

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting held 7th Feb 2012
Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Sue Tarr (Minute Secy), Jennifer Haslam, Alex Mackenzie; Jimmy Smith and Phil Waite (HC); Cllr Biz Campbell and 11 members of public.

Apologies: Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Bob Moir.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everybody.

Declarations of Interest: none. Cllr Biz Campbell is on the Planning Committee; she is happy to stay for planning issues but will not take part in discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Sub-committee for Christmas party meeting held 6th Nov 2011 – proposed, Jennifer Haslam; seconded Alex Mackenzie. Ordinary meeting held 10th Jan 2012 – proposed, Jean Hollingdale; seconded Jean Bailey.

Matters Arising: Ledgowan Access Road – the Chairman introduced Jimmy Smith, HC Design Engineer; Phil Waite, HC Access Officer; David Mackenzie, Ledgowan Estate; Craig Duffield, Ledgowan Hotel. Apologies from Sam McNaughton (HC) who was unable to attend tonight. Jimmy Smith worked on the project in 1998 when the present Achnasheen – Glencarron road was built. There was an agreement between the then respective owners of Ledgowan Hotel and Ledgowan Estate, and the Community Council, that the old road should provide pedestrian access across the Old Ledgowan Bridge, past Ledgowan Lodge to Ledgowan Hotel. (Map displayed to audience). The Old Bridge is a category B listed structure; (a Telford bridge) and HC is responsible for maintenance. HC has access via old road on the Lodge side. The landowner on the other side of the river also has access via this route across the bridge for sheep. HC is finishing off the paperwork and wish to maintain the arrangement that was put in place in 1998. Since then both Ledgowan Hotel and Ledgowan Estate have changed hands. Just now it is not possible for pedestrians to walk the route past Ledgowan Lodge. It is a public road and HC are endeavouring to continue that status, but have not yet been able to meet with Mr Simpson. Jimmy Smith asked if the Community Council will support in writing the HC pursuing keeping this in public use. Kenny Maclean asked why the paperwork had not been completed in 1998, and stated that several community groups incl Achnasheen School Board had supported the agreement at that time. The CC had written to HC in April 2011 giving their full support of maintaining the access.

Q - What is the issue with the road? A - It has to be confirmed that it is a public road (with certain restrictions).

Biz Campbell queried whether the HC solicitor was working on it and it is taking a long time. A - HC is trying to do it with the cooperation of all concerned. Unfortunately negotiations have dragged on, had a low priority in the office compared with other workload.

Craig Duffield stated that they had bought the land with no right of way, why should they now accept a right of way on their land. Their position is that they do not wish to have a right of way.

Member of the public stated that it is there and it is used; there is no alternative route, no pavement.

Is a public road owned by HC? Ownership of roads historically is not always clear.

David Mackenzie stated that the road belongs to the estate and at the time of purchase it was not an access. The road passes through the curtilage of Ledgowan Lodge and so not acceptable.

Phil Waite explained that that depends on whether it is a public or a private road. If it is a public road then curtilage does not apply.

Q – A public road has been blocked, what is going to be done about it?

Q – How can the landowners buy a public road?

Jimmy Smith wishes an early meeting with Mr Simpson. HC has vehicular access to the bridge; there is pedestrian access; and there is access for sheep across the bridge to the other side of the river.

The Chairman read out a letter from Helen Christie raising issues about access to Ledgowan Estate, threatening behaviour, construction of hill roads and the access across the bridge.

David Mackenzie stated he hadn't stopped anyone and that the estate will abide by the law.

Phil Waite said he was looking into the situation; there are reasons why estates lock gates but this should be kept to a minimum. He would be pleased to discuss this with the estate.

A further issue about the hill track being put in with no consultation; a member of the public has been in touch with planning dept and SNH but nothing anyone can do about it.

David Mackenzie stated that there is consultation through the planning process (wind turbine) and that the road is for agricultural activity.

More discussion about how to move forward on Ledgowan Bridge access. Agreed that the lawyers need to sort out the status of the road, and then access rights can be determined. In summary, Jimmy Smith will continue with meetings with landowners and reaffirmed the HC position that it is a public road for three access purposes (as previously mentioned).

Phil Waite is also in negotiation about the barricades on the bridge but it takes time. HC will serve a notice for a court order if necessary. If anyone has any comments either way please get in touch with him.

The CC is to be kept informed. The Chairman thanked all parties for attending the meeting.

Scottish Water update – 14km of new mains has been installed, some more to go yet. Work still to be completed on the Pumping Station. The target finish date for connection is end of March which they hope to meet.

Network Rail – Level Crossing Barriers are to be installed at all crossings at average cost of £100,000 per crossing. Estimated timescale is two years.

Broadband – HIE Highlands Broadband project is progressing. BT is the sole bidder and work should start next year. Remote areas will be included.

SSE – progress on danger signs for River Blackwater. Does the CC want a reference on the signs? Agreed no. Where exactly should they go? 2 at Silver Bridge (one at forestry notice board at carpark and one by steps on other side of the river) 3 at Wades Bridge (one at forestry car park, one either side of bridge). What size would we like? Agreed approx. 60x40cm. Wording confirmed.

Planning for Integration of Care Services HC/NHS – there is a series of public meetings upcoming. These are also advertised in the local press.

June Forsyth – has semi-retired, she will continue on 2 days a week.

Community Benefit (Dosmucheran Hydro scheme) – Robbie Bain awaiting a reply.

Eneco update – construction ongoing.

LCT – members have recently received an update.

E-On update – Matilda Urie is in discussion with Eneco regarding payment of community benefit funds into LCT.

Infinergy update – no news.

Deer fence at Grudie – Jennifer Haslam and Derick Macaskill (FC) visited the site. A small strip of land belongs to FC, the rest to SSE. He is going to look into ownership further, and was very helpful.

Achnasheen Village Shelter – Biz Campbell to chase up. If no news next month then apply to the Discretionary Fund.

Achnasheen Village Bin Lid – a new bin with lid has been put in place.

Door blown off toilet – (now famous in a song). The unsatisfactory comment was not made by HC staff, as the out of hours phone line was manned by the police.

Over-60's Dinner – agreed to have the dinner earlier in the year to avoid repeat of bad weather, poss late Oct / Nov.

WRA – the AGM is 28th Feb in Kinlochewe.

Olympic Flame – Kenny MacLean has received two replies from Lord Coe. No Flame for Achnasheen due to schedule constraints.

Fly tipping at Loch Garve layby – has been cleared up.

Red Flashing Light at Garve level crossing – the new hoods are expected end of January. Will keep us informed.

Station Road Wall – Biz Campbell has reported it.

Blocked Culverts – as above. The culvert in the Gorstan layby has been cleared but it looks like a new channel cut may cause water to run across road in future. Jean H to keep an eye on it.

Road Drains – Robbie Bain is aware of the issues. £2 million has been allocated to deal with potholes and road drainage problems.

Letter from Mr Hamilton re CC issues – The minutes and agendas are available in a variety of ways; the Chairman has asked the Secy to put Mr Hamilton on the mailing list to receive these. Anyone can ask to receive mins and agendas direct from the Secy on gdcc@fsmail.net or Tel 01997 414201; they are also available at local post offices, on the AGNV website www.achnasheenandgarve.com and at CC meetings.

There was a lot of discussion on how the CC deals with planning applications. It was generally felt it would be helpful to know in advance of the meeting what the planning applications were. It was suggested the CC could have a list of items for discussion made available a few days before the meeting on the website / by email. Also the planning applications could be displayed on a table so members of the public could look at them before the meeting. Also noted that some members of the public felt the CC should comment on planning applications.

The Chairman clarified that members of the public are welcome to stay for the entire meeting.

It was noted that the minutes are long and AGNV has space problems. Jackie West felt it was important to print all the mins and would consult with the Secy if space was a problem in any particular issue of AGNV.

Treasurer's Report: Senior Citizens balance forward £1117.96 less hall hire for meeting £12.25, balance £1105.71. War Memorial b/f £225.86 less cheque to Uisdean Menzies £150, balance £75.86. Treasurers A/c b/f £1520.28 less hall hire £14.00, balance £1506.28. Total balance £2687.85.

The CC has received thanks from Uisdean Menzies for the donation towards War Memorial upkeep.

Fundraising – the Hall is planning one fundraising event this year, the Christmas fair on 1st Dec 2012. There may be a War Memorial fundraiser. Uisdean is gathering old photos of the village and surrounding area – all photos will be returned after scanning. The AGNV is having a Quiz Night. The CC is thinking of a summer fair, other groups would be happy to join in. From 1st April there are new rules for events and a Public Entertainment License may be needed (£153 for 3yrs). It was suggested that the CC could help the Hall with cost of the License. Jean Bailey and friends are organising a Coffee and Book morning this Sat and following fortnightly in Garve Village Hall. 10.30am-1pm, £1 for a cup of coffee (or tea).

Correspondence: By Post, Lord Coe (2) re Olympic flame; Lochluichart Wind farm Extension, addendum to consultation; Thank you for voucher; Connecting Carers – Info line 01463 723560 for assistance on care matters, Tues Wed & Thurs 9.30-1pm; Door Step Crime; Janet Bowen re Diamond Jubilee suggestions; Helen Christie re Access at Ledgowan. By Email, Anne Stewart (2) re Ledgowan Bridge access; Matilda Urie (2) – E-On update; Infinergy; Uisdean Menzies – thanks; SSE re signs at Silver & Wades Bridges; Planning reply re Tigh na Strutha, Lochluichart; June Ross, TECS; Chris Hamilton re CC issues; Scottish Water update; Robbie Bain – Small Housing Communities Newsletter and info re public meetings for Strome Bypass; Torridon & Kinlochewe CC Mins; Strathpeffer CC Mins; Marybank, Strathconon & Scatwell CC mins; West Highland Free Press request for mins; Lochcarron CC Mins; Scottish Govt re Mossford-Beaully line upgrade; Forestry Commission re deer fence at Grudie.

Diamond Jubilee – Janet Bowen, Lord Lieutenant has written to encourage local communities to get involved with jubilee events 2nd – 5th June. Suggestions are Big Lunch and or lighting a Beacon.

Member of public thought a community event was a good idea. It was suggested that we have a meeting with local community groups to organise an event. Kenny Maclean to set a date.

AOB (Members): Jennifer Haslam - the Grudie layby bin wasn't emptied again. Kenny emailed TECS and got it emptied within 2 days as well as the Silver Bridge layby bin. Biz Campbell to look into why the bins are not getting emptied more often.

The Post Office sign at Lochluichart is still there although Post Office is no longer. The sign is not a Royal Mail/PO counters sign.

New road surface at Lochview corner – has not been finished to good standard, and manhole covers are now below level of the road. Secy to write to Transerv, also to mention that the new surfacing at Inchbae has had ice problems and that the potholes along Loch Garve are getting worse and dropped drains at Station Road are getting bad.

Alex Mackenzie – two street lights in Matheson Road were out but phoned and they were fixed next day. Kenny MacLean added there had been some problems in Achnasheen but they too had also been resolved.

Matheson Road gullies are crumbling.

Bob Moir (in absentia) there had been a query about tree cutting on the Avenue, Strathgarve. It was confirmed that the owner had given permission for the trees to be cut. Members of the public contributed the date of planting of the Avenue was 1875 and that historically there had been a three way joint responsibility for the Avenue between the estate, the farm and the Forestry Commission.

Kenny MacLean – there has been a theft of oil from fuel tanks in surrounding area. Police have been informed.

There is a Highland Council Customer Care No –01349 886606 open Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-12pm.

Bus Timetable Changes – there is no longer a Monday bus on the Applecross-Inverness service (Skyeways).

The schoolbus service now terminates at Lochluichart and returns early on a Fri (D&E Coaches). Timetables available on websites or at Inverness bus station.

Forestry Commission Bridge at Inchbae – the missing bridge has been replaced by a footbridge.

AOB (Members of Public) – Potholes and condition of the road beside Garve cemetery is a disgrace. Also the Strathgarve road is getting bad again. Biz Campbell to chase up.

-Tree seedlings coming up on roadsides causing visibility problems in places. The Highland Council cut back 1m from roadside; otherwise it is up to the landowner.

- can the CC request a programme of Transerv grass cutting duties in Garve. They should do 1 day per year for the War Memorial but it hasn't been done for two years. Biz Campbell to ask what the HC grass cutting programme is.

Scoping/ Consultations: none.

Planning Applications: Planning applications can be viewed and commented on at www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning and weekly lists are published in the local press. Three applications have been determined: 11/04002/FUL house at Garbat, granted; 11/02529/FUL borrow pit for Lochluichart Windfarm, granted; 11/04272/FUL conservatory at Tigh na Strutha, granted.

No new Building Warrants this month.

New application: 12/00127/FUL - Underground Cable for Corriemoillie Substation. Deadline for comments is 10th Feb 2012. No Comments.

Planning documents (Scottish Govt): assessment of Risk of Peat Slide etc (Lochluichart extension) available on the Scottish Govt website and at local Post Offices. Deadline 27th Feb 2012. No comments.

Planning Application to Scottish Govt: Mossford-Beaully pylon line. Available at Achnasheen PO, Contin Shop, Dingwall. Deadline 1st March 2012. No comments.

Licensing: The application for variation to licence at Inchbae Lodge (Café) not determined yet.

Date of next meetings: 6th March 2012, Achnasheen Village Hall 7pm; 3rd April 2012, Garve Village Hall 7pm; 1st May 2012, Achnasheen Village Hall at 7pm; Wed 6th June 2012 AGM followed by ordinary meeting, Garve Village Hall at 7pm.

Chairman's Comments: The community was saddened to hear that Betty Macleod had passed away. Best wishes to former Community Councillor Marion Taylor following her car accident. The CC has received more thankyous from Over-60's. Kenny MacLean and Jean Hollingdale attended the Stromeferry bypass meeting in Lochcarron. The next meeting is 14th Feb which Kenny hopes to attend. The road should be fully open by mid March.

The HC Winter maintenance Review group is looking at treating roads earlier and extending hours at night, no. of vehicles available and policy of lifeline roads and use of community offenders to clear pavements but all this depends on finances available.

Kenny attended the last Marybank, Strathconon and Scatwell CC meeting and has been invited back to next meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

**Report on second public meeting held in Lochcarron Village Hall on 14
February 2012 regarding the Stromeferry Bypass**

Kenny MacLean attended on behalf of G&DCC. Also in attendance were Robbie Bain (Ward Manager), Cllr's Biz Campbell and Audrey Sinclair, Ian Hay (Roads Manager at HC), Cllr John Laing (TECS Chairman and chair of this meeting), Neil Gillies (TECS Director), Angus MacGregor (TRAC), Steven Ritchie (TRAC), John Macgregor (TRAC), representatives of Appiecross CC, Lochcarron CC, Lochcarron Business Association and around 150 members of the public. Apologies noted from Cllr Richard Greene and Rob Gibson MSP.

The meeting started just after 7.00pm. The public were informed that the timetables for the Ferries had been slightly changed and updated earlier today and were available along with all the latest information on the Stromeferry Bypass at:
www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/roads/stromeferry.htm

Angus MacGregor (TRAC) explained that the partial re-opening of the road which was due on 17 February had been put back to at least 27 February. TRAC Engineering was awarded the contract to stabilise the rockface by HC on 26 January. They were on site by 30 January. Network Rail approved the rockfall barrier (consisting of large concrete blocks built on top of each other) on 31 January. This was installed by 5 February and the following day work began to clear vegetation from the slope during daylight hours. 24 hour works on the site began yesterday (13 February) with the use of large floodlights which can be clearly seen across the Loch from Lochcarron village. The imminent danger is debris that could injure workers or damage/close the railway as the work is at the narrowest part of the Bypass and therefore closest to the railway. Rock falls are a constant threat due to the nature of the slope. Information is being gathered all the time and more is known now than a few weeks ago about the exact state of the rockface. The workforce is removing 100 – 200 tonnes of rock, debris and vegetation a day. Several photos were shown to the public (available on HC website) of the rockface and a video showing a 20 tonne rock being eased off the rockface by two men with a crowbar. The rock then rolls down the rockface onto the road below. No work can take place when a train passes. It is hoped that if the road can open on 27 February, it would be open 7am – 7pm with the use of a convoy at 10mph along the 800 metre section of road where the rock fall has taken place. There is an agreement with Network Rail to use the railway as a road if necessary. Ferries and extra trains will continue if the road partially re-opens for at least a further week. Drilling to secure bolts will begin later this week. The noise maybe heard on a calm evening across the Loch.

There then followed a Q&A session:

- * What about the rest of the rockface? (Full inspection in April)
- * Loose rocks in burn? (Not in remit)
- * Will road be safe to open? (TRAC will not open road to the public unless it is safe – comment met with applause from the public)
- * Other faults up the hill? (Whole hillside will be inspected in April)
- * How big are bolts to hold netting? (Drilling 8 metres into rocks)
- * When is Bypass inspected? (Daily/monthly/yearly by local HC workmen)
- * This recent problem not noticed? (Inspection routine to be reviewed)

- * Long term solution? (Will be back in May/June when HC know more)
- * Ferry back to Glenelg soon? (2 other Ferries maybe bought in, Glenelg Company wants ferry back by 6 March for servicing before summer season)
- * Cut rockface back by 1 metre; create area for rocks to fall into? (Costly, whole hillside above rockface may have to be moved back as well as rockface)
- * Where is local priority on Ferry? (HC are aware, average use was 150, now 220)
- * Work on bridge in 18 months? (Very unlikely, costs and updated plans needed)
- * Where is Transport Minister? (HC spoke to him 2 weeks ago, he will visit site)
- * IIC needs to press the need for funding from SG, EEC etc (Noted)
- * Tourism and fabric of community effected (HC do understand the issues)
- * Transport Minister should attend a public meeting (CC chair to speak to Transport Minister during visit might be more likely)
- * Where is MP? (Biz is a Liberal Democrat Cllr)
- * Will slipways accommodate other ferries? (Slipways may need worked on)
- * 27 February? (Depends on weather and work achieved)
- * CCTV to monitor rockface? (Noted)
- * Duck tape over signs saying "Kyle of Lochalsh"? (Noted)
- * In future, who do we call if we find rocks on road? (HC customer services)
- * Speed of cars going to Strome through village terrible (HC recommended police, public replied – "no local Bobby anymore!")
- * Signage on A9/A82/A96/A835 still poor (Better than before)
- * Passenger ferry? (Still running until further notice)
- * Thanks for what you have done with ferries and extra train (Noted)
- * Long term must be discussed and action taken (Next meeting May/June)

Cllr Laing thanked everyone for coming and closed the public meeting at 8.30pm

~~Draft~~ minutes of Special Meeting of Garve & District Community Council
Held 17th Feb 2012 Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec); 8 members of public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone, and introduced Mrs Bentley, Head Teacher of Strathgarve Primary School.

The Special Meeting had been called under 1.2 of Standing Orders to discuss two items, the Diamond Jubilee Celebration and one planning application.

Apologies: Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie.

Declarations of Interest: none.

Diamond Jubilee – this is the weekend of 2nd – 5th June 2012. Mrs Bentley outlined what the schoolchildren will be working towards within school: “Face Britain”, an online art project where the children draw a portrait of themselves which is then incorporated into a nationwide portrait of the Queen. Anyone who would like to assist with this is very welcome. They are also working at a permanent art based project in the form of ceramic tiles, and within school an “Evacuation Day” project. The school has a day off on Mon 4th June.

The Hall Committee has offered free use of the Hall for a Jubilee Event.

Ideas invited from members of the public included:

A commemorative presentation to every school and pre-school child, e.g. a mug, medal or coin.

Uisdean Menzies offered catering services and a display of old photographs in the Hall.

A suggestion that three flag poles could be erected at the “wee garden” beside the level crossing; also that Achnasheen could have flag poles too.

A commemorative tree or cairn was also suggested. A tree might not be suitable for Achnasheen due to the deer.

Janet Bowen, Lord Lieutenant, had suggested in her letter that communities hold a “Big Lunch” or light a beacon.

Laura Gauna offered cakes, and AGNV are willing to support Jubilee event. AGNV will be coming out 1st June and 1st April.

It was decided to aim for a “Big Lunch” for all members of the community in Garve Village Hall on Mon 4th June. Members of the community would be invited to bring with them a small contribution of food to share (for example, a plate of sandwiches), and a couple of balloons or some other decoration for the hall. The schoolchildren can provide some entertainment.

There was a lot of support for planting a tree with a small fence/railing and a plaque. A flag pole may need planning permission, and there may be insurance required.

Jean Bailey to research prices for flag poles and commemorative items for the children. Sue Tarr to research a tree.

G&DCC to write to local businesses to ask if they would like to make a financial contribution, a reply requested by 6th March 2012.

Achnasheen to be asked what ideas they have.

Arrangements to continue at next G&DCC meeting.

Mrs Bentley was thanked for attending and left.

Planning Application – G&DCC had not been advised of this planning application, due to a “computer blip” in the planning office. HC is checking to rectify their system so it doesn’t happen again, and is going to email the weekly list to make sure that we get it. As far as is known we haven’t missed any other applications.

12/00026/OHL Installation of one span line off 33,000 volt overhead line, new house 1km south of Achnaclerach. No comments.

G&DCC noted their thanks to Dorothy Stott for her help in this matter.

Community Council Training Day – Dingwall 7th March. All members present hoped to attend this. All present were saddened to learn of the death of Lady Loch.

Date of next ordinary meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2012, 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8pm.

2012-03-07