

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COOUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held in Garve Hall on Tuesday 1st June 2004

Present: Doug Winship, Pat Campbell, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Einir Hughes Winship, Sheree Grant, Andy Harris, Alec Mackenzie, Kenneth Maclean, Uisdean Menzies, Councillor Ewen Mackinnon, and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Marian Mackenzie, Northern Constabulary.

Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by Kenneth Maclean, seconded by Pat Campbell.

Achnasheen Primary School: John Ritchie gave a presentation concerning the declining population of primary school age children in the village, and a decision by the Area Education Committee to mothball the school. Currently there will be only one pupil after August, so it is not viable to keep the school open. The child, on the wishes of the parent, will go to Strathpeffer, at no cost as the school bus already goes to Dingwall. The head teacher is to be redeployed at Lochcarron Primary School.

It is emphasised that the school is to be mothballed not closed completely. If primary age children, say 4 or more, were to come into the village then there is a possibility of it reopening.

Kenneth asked how long would the mothballing be before definite closure. John Ritchie replied that it would have to go through the whole Education Committee, and would probably be several years.

Jim Ruggles Brise asked if there was a possibility of using the building for some kind of courses, and was told there is potential.

John Ritchie was thanked for his informative presentation.

Matters Arising:

A835: Councillor Ewen Mackinnon told the meeting this is ongoing, and according to the Scottish Executive, more signs for east bound traffic, possibly electronic signing, if wayleave for electronic panels can be established, are proposed for the bends between Garve and Tarvie. No further progress regarding double white lines as the Scottish Executive say visibility is good. There has been retexturing of the surface to improve grip, although this is not obvious. Travelling east more yellow/black chevron signs are planned.

The entrance to Garve is under consideration, also speeding through Garve. Signs for Station Road will be forthcoming. A speed survey is to be done on Matheson Road.

News and Views: This was originally printed at Haven, but there is a new manager who is not helpful. New printers have been sought, but they are very expensive. Haven are the cheapest at 30p per copy.

Suggestions were made for DIY printing, but equipment will be required, eg a photocopier. Also volunteers. Sue Tarr will get in touch with Lochcarron, who print their own magazine.

Uisdean proposed a vote of thanks to Sue for all her hard work, which was unanimous.

Lady Eliza will personally pay for printing the current issue now at Haven. Ongoing.

Achnasheen Toilets - vandalism: The Studio keep getting people using their toilets. Dena Ross phoned Jimmy Ruggles Brise about the Gents, and a Highland Council plumber, not the usual one, arrived in 2.1/2 hours to fix the problem. A good response.

Any Other Business:

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party: Due to the fewer and fewer people attending, Einir suggest that perhaps this year it should be postponed and an event planned for the Spring. After some discussion it was decided to keep the status quo, but hold the party early in December. Fund raising is necessary, prize bingo was suggested, a night in Achnasheen and one in Garve. Uisdean and Kenneth to organise. Andy Harris suggested a clay pigeon shoot, but a suitable venue might be difficult to locate.

Garve and District Community Council Minutes 01.06.04 (continued)

Scottish and Southern Energy have sent maps showing possible proposed routes for pylons through our area. These were discussed, and nobody seems too happy about them. Ongoing.

Garve Football Pitch: Situated beside the Station and Pat Campbell's house, she brought up the problem of the ball being outside more often than in. There is no high fence on the road side, and a fence spar is broken. Ongoing.

Low Flying Aircraft: Jim Ruggles Brise raised this ongoing problem, due to an incident when horses and ponies were being unloaded, the shattering noise could have provoked an accident. Would it not be possible for aircraft to avoid houses? Perhaps they could follow the railway line? He will write to both the MOD and Charles Kennedy on behalf of the Community Council.

Railway Fences at Achnasheen: Jim has noted that the fences which should prevent children from running onto the platform are down. Who should maintain these? He will write to Railtrack.

Einir proposed that Jim Ruggles Brise be co-opted as the 12th member of the Community Council. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 10th August at Achnasheen. (Note this is a week later than the usual first Tuesday due to a number of councillors being away on holiday).

The date of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held in Garve Hall, will be Tuesday 26th October 2004.