

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 16th September, 7-00pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

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

Glencoe Residents Present

Donald Stewart
Jeanette Johnstone

Invited Guests

Dr Ben Lennon, Forestry Commission Scotland
Iain MacEchern, Forestry Commission Scotland

Apologies

Thomas Janzen
David Smith

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed GMT, seconded SM.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Finance

The treasurer reported that the bank balance stood at £1,617.24.

Planning

Highland Council has started the process of reviewing the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP). A drop-in session has been organized in Fort William Library for Wednesday 30th September between 2pm and 5-30pm, with a round-table discussion scheduled for 6-30pm in the Council Offices. Further information can be found on the [Highland Council website](#).

Invited Guests

Dr Ben Lennon, Forestry Commission Scotland

Dr Lennon spoke about Micro Hydro Development on the National Forest Estate in the context of the Inveriggan (Allt Fhiodhan) development. The site was advertised for a year as part of the Forestry Commission Residual Offering. No expression of interest was lodged within this period and a commercial consortium, MNVI, has now secured an option to develop the scheme.

There was some feeling that the Residual Offering had not been well communicated. AS noted that he had contacted Forestry Commission Scotland regarding hydro development on FCS land in

Glencoe four years ago and was told it was being carried out in house. Dr Lennon says this was the case at the time.

At this stage, if the community does nothing they will receive a community payment from the developer should the scheme go ahead, believed to be £750 per annum. Alternatively, MNVI is offering a stake of up to 49% to a recognized community body. This community investment option was the route taken with the Fiunary scheme in Morvern. Dr Lennon advised speaking to Angus Robertson of Ardtornish Estate for further information.

Iain MacEchern, Forestry Commission Scotland

Mr MacEchern spoke about the new Brecklet Land Management Plan being drawn up. This exercise is currently at the 'brief' stage, which precedes a draft plan. The material presented included a 35-year felling plan, plans for restoration of native woodland on areas identified as Ancient Woodland Sites, and plans for the forest roads from the NTS Visitor Centre to be extended towards Ballachulish. AS requested artist impressions.

There was also a brief discussion of the Lochan. Donald Stewart requested the Lochan Land Management Plan. AS asked about the possibility of using FCS land under the Pap for social housing and as a site for a new Village Hall. Mr MacEchern replied that they were in principle amenable.

Horse Fouling

Complaints had been received about horse fouling, particularly at the Lochan where it was unpleasant for wheelchair users. The CC will contact the owners.

NHS Nursing Changes

Local nursing cover is now being coordinated from Fort William. The change was not well communicated and appears to have resulted in reduced coverage and to have adversely impacted continuity of care. The CC enquired with Bill Strachan of the Patient Participation Group, but he had no information. AS will write to the Chairman of NHS Highland.

Poppy Appeal

Jeanette asked for assistance with the poppy appeal.

Open Forum

Donald Stewart drew the CC's attention to the Locheilnet community broadband project, and wondered if this technology might be of value in connecting up the properties on the old road.

Broadband

The CC asked for an update on Next Generation Broadband in Glencoe. We were told it was still with BT planning, and that at this time all they could say was that it was to be completed in Phase 1 (that is, by the end of 2016).

The CC asked about options for premises on the old road which are probably too far from the exchange to benefit from the current NGB rollout. The response was that emerging technologies may hold out some hope, but failing that there is a Connection Vouchers scheme whereby the Scottish Government will cover up to £3,000 of the cost of a private solution, or we can approach Community Broadband Scotland. The most practical course, if there is sufficient interest, is likely to be for the affected residents and businesses to form an action group with a view to progressing with Community Broadband Scotland.

20 mph Limit

Awaiting update.

Compost Site

Coe Contracts have improved the fencing at the site. Some further tidying is needed. A new notice appealing for payment from users has been displayed, but has attracted no interest.

ASLCC

Email from Kevin Smith, Ballachulish CC regarding the closure of the Ballachulish branch of RBS, which is to be replaced by a mobile van. He has raised a number of specific points of concern with RBS and is awaiting a response.

National Scenic Area

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st September.

Discretionary Fund

GMT purchased bulbs for the tubs.

Correspondence Received

The A82 Working Group has organized an exhibition on the Tarbert to Inverarnan Upgrade on Tuesday 6th October between 12 noon and 7 pm at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William.

Community Company

The AGM is to be held on Wednesday 23rd September.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

7-30pm on Wednesday 28th October.