

# Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 7-30pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

### Councillors Present

Alister Sutherland (Chair)
Ganes Dunlop (Treasurer)
Gwen McTaggart (Secretary)
Ian William McTaggart
Natasha Dickson
Victoria Sutherland
Simon Meldrum

### Also Present

Andrew Baxter, Highland Council
Rev Sandy Stoddart
+ 1 more

### Apologies

None.

### Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed VS, seconded ND.

### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Village Hall – AS will convene a meeting of the committee. **Action AS.**

### Finance

The bank balance stands at £2,302.91. £1,000 was received from the ITV 'Loch Ness' production company, from which 3 donations of £150 will be made: to the Defibrillator fund, to Glencoe Primary School, and to the Senior Citizens. The remainder will go into the general fund to benefit the village as occasion arises. The CC thanks the production company for their generosity and wishes them every success with the series.

### Planning

- Beechwood Cottage – Proposed alterations & extension ([LINK](#))
- Gleann Fia – Erection of proposed detached garage/letting unit ([LINK](#))
- Land 140M West Of The Strath Glencoe – Erection of general purpose agricultural building ([LINK](#))

No objections.

A retrospective application to site a 'caravan' has been submitted in respect of the unauthorized development south of the A82 opposite the former bistro ([LINK](#)). Permission to develop this site had previously been refused, and an appeal in 2013 was unsuccessful ([LINK](#)). In line with the 2013 appeal decision, the CC does not wish to see a precedent established for development south of the A82. The CC has lodged an objection.

AS, having earlier discussed the sewerage constraints on local development with Kevin Smith of Ballachulish CC, agreed to make representations, petitioning the Scottish Government if necessary.  
**Action AS.**

AS and IMT again raised weight restrictions on the Bridge of Coe. The CC moved that it be a condition of future planning applications that construction traffic for the Old Road comes via the Clachaig.

A resident requested Highland Council inspect the Bridge of Coe and repoint with lime mortar.

### **Open Forum**

A resident requested Health as a regular agenda item. Raised concerns about the future of the 2 beds in the Abbeyfield and about the nature of the Belford New Build facility. Rev Stoddart has been attending the Belford meetings and offered to report back to the CC.

### **Compost Site**

LEG withdrew funding for upkeep shortly after new concrete bays were built. Ownership of land still unclear. A resident asked whether Zero Waste Scotland could help fund compost collection, and also whether offenders carrying out Community Service Orders could work on the site. The CC will submit an application to the Ward Discretionary Fund for funding to tidy the site and close it. Cllr Baxter will ask if HC can waive the landfill tax.

### **Invercoe Bridge**

Flooding on downstream pavement. Partially fixed, but unsatisfactory. IMT will phone William Gilfillan. **Action IMT.**

### **East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust**

Cllr Baxter introduced the East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (<http://www.eastlochaberlaggan.scot/>), of which he is a director.

The Trust was formed following Rio Tinto's announcement that they were reviewing their operations in the area (['Fears for future of Fort William aluminium smelter'](#), BBC News, 23/01/16), and is exploring the possibility of a community-led buyout of the Rio Tinto/Alcan Estate, which comprises 120,000 acres of land (a small area of which falls within the Glencoe and Glen Etive CC boundaries) plus industrial assets. Cllr Baxter mentioned his experience with the Kinlochleven Community Trust – he felt that leasing rather than owning the land had put them at a disadvantage regarding permission to develop, etc.

Rio Tinto is understood to have five interested parties at this time. ELLCT is not interested in owning/operating the smelter or the Fort William/Kinlochleven hydro schemes, and there are ongoing discussions with prospective commercial partners with a view to forming a consortium to bid. Funding may come in part from the Scottish Government Land Bank Fund and in part from commercial bank loans. Discussions with the Scottish Government and banks have taken place. The Trust is endeavouring to obtain details of estate revenues, etc., in order to initiate a feasibility study and draw up a business plan. Locals who wish to indicate their support for the Trust can sign up as members at the website above. 500 have so far done so.

If the purchase is successful, the CC would like to see a Glencoe community body given the opportunity to acquire the Glencoe land.

## **Broadband**

The CC is pleased to report that the BT fibre cabinet in Glencoe went live ('Accepting Orders') in June.

Regarding the wireless solution for the properties further from the cabinet, at a recent meeting attended by Guy Daynes of the Clachaig, Bidwells as agents of the Black Corries Estate, and others, it was decided that the police/rescue mast on Tòrr a' Chearcaill was suitably sited for the main relay, and permission will be sought to install the equipment on this mast. A subsidiary relay will be set up to cover Gleann Leac na Muidhe, etc. The mood of the meeting was reportedly very positive. The Black Corries Estate and a number of other local businesses were prepared to commit funds to the project, which would potentially avoid the delays inherent in obtaining grant funding.

## **Glencoe Trademark**

AS has researched the relevant case law and has confirmed that the rights of existing users of the 'Glencoe' name are secure. Accordingly, the CC will communicate to the NTS that they have no right to ask the local communities to agree to anything with regard to established local businesses.

## **Defibrillator**

Collection boxes are out.

## **20 mph Speed Awareness Lights**

Last year the CC had understood the lights to be funded and we were simply waiting for an installation date. Now, apparently, there is no funding. ND will forward the relevant correspondence to Cllr Baxter. [Action ND](#).

## **Correspondence Received**

1. Letter from a resident about the Kingshouse redevelopment and the felling of the stands of trees.
2. Email from Glencoe House about horse fouling. The CC has previously communicated these concerns to the horse owners, and will do so again. Horse fouling, however, is not deemed the same hazard to health as dog fouling, and neither the CC nor Highland Council have enforcement powers.
3. West Highland Community Rail Partnership

## **Community Company**

To meet. VS has written to Scott McCombie about completion of the Orbital Path.

## **AOCB**

NTS – AS is to write regarding the reintroduction of salmon fishing between the Visitor Centre and Loch Achtriochtan. Davy Gunn has indicated that he is willing to bailiff.

Kevin Smith is looking for volunteers to clear the trees shore-side between the boat shed and the arch. Hoping to undertake the work in October.

## **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

7-30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.