

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 28th October 2015, 7-30pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

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

Invited Guests

Scott McCombie, Property Manager, NTS Glencoe

Apologies

Thomas Janzen
Jonny Henshall

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed GMT, seconded SM.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Finance

The treasurer presented an itemized account of the Discretionary Fund "Village Enhancement" award spending.

The treasurer reported that the bank balance stood at £1,152.46.

Planning

Nothing to report.

Invited Guests

Scott McCombie, Property Manager, NTS Glencoe

Scott addressed the CC regarding the NTS's application to trademark "Glencoe", [as reported in yesterday's Herald](#).

Scott explained that the first he heard of it was when he was called by David Cooper, who had been contacted by a journalist.

The background to the trademark application is the row over Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's successful trademarking of "St Kilda", the name of a World Heritage Site property owned by the NTS. This raised the prospect that third parties might obtain trademarks on other NTS property names, and the NTS sought to forestall this by applying for the trademarks themselves.

An NTS spokesman explained to the Herald that:

“The alternative is to risk rights over these names being acquired by commercial organisations with interests that may not align with those of the Trust’s conservation and charitable purposes, nor with the wellbeing of local residents and businesses.”

The CC raised concerns about what this means for local businesses using the name. Scott assured the CC that they would not be impacted. A letter to this effect had been sent from the NTS’s solicitor to Discover Glencoe (the letter has not been seen by the CC). A similar statement appears in the Herald:

He [the NTS spokesman] said registering the trademarks would “categorically not hinder” the use of the name by local businesses which wished to refer to their geographic location or to businesses which had already been trading with the place names. They would have accrued prior rights.

Scott apologized for poor communication by NTS management.

The CC pointed out that the NTS does not own the whole of Glencoe. The CC asked for a written explanation of “the exact mechanism whereby future enterprises who wish to use the name may do so”.

Open Forum

The following items were raised on behalf of a resident who could not be present:

1. Some people were suggested as having experience relevant to the Inveriggan Hydro project. The CC will pass their names on to the Community Company.
2. There is funding available for the restoration of war memorials. The CC noted that there had been recent work on the memorial site, and felt that it was in a good state.
3. The resident sought to obtain clarification on the Citylink Fort William to Inverness service reductions and on whether older less well-equipped coaches were likely to be employed. The resident also asked that bike racks and disabled access be provided on all Citylink and Stagecoach services. GMT commented that the CC had raised the matter of disabled access previously and that the operators were unable to provide a guarantee. AS will raise all these points at the next Transport Forum meeting, where Citylink and Stagecoach representatives will be present.

20 mph Speed Awareness Lights

Awaiting update from TJ. SM will email.

A resident reported seeing a Rabbie’s bus clearly exceeding the 20 mph speed limit in the village. The local police have advised that in such cases we should note the number plate and time and report to them.

Compost Site

Some further tidying required. The CC will put together a small working party.

ASLCC

Nothing to report.

RBS Ballachulish Closure

The branch is scheduled to be replaced by a mobile service in December. The CC would like to see assurances regarding how long the mobile service will remain in place.

National Scenic Area

Nothing to report. Next meeting 26th January 2016 in Kinlochleven.

Meetings Attended by Councillors

AS attended an A82 upgrade meeting. The plans showed 4 route options. There was some concern that the proposed width was insufficient.

Correspondence

1. Invite to Voluntary Action Lochaber AGM.
2. Notification from Highland Council that they are taking over on-street parking enforcement from the police.
3. Winter Resilience Aid Form. The CC will fill out to request shovels, jackets, gloves, as required.

Community Company

There were some changes to the board at the AGM. The new board is: Sally Mortimer (Treasurer), Thomas Janzen (Secretary), Caroline Walker, Jonny Henshall, Viki Sutherland.

The Company received a letter from Rorrie Templeman at Scottish Water pertaining to the potential Community Hydro development under the Pap: "I regret to advise you that Scottish Water is not in a position to sell any of these assets as it does not have a marketable Title to the land. Since we last corresponded, it has been established that all of the components of the former water system are wholly located on land owned by another party. We cannot therefore progress your interest in the sites."

DS mentioned that the Company intended to create a bund by the Youth Hostel to halt path erosion.

AOCB

1. Container in the car park – Put there by a contractor without permission. Spotted by Highland Council and rent is now being collected.
2. Break-ins – Arrests have now been made. DS and Andrew Baxter have been in correspondence with Dave Thompson MSP regarding the slow forensic response.
3. The CC would like to thank those serving members who are standing down at the end of this term in November. AS extended special thanks to Dave Smith who has served for over 20 years and whose contributions will be sorely missed.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

7-30pm on Tuesday 1st December.