

Draft Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting
Held 4th March 2014 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; Darrin Rooney (P.I. Renewables); Cllr Ian Cockburn; 1 member of the public.

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

Apologies: none.

Declarations of Interest: none.

Chairman's Comments: The Chairman attended the Parent Council AGM. The Office Bearers are as follows: Sarah Bedwell, Chair; Gail Grant, Treasurer; Karen Grant, Secretary. Mrs Ross, the teacher is leaving soon and there will be a temporary teacher until the summer holidays. Jennifer Haslam is going to visit the school with sunflower seeds to get the children started for the Flower and Vegetable Show later in the year.

The Chairman was unable to attend the Skye, Lochalsh & Wester Ross NHS District Partnership meeting in Ullapool.

The G&DCC website has had over 1000 visitors in its first year.

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 the meeting held 4th Feb 2014: Proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Jennifer Haslam.

Matters Arising:

Dingwall Police Station opening hours have changed. It is now open 8am-6pm seven days a week, but closed 12.30 -1.30pm for lunch.

Grudie offlets – some are still to be done.

Crash Barriers at Lochluichart – the one at the Lodge entrance has been repaired, the one at Grudie Bridge still to be done.

Strathgarve road – the surface is in very poor condition. Cllr Cockburn to chase.

Cam Gorm Windfarm update – G&DCC has received a response from HC Environmental Health and from P.I. Renewables following its comment submitted to the planning dept about concerns regarding noise levels affecting Strathgarve Primary School. The Environmental Health Officer is satisfied that the noise levels will be within permitted levels. The Parent Council has been made aware of all the comments.

Darrin Rooney said that the houses closest to the Windfarm had been assessed for noise levels and these are meeting the noise limits. Because noise diminishes with distance this means that any other houses or buildings further away also meet the limits. He referred to the other aspects of noise that Cllr Cockburn had objected to and stated that these were not assessment requirements as set out by the Scottish Government.

Bob Moir queried the turbine model that the noise assessment was based on.

There are two aspects of the planning that require a turbine model to be used: the Landscape and Visual Chapter which is based on a particular candidate turbine, and the Noise Assessment which is based on the turbine model which is deemed to be the noisiest of all turbines (Vesta). Therefore when the final choice is made of turbine model, it will be well within accepted noise limits.

Darrin Rooney addressed other aspects of the application that Cllr Cockburn had objected to regarding visibility from Rogie Falls Bridge and carpark. P.I. Renewables had looked very closely at this in response and there would be no visibility from these places. The turbines will be visible from Tarvie. The viewpoints used in the assessment are laid down by the Highland Council and P.I. Renewables have not tried to underplay issues related to the Windfarm.

Cllr Cockburn was invited to comment but declined.

Sue Tarr asked what the timeline was for the planning process. A planning recommendation is expected late April with a Planning Committee date of around 20th May but this may be delayed. The SNH response is running late because SNH are busy. There have been some mitigation measures

requested by statutory consultees, for example the Forestry Officer has requested that some trees which need felling to realign the access road need to be replaced. A 10 x 150m corridor of trees will be removed near the top of the access road and replanting will be nearby. The Access Officer has requested promotion of access for walkers and access will be opened up and improved. There have been no significant objections from statutory bodies yet.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rooney for attending.

Achnasheen Railway Bridge – the work is nearing completion, it has been a longer job than expected. It is going to be dark green. Residents within Achnasheen have been notified about engineering works which will take place overnight on 22nd March.

Garve Level Crossing – Network Rail have responded that it is not their responsibility to apply for road closures, but Bear's.

Broadband – G&DCC have received contact details from Cllr Cockburn about community broadband. Sue Tarr to follow up.

Bingo Night – a big thanks to all who came along and to those who donated items. £188 was raised for the Senior Citizens Fund.

AOB brought forward before Cllr Cockburn had to leave the meeting:

Jennifer Haslam said that there was a huge puddle preventing access to the recycling bins at the school. Cllr Cockburn to follow up.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cockburn for attending.

Police Report: There is now a Community Engagement Form, which lists local priorities: Road safety initiative held across the Division; licensed premises checks being carried out; road patrols of the village in relation to antisocial behaviour. Members agreed they would also like to continue receiving the area statistics as before.

Treasurers Report:

Total b/f	2373.24	
Senior Citizens Fund	662.03	
Add receipts Bingo Night	290.10	
Less hire of Garve Hall	-35.00	
Less food	-45.76	871.37
Bench Fund – no change		50.00
War Memorial – no change		140.86
Treasurers Account	1520.35	
Less hire of Garve Hall Jan & Feb mtgs	-31.50	1488.85
Carried forward		<u>£2551.08</u>

The insurance has gone up this year to £88.13. This is automatically taken off the HC grant.

Correspondence:

By Email, Plunkett Foundation – information; Robbie Bain, Biosphere Meeting; Highland Third Sector Interface Survey; Highland Third Sector Interface Newsletter; Network Rail reply re level crossing; Cllr Carolyn Wilson re proposed service point closures; Cllr Dave Fallows re proposed service point closures; Robbie Bain – SSE withdrawal of Fairburn Windfarm Extension planning application; P.I.Renewables – response to noise levels; Cllr Carolyn Wilson re outcome of service point meeting; Lochcarron CC mins; Strathpeffer CC mins; PC Beverley – CC form for reporting issues; Chris Hamilton re community projects event; Jennifer Haslam re LCT.

By Post, Local Govt Boundary Commission fifth review; Network Rail info; Scottish Water record performance & great value; Local Energy Scotland Grants and Loans.

A member of public has written suggesting that G&DCC could hold an event where people come and talk about ideas for community projects. The Chairman passed the letter to Lochluichart Community Trust for consideration. Some discussion about community projects in relation to money becoming available from the LCT in the near future. Some local groups would be well placed to make applications; other projects may need the assistance of G&DCC or LCT to make progress, or would

need to form a new group with a bank account. It is unsure at present time whether the LCT would be able to lead projects; the LCT guidance notes have still to be approved.
Another member of public is putting forward an idea for a community minibus scheme. Anyone interested in joining a group to take this forward please get in touch with Uisdean Menzies, or the Secretary.

AOB:

Eliza Leslie Melville said that the official opening of Lochluichart Windfarm would take place on 14th May.

Jennifer Haslam wished to confirm who had donated prizes at the Christmas Dinner for future reference when approaching sponsors for the Flower Show. Sec to email a list (contributions were received from SSE, Infinergy, Eneco and two local individuals).

Faulty streetlights in Garve were reported and have been fixed.

Jean Bailey reported that the litter getting thrown onto roadside verges was getting very bad. Members were unsure whether this was a matter for HC or the police. Sec to contact Cllr Cockburn.

A member of public has reported a large pothole on the road at Mossford to HC.

Kenny MacLean informed the meeting that the Achnasheen – Strathcarron road will be closed overnight on Mon 10th March, and again for 6 nights from the 22nd March for railway work.

AOB (Public):

A member of public asked about the War Memorial money and would it be spent on maintenance. G&DCC have received no claims for the money, and would encourage maintenance receipts to be presented.

A Screening Report for 700kW Hydro Scheme at Torrain Dubh has been submitted to HC for guidance.

Planning Applications:

The 100kW Hydro Scheme at Strathvaich has been approved.

Two new applications have been submitted:

Tigh Na Strutha, Lochluichart – erection of decking. No comments.

Land 130m east of Rosebank, Achanalt – upgrading of access including junction improvement and erection of replacement bridge. No comments.

Date of next meeting:

Tues 1 April 2014 at 7pm in Garve Village Hall

Tues 6 May 2014 at 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 3 June 2014 at 7pm AGM followed by an ordinary meeting in Garve Village Hall

Tues 1 July 2014 at 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.