

~~Draft~~ Minutes of the Garve & District Community Council Meeting
held 3rd June 2014 in Garve 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 Cockburn; 4 members of public.

The Chairman opened the ordinary meeting after the AGM business was concluded.

Apologies: none.

Declarations of Interest: none.

Chairman's Comments: Jennifer Haslam was thanked for preparing the tea. The Chairman was unable to attend the Parent Council meeting; the recent Temple Spa evening held by the PC raised around £300 and the Easter Egg hunt raised £252. Everyone is invited to the Clairvoyant Evening on 14th June in Garve Village Hall 7-9pm, tickets are £8. Four pupils are moving on to Dingwall Academy after the holidays leaving ten pupils plus two nursery with no new pupils coming in.

The Chairman was unable to attend the NHS Mid Ross District Partnership Forum, the Skye Lochalsh & Wester Ross District Partnership Forum, the AGNV AGM, or the Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon CC.

Members of the community council visited the new Corriemoillie Sub Station which was very interesting and also the opening of the Lochluichart Windfarm. 23 Turbines are operational although output will be limited to 14MW until the Beaulay-Mossford pylon line is fully upgraded. Members also visited the Achnasheen Quarry, where the current license runs out in July 2015 but is in process of renewing.

The Chairman attended the Budget Forum in Lochcarron. HC are looking to find £63m of savings over the next four years.

Church update - The Christian Aid morning raised £400. There will be a Soup Lunch on 10th June at Strathpeffer Church Hall 12noon – 2pm. There will be no Service at Kinlochluichart Church on 15th or 22nd June.

All G&DCC minutes and agendas are available on our website

www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict as well as at Garve P.O., at Garve and Achnasheen Village notice boards, in the AGNV and on the AGNV website, direct from the Secretary on gdcc@fsmail.net, tel/fax 01997 414201 and at every G&DCC meeting.

Approval of the minutes of meeting held 6th May 2014: Proposed by Alex Mackenzie and seconded by Jennifer Haslam.

Matters arising:

Garve Railway Station – 6 barrels have been delivered after an 18 month wait. They have been fixed to the fence and have been planted up by local volunteers, with Network Rail covering the cost of plants and compost. Each volunteer has their own barrel to look after and already they have been complimented by a passenger at the station. Achnasheen station has received a “barrel train” to be planted up. The station platforms are kept very tidy by Network Rail however the footbridge is in an awful state, and the Achnasheen one is in a similar condition. Jean Bailey is going to complain about the bridge.

Reshaping Care for Older People – a free soup lunch is being held in Garve Hall on 21st June, 12-3pm. Various organisations that offer services for older people will be attending. Eneco will be attending to promote uptake of the electricity rebate of £250 available to all residents. This will be coming on stream in September now that the Windfarm is operational. G&DCC is liaising with Tracy Shaw about catering arrangements for the soup lunch. Younger people and anyone who would be interested in volunteering to help with future events/ activities for older people are very welcome.

E-On update – continue to work towards fulfilling planning conditions and is on target to meet the grid connection target of 2016. It is unknown whether a buyer has been found yet for the project.

Community Benefit for Allt Gharagain Hydro Scheme – G&DCC members agreed it would be best for LCT to receive this money. LCT directors have indicated that this will be possible. It was agreed that LCT approach Robbie Bain for guidance on the formalities required and that G&DCC receive a formal response from LCT outlining the next step.

Scottish Rural Parliament – G&DCC to request to be kept informed.

“P” Sign at Blackwater – this has been realigned.

Potholes and culvert at Little Garve – these have been repaired.
 Flooding (offlets) at Corriemoillie – with Robbie Bain.
 Potholes at Strathgarve – HC has received communication from G&DCC, Cllrs Greene and Cockburn and a local resident about the bad state of the Strathgarve road. The response is that resurfacing this road will not be in the budget but pothole repairs will be carried out this coming week.
 Police Report – none. Speed cameras are in operation in the Achanalt area.

Treasurer's Report:

Total balance b/f	1931.08	
Senior Citizens Fund – no change	895.84	895.84
Bench Fund – no change	50.00	50.00
War Memorial – no change	140.86	140.86
Treasurers Acc. b/f	844.38	
Less Achnasheen Amenities hall hire	-20.00	
Less K MacLean – car fuel	-48.50	
Less Printer ink	-18.50	757.38
	Carried Forward	<u>£1844.08</u>

Fundraising – there is a limited amount of space at the Flower Show for local stalls. The WRI, Parent Council and G&DCC have a table each. G&DCC to continue with the Whisky game started at the bingo.

Correspondence:

By Email, Robbie Bain – Mid Ross District Partnership mtg 9th May 2014; Tracy Shaw – List of possible tables for Soup Lunch; Julian Innes Chief Superintendent Police Update; John Barnes – E-On update; Robbie Bain – HC Budget Consultation mtgs; Jennifer Haslam – Soup Lunch; Strathpeffer CC mins; Lochcarron CC mins; Eneco – table at Soup Lunch; Robbie Bain – reminder for HC Budget Consultation; Network Rail – Ref No for Railway Fence repair.

By Post, HC Planning – refusal for Ledgowan Wind Turbine; HC Planning – permission granted for Hydro scheme at Achnasheen; Local Govt Boundary Commission Scotland – consultation on proposed councillor numbers.

AOB: Bob Moir had several items, 1) the bus shelter in Garve had two panels of glass smashed. A resident reported it to BEAR and they came and cleared up the broken glass but the panels have not been replaced. A notice board in the village also got damaged and it appears to be vandalism. Residents are asked to keep their eyes open; Sec to contact the community police officer.

2) Faulty street lighting in the village was reported on Sunday evening and was fixed by Tues.

3) The gully sucker was in the area and Bob managed to speak to him about the blocked drain at the BT Exchange. The gully sucker has unblocked the drain.

4) The pylon access at Killin is looking a mess at the roadside. Kenny MacLean to contact SSE.

5) There have been concerns about the works at Garve Level Crossing causing a mess. Agreed to wait until work had been finished. The works carried out in the station yard have been an improvement.

6) The fence at the school car park has not been repaired yet. Cllr Cockburn to follow up.

A member of the public raised a road safety issue. There is a pile of chippings which has been in the lay-by at Knockbain for about 2 years. The "P" sign does not seem to be covered over, and is causing confusion for vehicles wanting to pull over. Cllr Cockburn to investigate whether HC owns the chippings and could it be moved. It was suggested some could be used to fill the big hole at the recycling bins in Garve.

Alex Mackenzie reported a drop in water pressure in Matheson Road. Kenny MacLean to contact Joanna Peebles at Scottish Water.

Jean Hollingdale has reported the damage to the railway fence at Loch Garve.

Jennifer Haslam enquired about the Strathpeffer handyman and whether we could have one. Cllr Cockburn explained the handyman was not supplied by HC but was a volunteer and that Strathpeffer are putting a bid into community benefit funding to finance a handyman. Jennifer also noted that the Strathpeffer CC minutes had made a comment about LCT which was inaccurate in the amount of money that the G&DCC area was going to receive and they also indicated that we would not be able to spend such a sum of money; and so she wished to state that LCT are not getting £150k per year, and yes LCT will spend the money.

Kenny MacLean reported that grass cutting at Achnasheen Pond and Stirling Drive had not started yet. Robbie Bain is looking into it.

A member of the public asked about the toilets in Garve Hall as someone had stopped to use them and found the door was locked. The toilets are no longer run by the Highland Council but are available to customers of the burger van during opening hours. Public toilets are still available at Silver Bridge and Rogie (Rogie is closed during the winter).

A member of the public asked if the soup lunch was going to be advertised. A flier will be distributed to every house and posters displayed.

Screening/ Scoping Reports:

Screening requests under EIA Regulations have been filed for the following hydro schemes on the Lochrosque Estate –

Installation of 100kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt Mor Hydro Scheme)

Installation of 320kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt na Slataic Hydro Scheme)

Installation of 100kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt Duchairidh Hydro Scheme)

Installation of 350kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt Coire nan Laogh Hydro Scheme)

Scoping requests under EIA Regulations have been filed, again on the Lochrosque Estate -

Installation of 500kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt An Ruigh Mhoir Hydro Scheme)

Installation of 400kw hydro-electric scheme (Allt na Doire-guibhais Hydro Scheme)

Installation of 500kw hydro-electric scheme (Srath Chrombaill Hydro Scheme)

Ronnie Ross from Lochrosque Estate was available for questions. Four of the hydro schemes are in the Kinlochewe & Torridon CC area. Currently biodiversity checks are being carried out on these areas. All these schemes will be rented out if they go ahead rather than be funded by the estate.

SSE Consultation on national 3 digit emergency number for electricity faults - no comments.

Local Govt Boundary Commission Consultation on Councillor numbers – it is proposed to cut the number of HC councillors from 80 to 72. Concerns were raised that rural areas will not get enough coverage. G&DCC to respond against reducing number of councillors, due to the logistics of representing a large area where councillors have to travel large distances to attend meetings.

Planning: A query had been raised about whether the “Energy Lab” at Aultguish required planning permission. A response received from Eneco said that initially it had been intended as a temporary placement for the opening event and would then be used at other sites. However it is now intended to keep it at Aultguish and planning permission is being applied for a period of 2 years. It is open to visitors during hotel opening hours.

Two planning applications have been determined –

50kW Turbine at Ledgowan, permission refused on grounds of visual impact.

Amend design of powerhouse building, 800kW hydro-electric scheme at Allt Achadh na Sine, Achnasheen, permission granted.

No new planning applications have been received.

Date of Next Meeting: -

Tues 1st July 2014 at 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 5th Aug 2014 at 7pm in Garve Village Hall

Tues 2nd Sept 2014 at 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 7th Oct 2014 at 7pm in Garve Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm