

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 8th November 2016, 7-30pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

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

Also Present

Rev Sandy Stoddart
+ 3 residents

Apologies

Victoria Sutherland

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed GD, seconded ND.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Finance

The bank balance stands at £3,948.15 after the receipt of a discretionary award of £1,700 from Highland Council towards returning the Compost Site to its original condition and a further £500 from the ITV 'Loch Ness' production company.

GD reported that fundraising for the defibrillator is going well. We are now only about £500 short on the combined Ballachulish and Glencoe total. The donation tins are still out and the wristbands still on sale. We understand the Clachaig is organizing a Quiz Night with proceeds to the defibrillator fund.

Planning

- Signal Rock Cottage – Erection of extension to form self contained unit ([LINK](#))

AS offered to leave the room while the Signal Rock Cottage application was discussed.

No objections.

AS submitted follow-up comments regarding the West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan urging the inclusion of the field adjacent the school as a potential site for a new Village Hall and the Forestry Commission land near the substation as a potential site for affordable housing.

Meetings Attended by Councillors

GD attended the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils meeting.

Among the topics discussed: Maintenance of the Sustrans cycle track, poor state of repair outside garage and opposite Tigh-phuir; taking over maintenance of the public toilets; insufficient sewerage connections; Local Development Plan; outsourcing of NHS care to the private sector.

On the latter point, a resident hearing the account of the ASLCC meeting expressed concern about good NHS jobs being replaced by zero-hour contracts paying below the living wage.

Correspondence Received

EE wrote concerning the installation of 3 new base stations along the Glen Etive road to extend 4G and ESN (Emergency Services Network) coverage. Full planning applications will follow.

Community Company

No update due to VS apologies.

Poppy Appeal

ND and GMT have assisted Jeanette. The collection is nearly complete. AS has organized the piper.

AOCB

20 mph Speed Awareness Lights – One sign (of two) has been ordered. The CC has made suggestions over placement, discussions ongoing.

Belford New Build – Rev Stoddart had attended the most recent meeting and kindly updated the CC. He highlighted that the project is at a very early stage. The Steering Group has established four subgroups (Clinical, Transport, Initial Proposal, Communications & Engagement) and a proposal is being drawn up, which is expected to take 12-18 months. Next meeting 18th November.

Glencoe Phone Box – BT had announced plans to shut 178 phone boxes in the Highland region, among them the one in Glencoe. The CC submitted a notice of opposition to the removal on August 31st and resident Fraser Watson's appeal to retain the box was featured in the September 15th edition of Lochaber News. We are pleased to report that the Glencoe phone box has been removed from the consultation.

Open Forum

Abbeyfield/NHS Highland – NHS Highland agreed to certain conditions in respect of the closure of Glencoe Hospital, among them the provision of 6 beds at Abbeyfield. The 10-year contract runs out next year. **Action: Raise at next ASLCC meeting.**

Road Accident Investigation – The A82 was recently closed for 7½ hours after a fatal accident. The accident investigation team has to travel down from Dingwall. A resident mentioned a promise by Police Scotland a few years back to also base accident investigators in Fort William.

It appears this need was raised by Highland Council's Lochaber Committee in their meeting of August 23rd and an undertaking was given to address the issue ([LINK](#)):

It was advised that there were currently no collision investigators in the Road Traffic Unit in Lochaber and that Officers in Dingwall required to assist in such incidents. There was a need to train officers in collision investigation and then train them in the use of Digital Mapping equipment. An undertaking was given to address this issue.

Lochan carpark extension – A resident noted the temporary closures for tree-felling, and requested that when the carpark extension work commenced that appropriate signage including details of alternative parking be displayed some distance ahead of the closure. IMT to contact Forestry Commission Scotland. **Action IMT.**

Date and Time of Next Meeting

7-30pm on Tuesday 13th December.