

GARVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Held on the 5 June 2007

Garve Village Hall

Present: Helen Grainge, Donald Northwood, Jim Ruggles-Brise, Pat Campbell, Sheree Grant, Uisdean Menzies, Marian Taylor Cllr Jean Urquhart and 8 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Dickinson, Alex Mackenzie

- 1) Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Jim Ruggles-Brise and seconded by Helen Grainge.
- 2) Matters arising: Enquiries had been made regarding the service station in Achnasheen and the owner has reported that the Highland Council Safety Officer has stated that the hood over the station should remain in place to protect the underground tanks, this is apparently normal with disused garages. The owner has further stated that he hopes to demolish the current buildings and re-develop the site possible with residential property.

There is no further news on the Garve Village play equipment and the issue of daffodils being picked has diminished with the advent of them dieing and the highway contractor cutting them all down. There has been no feed back on the rubbish dumped at the side of the roads by thought less people.

- 3) Planning Issues: There was one planning application for the district, this being an additional dwelling in Achnasheen behind one of the cottages; no objection were raised. A member of the Community Council raised the issue of the installation of new larger dishes on a nearby mast; the Community Council had received no notice or information on this subject.

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Highland Council stating that they had written to the Scottish Executive giving the outcome of the planning committee's recommendation on the Lochluichart wind farm development and that it was now up to the Scottish Executive to make a final decision on the project.

- 4) Treasurers report: The current account has £2062.14 social fund £172.87 and war memorial £125 15, there were no outstanding accounts and the treasurer had received a thank you card from the two Garve residents who acted as monitors for the recent ballot on the wind farm thanking the Community Council for the payment.
- 5) Correspondence noted: Letters from the Highland NHS re information, noted; notice from the MOD re exercises in the area noted; letter from the Scottish Executive acknowledging the communities objection to the wind farm noted; letter from the Highland council re the planning committees decision on the Lochluichart wind farm and

the now proposed 17 turbines noted; e-mails from other community councils with copies of their minutes, noted.

- 6) Any other business: a member of the public asked if it was possible for the road surface between Tarvies and Garve be in the same colour and not the patchwork that is currently evident as it looked untidy and confusing when driving down this stretch of road; it was explained that the patch work was part of the on going repair work and normally the prelude to the road being re-surfaced.

Another member asked if we could write to the environmental services re the rubbish that has been dumped along by Inchbae. The Community Council were asked by another member if they could find out what arrangements or system was being operated to cut the grass in the district as there seemed to be no pattern to the current methods employed; it was agreed to write into Tec Services to enquire. Other issues from both the public and other members of the Community raised concerned street lighting in Achnasheen and Garve as the colour of the lights was not consistent and there appeared to be no uniformed colour in both locations. A member of the public asked when the drain culverts where due for cleaning as water was sitting on road surfaces during heavy down pours; on all these points the Community Council agreed to enquire on behalf of the community.

One member of the Community Council said they were concerned with the current activity at the quarry near Achnasheen as it seemed to be extending some distance and becoming unattractive. This was noted and a letter would be sent to the owners seeking details of any landscaping plans for the site.

The chairperson asked to be noted that recently questions had been asked regarding a council house in Garve that was vacated in Matherson Road and that six people had queried why someone from the village had not been considered for the property; the answer was that when the Chairperson had checked the Highland Council housing list there were no persons from Garve on the housing list and people wishing to be considered for housing should ensure their names are down on the list.

A member of the public asked what the Community Council position was and what action would be taken regarding the latest submission for 17 turbines at the Lochluichart wind-farm. The Secretary stated that the Community Council would follow the same line of objection to the project and had all ready submitted their objection on behalf of the community to Highland Council and the Scottish Executive. The Community Council had a clear mandate from two public meetings a postal ballot and the ballots held in April to oppose the development and saw no reason to change that. A number of people from within the community had commented members of the Community Council on how upset they were at the way the Highland Council and the developer handled the issue by ignoring the views of the community and further by the behaviour of some members of the public who supported the proposals.

One member of the public asked about the proposed new constitution and why it was being changed and would the public get to see the document. The Secretary explained that a new constitution was necessary as the current constitution they had inherited was not fit for purpose and did not meet much of the local or national Government criteria. The Community Council was advised of this during their first year of office by the Highland

Council and had been given new guidelines and best practice policies by the Highland Council at the beginning of 2007 so that the constitution could be updated and brought into line with the required regulations. The member was concerned that changes were being made and again it was explained that the Community Council had a duty to implement proper procedure that was inline with the requirement and regulation for community councils and that this was not change for the sake of change; other members of the Community Council pointed out to the member of the public that a draft copy of the document had been given to them at a previous meeting by Lady Eliza Leslie Melville even though it had not been properly discussed by the council members and that these and other question had been answered before. The Secretary was then asked by the same member if the public would get to see the document and have a say in the content; the Secretary went on to explain that the document had been drafted based on the document submitted by the Highland Council, with the only real difference being the name of the Garve and District Community Council being inserted and that it would be a public document once it had been approved and that the processes for adoption was set out by local government as explained at previous meetings, i.e. the draft copy had to be approved by the Community Council, this would then be submitted to Highland Council for approval, followed by the document being published and advertised; when asked where it would be published the secretary explained that an advert would be run in the local paper stating that the document was available on request and that a full copy would be made available for publication in the News and Views and distributed to the community at large. The Secretary further explained that the only reason for the changes was that previous elected Community Councils had been working with an out of date constitution that did not meet constitutional requirement or regulations. Another member of the Community Council asked what their concerns were and to voice them rather than go over the same ground again, as the Community Council had already gone over the subject several times with them and they had been given an advance copy before even the members had, had time to read it properly; at which point the subject was closed.

- 7) There was no other business and the Chairperson thanked the members and public and closed the meeting.

The next meeting was set for the 7 August 2007 in the Achnasheen Village Hall at 7:30