

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 5th August, 7-00pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

Alister Sutherland (Chair)
Gwen MacTaggart (Secretary)
Ian MacTaggart
David Smith (Treasurer)
Jonny Henshall
Simon Meldrum

Glencoe Residents Present

Donald Stewart

Apologies

Thomas Janzen

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed DS, seconded GMT.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Fly-tipping, layby between Glencoe and Kinlochleven – Highland Council will investigate. Will remove if on public land; if on private land will remove if unsightly and bill the landowner.

Finance

The treasurer reported that the bank balance stood at £2,235.59.

Planning

Nothing to report.

Invited Guests

None. Apologies from Forestry Commission Scotland.

Open Forum

Matters raised: (1) Flooded pavement at Invercoe Bridge. DS will contact Mark Smith at Highland Council. (2) Highland Council had not carried out roadside strimming at Invercoe, which would improve line of sight for vehicles joining the Kinlochleven Road from the village street.

Broadband

Current Next Generation Broadband plans will not serve properties on the old road (e.g. Clachaig, the two Youth Hostels, Red Squirrel, Glencoe Cottages), which currently have very poor internet speed. A resident enquired and was given a figure of £60,000 for a private solution to serve the area. SM will contact HIE regarding alternative solutions for the old road & a firmer date for the village.

20 mph Speed Awareness Lights

TJ has written to Alan Bryce with the locations. Ongoing.

Compost Site

Posters displayed. Some users have paid, though so far not enough to cover the upkeep. GMT + DS will report back at the next meeting.

ASLCC

Nothing to report.

Ben Nevis & Glencoe National Scenic Area

GMT attended a meeting on 15th June and AS attended a meeting on 27th July. Next meeting 21st September. Minutes of these meetings will be circulated when approved by the Board.

Discretionary Fund

Two benches have been delivered but not yet put in place. A dinghy has been donated which will be planted with bulbs/shrubs. GMT will organize a third bench.

BBC

AS noted that some residents are unable to get satellite TV, relying on a terrestrial retransmitting mast that they finance themselves, and expressed concern about loss of BBC programming (e.g. Wimbledon) and channels (e.g. BBC4), reducing the value of terrestrial TV.

Correspondence Received

1. Lochaber Housing Association Newsletter – CC discussed possibilities for low cost housing in the area. AS will contact LHA.
2. Ward boundary proposals – no change to our ward.
3. The CC received an email from a resident relating to the BBC news item 'Buy land in Glencoe adverts confusing, says ASA'. The resident complained that the 'Glencoe' advertising that the ASA had ruled misleading had only been withdrawn from the UK and was still running in other countries.

Community Company

DS met with representatives from Ballachulish and Nether Lochaber regarding progress on their hydro schemes. It was reported that progress had been made but that dealing with Forestry Commission Scotland had been slow. Both communities were forthcoming about the problems they had encountered and they provided some very useful information about funding available for these projects.

Donald Stewart reported on his discussions with the consortium developing the Inveriggan Hydro Scheme. He expressed dissatisfaction with the community payment on offer of £750 per annum, and noted that there was a 12 month period in which the community can request involvement and raise funds for a greater stake. He cited Kingussie as an example where the community raised funding for a hydro scheme significantly smaller than the Inveriggan proposal which is now bringing in a five figure sum annually.

New Community Council

The four year term of the current Community Council is coming to an end. Residents interested in becoming a Community Councillor have from 22nd September until 6th October to nominate themselves using the forms on the Highland Council website. The current Community Council will be dissolved on 17th November.

AOCB

There was some discussion of whether the Orbital Route should be designated a Core Path.

The CC wished to thank Linda Smith & Gwen MacTaggart for planting the flower tubs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th September, 7pm