

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 5th March 2019, 7-30pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

Alister Sutherland (Chair)
Ganes Dunlop (Treasurer)
Gwen McTaggart (Secretary)
Ian William McTaggart
Victoria Sutherland

Invited Guests

Emily Bryce, Scott McCombie (NTS)
Guy Daynes (Glencoe Broadband)

Also Present

Dalness Estate
+ residents

Apologies

Natasha Dickson

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed VS, Seconded GMT.

Matters Arising

None.

Invited Guests

NTS – Visitor Centre Upgrade – Major refurbishment over winter, same external footprint, café capacity increased to better accommodate coach parties, small cinema (NTS suggested local events could be held), new exhibition space, exhibitions will rotate (first is Mountaineering in Glencoe). Expected to reopen early April. Additional staff and volunteer recruitment ongoing. Admission charge scrapped, £4 per vehicle parking charge. Considering free parking scheme so locals can visit café, etc. without charge.

AS asked about NTS objections to local planning applications. NTS does not oppose all development though has to represent the interests of their members and consider visual impact, etc. Takes position on a case-by-case basis.

Glencoe Broadband – High speed broadband to upper parts of the glen (Clachaig through to Kingshouse & Glencoe Mountain). Tagging on to Locheilnet.

Finance

The bank balance stands at £1,535.38.

Planning

Glen Etive Hydro – All 7 applications were approved, Cllr Baxter has asked for approvals to be reconsidered for the 3 burns south of the River Etive. Colin Fraser, Dalness Estate, reiterated full support from Glen Etive residents, backed up by the Glen Etive resident in attendance. Objections coming from outside the Glen. Residents distressed at social media abuse. AS writing to HC Planning + Leader of HC + Kate Forbes to convey community wish for the development to proceed. AS proposed that community could provide volunteers to monitor development and reinstatement works.

Meetings Attended by Councillors

Transport Forum – No money to restore 44 to previous service level. Resident discussed repurposing Glencoe Hospital SCIO, with trustees from each community, to take over failed Kinlochleven minibus scheme. (VS)

Abbeyfield (AS apology, update came from a resident) – Resident expressed strongest concern about the expiring contract on the Abbeyfield beds (originally 6 beds), which were very hard fought for 10 years ago. Urgency is increasing and ASLCC needs to develop an action plan.

Planning Committee Site Visit to Glen Etive – AS, though not invited, was present and listened to the Planning Officer's presentation.

Common Good Fund

(To receive and distribute Community Benefit from Glen Etive Hydro + other sources.) AS anticipates SCIO with independent chair to ensure fair distribution across bodies and localities.

Correspondence Received

None.

Village Tidy-Up

Very well attended (youngsters also – thank you!), much achieved, coverage in Oban Times. Only negative sentiment concerned the sacks and sacks of dog fouling removed, and what could be done. Many thanks to all who helped with the tidy-up and preparing the lunch.

Community Company

Path – VS has established Working Group which is preparing funding applications. VS met with Fion Construction and walked the path. Fion preparing estimate for restoring specification width, improving drainage, resurfacing. Also an estimate for completing the formerly apportioned section. Forestry Commission have a machine for clearing path borders that they use on their section, seemed amenable to clearing ours also. NTS spoke – have final approvals for their section, retendering is in progress, they are hopeful construction will start soon. (AS at this point asked about weight limit on Bridge of Coe and whether NTS would help pursue this.) CC again queried with NTS our understanding, from Clea Warner, that once remedial work had been completed on Community Company section, NTS would take over maintenance. Emily thought NTS could provide volunteers.

Open Forum/AOCB

Resident raised concern about Transport Scotland tree removal around A82 bridge works at Inveriggan and resulting untidy state.

Resident expressed strong disapproval of 50p Highland Council toilet charge. CC agreed with sentiment, but the alternative appears to be closure?

Invercoe Bridge – New bridge has been postponed repeatedly since 2011, CC will write.

Village Hall 20mph Sign Out of Order – IMT has notified HC, will follow up.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th April 2019

<http://www.glencoe-glenetivecc.org/>