

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council Meeting
held 4th Sept 2012 in Achnasheen Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie, Cllr Ian Cockburn (latter part of mtg), Marianne Townsley (SSE), 3 members of public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Fiona Milligan and Nick Sage (Infinergy), Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros), PC John Beverly.

Declarations of Interest: Alex Mackenzie and Bob Moir as Garve Village Hall Trustees have a non-financial interest in a planning application; Jean Hollingdale has a non-financial interest in a planning application.

Chairman's Comments: Jean Hollingdale was thanked for her donation of paper to G&DCC. All minutes and agendas are available at Garve PO, Garve and Achnasheen Village noticeboards, online at www.achnasheenandgarve.com, in the AGNV, direct from the Secretary (on gdcc@fsmail.net, tel/fax 01997 414201) or at each G&DCC meeting. Members of the public are invited to contribute to the meeting during AOB.

Approval of minutes of the G&DCC meeting held 7th Aug 2012: Proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Eliza Leslie Melville.

Matters Arising: Eneco – no update.

Infinergy – no update.

Jones Bros – no update.

E-On – Sophie Moeng is moving to Eneco, working on off-shore projects. Chloe Constant will take over her role at E-On.

Damaged Layby at Gorstan – photos of the damage had been forwarded to Robbie Bain, Cathel Macaskill and others. The repairs have been done, with grass seed and two new trees still to be planted. The Chairman welcomed Marianne Townsley (SSE) who joined the meeting. She apologised for the damage at the layby which was caused by a vehicle from the Corriemoillie Sub Station. The rear steering mechanism failed on the trailer. As a goodwill gesture, I&H Brown would like to offer to help buy and plant the Jubilee tree. All agreed to accept this offer, Marianne to liaise with Sue Tarr about the tree, it is hoped to carry this out within the coming weeks. G&DCC to confirm with Transerv that the tree location complies with their regulations.

Western Isles Connector – No news yet, SSE are still looking at different options. Morven Smith will be in touch.

SSE new signs for Wades Bridge / Silver Bridge are on order.

Hazelbrae landslip – contractual issues delayed the start date for repairs. Work to start 3rd Sept (yesterday) and finish by 14th Sept; working hours will be 7 days a week, 7am-7pm. Members confirmed that work had started.

Wester Ross Alliance – G&DCC has received a membership form from WRA; Kenny MacLean proposed to renew the membership with Sue Tarr as representative; Jean Hollingdale seconded and all agreed.

Bingo Night – to be held 22nd Sept in Garve Village Hall. Arrangements for catering and prizes were confirmed. An advertising flier will be delivered to all households.

Cllr Ian Cockburn joined the meeting.

Over-60's Dinner – on 25th Oct at Ledgowan Lodge Hotel. The invitations are ready to go out.

Grass verge cutting – Highland Council roads are cut once a year. The section from Gorstan to Lochluichart has just been done. Cllr Cockburn will chase if the remaining section doesn't get done.

Police report – the A835 & A832 continue to be targeted; during August six persons have been charged with speeding and one for failing to wear a seatbelt. The Chairman also noted a disturbance in Kinlochewe and the theft of a midgie machine and a lawnmower in Strathconon.

Police are warning of a computer scam where a police message pops up on your computer demanding £100; also online classified ads where the perpetrator claims to be in the Ross-shire area and is clearing high value items from the estate of a recently deceased relative which has resulted in a series of alleged frauds.

Northern Constabulary are currently recruiting police officers.

A member of the public informed the meeting about a serious incident at Lochluichart where a quad bike was run into by a vehicle and written off. No-one was badly hurt but it could have been fatal. The police are aware of the speed problems; between Lochluichart Lodge and the Station there are 11 separate accesses on a series of bends and traffic, especially motorbikes, goes too fast. Use of mirrors at accesses has been disallowed. Would like to see speed reduction measures put in place. The pedestrian warning sign has also disappeared. There was also the incident with the school bus last year.

Hamish Leslie Melville has written to Charles Kennedy MP; Cllr Cockburn also to find out about getting a 40mph speed limit for Lochluichart. Robbie Bain has indicated that non-glass mirrors, eg polished stainless steel, placed behind the crash barriers would be acceptable.

Treasurer's report – No change from previous month. Total balance b/f £3038.78; Senior Citizens 1075.71; War Memorial 140.86; Diamond Jubilee 124.52; Treasurer's Acc. 1697.69; Carried Forward £3038.78.

Correspondence – by email: TranServ; Jackie West re Broadband; SSE re signs at Silver Bridge and Wades Bridge; Wester Ross Alliance – membership renewal; TranServ re Gorstan Layby; Bob Moir re wall at 3 Station Road; HC Quality Awards nomination form; Inner Moray Firth Development document; Bob Moir re wall; HC Budget Consultation meeting dates; TranServ – update re Hazelbrae landslip; Robbie Bain – Highland Small Communities Housing Trust AGM date; TranServ – start date for repair at Hazelbrae landslip; First Group – Adopt a Station; Police Report; Donald Morris – Gaelic medium centre; Strathpeffer CC mins; Lochcarron CC mins; Jackie West – mins for next issue; Donald Morris – more info on Gaelic centre. By post – posters re Army Exercises, end Sept / early Oct.

HC Quality Awards – G&DCC has been invited to nominate a HC employee. Kenny MacLean nominated June Ross for her outstanding service and quick attention to our bins, which is much appreciated. Alex Mackenzie seconded and all agreed.

Scotrail "Adopt a Station" – Scotrail has asked if any community volunteers would like to join their "Adopt a Station" scheme. Expenses for plants etc are reimbursed. Several volunteers offered help for the four stations at Garve, Lochluichart, Achanalt and Achnasheen. More volunteers are welcome - anyone interested in helping please contact Jean Bailey on 01997 414727 or jbmyrtle@yahoo.co.uk

Comunn na Gàidhlig – Donald Morris is to attend the next G&DCC meeting to outline a project for a Bilingual Gaelic Medium Outdoor Centre for children. Achnasheen is viewed as a possible location and the community's views are sought.

AGNV – the next issue has had the deadline brought forward which means it is unlikely that the G&DCC mins will be included, although they will still be available on the AGNV website. G&DCC to request that a note be put in the AGNV to this effect.

Achnasheen School – Robbie Bain has enquired whether G&DCC has any ideas about the future use of the school. G&DCC to reply not at this time but noted for further discussion.

AOB (Members): Jennifer Haslam - the deer fence at Grudie has not yet been installed by SSE. Deer crossing the road here are a hazard. Marianne Townsley to chase up.

Eliza Leslie Melville - the new Bronze Plaque at Lochluichart Station is looking very good.

Alex Mackenzie – Michael Portillo was filming at Garve Station last week.

Kenny MacLean – the ward forum will be in Lochcarron Mon 17th Sept 6.30pm and he hopes to attend. Cllr Cockburn encouraged people to go to the ward forums.

Remembrance Service – Eliza Leslie Melville to get the wreaths.

AOB (Members of public) – was the ground adjoining Garve Station part of the station? It is believed to be private land.

Highland Council Budget Consultation – the Chairman proposed to discuss this at the next meeting. Individuals can take part and put their views in online.

HC Planning Guidance for Small Turbines Consultation – G&DCC members had no comments.

Cllr Cockburn will remain for planning & licensing but not take part in any discussion.

Current Planning Applications –

Amended Bell mouth junction at Corriemoillie awaiting determination pending revoking order on previous application. No comments.

Lochluichart Windfarm Extension and Mossford/ Beauly Power Line both awaiting determination from Scottish Government.

New Applications -

Temporary Siting of Catering Trailer (retrospective) at Garve Hall – no comments.

Temporary Siting of Chalet (renewal) at Achnaclerach – no comments.

Erection of 50kw wind turbine on 30m mast (rotor diameter 16.5m) at Ledgowan -members noted that the proposed colour of turbine is to be matt grey. No comments.

Erection of 10.5m high lattice tower with 2 antenna, 2 transmission dishes and equipment cabin enclosed within compound - application withdrawn.

Licensing – none.

Dates of future meetings: Tues 2nd Oct Garve Village Hall 7pm; Tues 6th Nov Achnasheen Village Hall 7pm; Tues 4th Dec Garve Village Hall 7pm; Tues 8th Jan 2013 Garve Village Hall 7pm.

All are welcome to attend. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9pm.