings showing the current species of trees, proposed schedules for felling and replanting, and answered the many questions put to him. One point was the lack of firebreaks on the new plans, but watercourses will be left in unplanted ground creating natural barriers. Several new or extended forest roads are planned to give access to pedestrians, cyclists and horses.

Doug Winship thanked Mr Walling for a very interesting and informative talk.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Marie Mackenzie and seconded by Sheree Grant.

Matters Arising:

Garve TV - It appears that the mast at Silverbridge may possibly be causing interference. Ongoing.

Garve Flooding - Highland Council and Railtrack have had meetings, and HC are planning to remove sandbanks. However, it seems likely that further down the river is silted up, and that would be a major operation. Railtrack are to look at old plans and see what the water level used to be. Ongoing.

Any Other Business:

The Secretary has received a "Celebrations Toolkit", ie suggestions for celebrating the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth. However, due to the necessity for permits, licences etc, it was unanimously decided that this Community Council would not be organising any events.

Achnasheen - the ground has sunk in the two lay-bys outside the Post Office so nothing can park there leading to traffic congestion. This problem is to be put to Douglas Miles, Client Services Officer with Protective Services, who is hopefully to visit Garve and Achnasheen on 22nd February.

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Any Other Business (continued)

Dena Ross told the meeting that there will be a meeting of the South West Ross Community Care Forum at Achnasheen on Monday 11th February to discuss, among other things, the provision of transport for hospital visits etc for those who do not have their own.

Some years ago, David Jardine of Forest Enterprise suggested a committee should be formed locally to assist in applying for funding from Historic Scotland for repairs to the Wade (actually Caulfield) Bridge at Little Garve. A site meeting was held, but since then nothing has been heard. David Jardine to be contacted.

A number of people raised the subject of the poor snow clearing of trunk roads by BEAR Scotland. Councillor Ewen Mackinnon emphasised that as well as complaining directly to BEAR, people should ask the Scottish Executive what they are doing about the problem. John Farquhar Munro is our local MSP, and all Highland MSPs could be asked what is being done, Charles Kennedy at Westminster too. The appointment of BEAR does seem to be a step backwards as there is a significant deterioration in all road maintenance.

CED Project - if there were money available from this, then a path to the War Memorial and a water supply there would be worthwhile items for Garve.

Uisdean Menzies wishes to thank John Ross for supplying transport and LAS Plant for supplying trimming machine for lopping branches.

The next meeting will be held in Achnasheen on Tuesday 2nd April 2002 at 8pm.