

## Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 10 November 2020

#### Zoom Meeting

#### Councillors Present

Victoria Sutherland (Chair) - VS
Gwen McTaggart (Secretary) -GMT
Alister Sutherland (Treasurer) - AS
Helen Fairlie- HF
Ian William McTaggart – IMT
Sally Mortimer – SM
Mark Shone – MS

#### Invited Guests

Councillor Andrew Baxter (AB)

Emily Bryce, NTS (EB)

#### Also Present

Associate member of CC: Helen Worboys (HW)

6 members of the local community (MLC)

#### 1 Apologies

Amanda Fairclough (AF)

#### 2 Approval of Previous Minutes

Amendments from AF previously circulated. Accepted insofar as these were an accurate record of what was said – the last sentences of the amendment were not accepted as these were an additional explanation which was not actually said at the meeting. Amendment from HF re anonymising the resident involved in the street incident. Amended minutes approved by show of hands.

#### 3 Matters Arising

Question from MLC: What is happening with the church? It was not clear from the minutes why the locks had been changed. HF explained the situation as she understood it (having talked to AF). [GMT offered her apologies and left the meeting at this point – no notetaker appointed as meeting was being videoed]

HF explained that in her understanding the issue was related to insurance. When the Diocesan Trustees took over control of church assets earlier this year, the current vestry committee were not able to supply a list of keyholders, and so the Trustees felt they needed to change the locks in order to make everything safe, for insurance purposes. The church is safe and there is a process currently being worked through to set up a new central vestry committee to cover all six churches in AF's care (one committee instead of six separate ones).

#### 4 Invited Guest: Councillor Andrew Baxter

AB reported on his meeting with council officers in charge of roads and development/infrastructure, to discuss their views on the new village car park. The meeting looked at how other communities have managed these projects, specifically where the problem is high numbers of tourists visiting the area (e.g. Neist Point, Old Man of Storr on Skye). The meeting discussed the possible sites suggested for the car park. None of these are without complexities (e.g. access to A82/Low Road, planning issues, engineering challenges) but none of these were seen as insurmountable. Council officers

committed to provide time to assist with the project. Shane Manning will draw up more detailed figures re likely income from car park.

The next stage is to set up a community body to take the lead in the project. AB and Emma Tayler (HC Assistant Wards Manager) will put in a bid for £10K of Crown Estates Fund money, to pay for a feasibility study. An expression of interest must be submitted before Christmas, with feedback expected in early January. A full bid for funding for the feasibility study would then be due in March. VS agreed that CC would set up a small group to work on the expression of interest.

VS thanked AB for his help. AB will forward to VS the notes from his meeting with the councillors.

Emily Bryce asked AB for an update on discussions with Procurator Fiscal on proposed no alcohol byelaw for Glen Etive. AB had not had a reply from Procurator Fiscal but had asked council's Head of Legal Services to progress the discussion. Letters of support for the idea from local bodies (Kingshouse Hotel, Mountaineering Council of Scotland etc) would be helpful in showing support for the plan.

### **Invited Guest: Emily Bryce, NTS**

EB gave an update on the RTIF bid. The application went in at the end of October. An independent panel will review the application and we should hear the result on or around 15 December. If we are successful we will need to meet some conditions before accessing the money – e.g. match funding guarantees; leases on anything that will take place on private land; planning permissions etc. A sub-group of the CC (VS, HF, EB, HW) is working on a list of actions in advance of any funding arriving.

Question from MLC: Could correct names for car parking areas in the glen please be used (Coire nan Lochan and Coire Gabhail), instead of calling them the Three Sisters laybys. This would prevent any confusion on Mountain Rescue call-outs, where 'Three Sisters layby' could mean one of three different parking places. EB agreed this would be done for any notices, maps etc. VS also asked for use of Gaelic names where possible.

## **5 Community Resilience Group**

HF gave an update on the work of this group. Funds remaining in CC bank account at last statement: £1126. Since then £500 of this has been spent on the new Zero Waste Shed at 22 Lorn Drive. This is a new initiative to provide emergency food supplies to anyone who needs them. It is stocked with foodshare from the Co-op [i.e. food that is no longer saleable but is still good to eat, donated by the Co-op instead of going to landfill] and other essentials e.g. tinned foods, rice/pasta etc. The shed has an electricity supply and a fridge freezer, lighting etc. It should be opening very soon. The resilience group also now has its own bank account, so funds no longer need to be kept in the CC bank account. The latest funding award (£5K from Foundation Scotland) has gone directly to the new account.

## **6 Finance**

Total funds in the account: £3315.63 (of which £1188.76 is CC money and the remainder is Resilience Group money, see above).

## **7 Planning**

None in our area.

## 8 Meetings attended by councillors

VS attended a meeting at the Kingshouse with EB and Finlay Clark of Bidwells, re permission to improve car parking on Black Corries land (specifically at Lagangarbh). EB said that Finlay Clark was not against the proposals but that he needed more information. Discussions are ongoing.

## 9 Correspondence received

None (but see AOCB iv)

## 10 Community Company

VS reported that the conversion to SCIO is still ongoing. She had written to all the landowners who gave wayleave for the Orbital path asking them to agree to the conversion to SCIO in writing but only received one reply. VS then followed up with Mark Smith from the Roads Dept (since the path is all on the verge so therefore falls under Roads Dept control). He approved the change, so paperwork for the conversion will now go to OSCR.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Community Company will be required to approve the changeover. Company Directors will automatically become trustees of the SCIO, but once the SCIO is incorporated a meeting of residents will be convened to agree on a Charity Trustees Board. New trustees will be voted in at that meeting. VS has sent the accounts information to the accountant ready for filing at Companies House as required by 28 November.

## 11 Methods of communication

VS explained she would like to explore ways of making the Community Council and relevant information more accessible to the general community. CC meeting announcements are currently posted in the shop, on the CC website, and on the Community Noticeboard FB page. The website is no longer fit for purpose and needs a revamp. It needs to be more user friendly, with easy access to minutes, agendas etc. Agreed by show of hands. VS to seek quotes for revamp.

Minutes are currently not posted until they have been agreed at the next meeting so they seem to be out of date by the time they are shared. Dot Ferguson has confirmed that we are allowed to post draft minutes if we want to. Agreed by show of hands. Draft minutes to be shared henceforth on website. VS also mentioned that Glenfinnan CC publish their minutes in *Lochaber Times*. VS contacted Mark Entwistle at the paper – he agreed he would publish ours (subject to space available), at no cost. VS felt this might benefit older/less tech-savvy residents who do not read material online. Agreed by show of hands. VS to send agreed minutes to paper.

MLC mentioned that in the past a bullet point summary of CC meetings was regularly published in *Oban Times*. MLC also suggested setting up a Messenger group for the CC. MLC has previously used a company in Belfast for website building, and will get a quote from them to send to VS re revamp of the CC site.

## 12 AOCB

- i. **HW:** BT has agreed that the CC can adopt the village phone box for £1. HW to send agreement to VS to sign. The phone will be removed shortly, and we can then collect suggestions from the community as to what the phone box could be used for. (Glen Etive phone box should also be adopted soon.)
- ii. **HW:** Highland Council (HC) have offered winter resilience materials (shovels, snow pushers, extra grit etc), but we will need volunteers to take responsibility for sections of streets. VS commented there is also need for a grit bin at Clachaig Brae (grit has been dumped in piles – bin would be better). HW to follow up with HC. MLC noted that grit dumps were bad economically (will just wash away in heavy rain) and ecologically (salt damages flora and fauna).

- iii. **MLC:** Could Sustrans be contacted re flooding of cycletrack/pathway between Tigh Phuir and Ballachulish? VS raised this with Sustrans last year but they were not keen on taking it on. EB has contact with Sustrans and will mention to them, to try and get things moving. EB suggested the CC cycling subgroup should be reconvened. VS agreed to take this forward. MLC suggested the flooding problem might actually be the responsibility of the council Roads Dept (Transport Scotland). MLC mentioned that Bear Scotland recently broke the water pipes that pass under the road, during the crash barrier repair work. MLC and IMT had spoken to Bear Scotland about this, but the two problems might be solved concurrently. HW suggested that photos of the flooding might help to support the argument for repair work.
- iv. **MLC:** MLC wrote to the CC regarding planning application from Invercoe Caravan and Camping Park. MLC asked if CC had written to Lucy Prins at Planning Department about this development at river mouth and along the shore. VS reported that the CC had discussed the application via group email and that no-one had raised any objections to the development. The CC view is that this is a matter for the Planning Dept, and that they will make sure that all checks and balances are in place. MLC has personally written to Lucy Prins, arguing that new development will adversely affect village, especially the views from A82. Another MLC has also written to HC with similar concerns. MLC was also concerned that the caravan park has at certain points in the season exceeded the number of caravans allowed on site. VS stated that it is not CC's role to police HC's regulations, and that the CC had not received any complaints about the site.
- v. **MLC:** MOWI boat has been running 24/7, and MLC has formally complained to them about the noise. MOWI responded that noise is caused by temporary generator being used until engine is fixed and they agreed to switch it off at 10pm each night (turning back on at 7am). VS said CC is aware of the issue but HC had not been supportive in CC's complaint re expansion of the fish farm. MLC will send formal letter of complaint re the noise.
- vi. **MLC:** HC has made a very big mess in cutting vegetation on the verges on the old road. VS replied that she had been advised that the broken fences had now been fixed.
- vii. **MLC:** MLC questioned why health is not an item on the agenda. VS responded that Abbeyfield had not had any COVID cases, and that a working group on the new Belford is due to respond by the end of the year. MLC is a member of this group and will report back to CC on progress.
- viii. **MLC:** South Lochaber Community Company minibus is ready to go, but still waiting for the transfer of assets from the charity in Kinlochleven. MLC will contact AB to see if he can help. [AB no longer present in meeting at this point.]
- ix. **MLC:** MLC asked if CC could write to Inspector Isla Campbell re concerns about visitors coming up from Tier 3/Lockdown areas. Could we use mountaineering contacts to help persuade people not to come at this time? It was mentioned that Glencoe MRT had put a post to this effect on the MRT page at the start of lockdown which had a good response and that a repeat of this was under consideration. MLC mentioned that rules had recently changed to mean folk now had to stay within 5 miles of home for outdoor exercise, but this had not been widely publicised. EB said NTS regularly posted photos on their FB page, to keep people in touch with the glen while they can't be here. EB suggested a joint message from the NTS and MRT might be helpful? NTS and MRT agreed to discuss this further. MLC suggested a joint statement from CC and Discover Glencoe might also help. Another MLC agreed to approach Discover Glencoe and publicise the fact that members would only accept bookings from Tier 1 and 2 areas. VS also agreed to speak to Guy Daynes/Clachaig.

- x. **MLC:** MLC asked if there was any further news re the development of a manège on the Strath. VS advised that the application had been withdrawn, but as work has actually been done on the site she would follow up with SEPA to ask about the deposits of builders' waste etc.
- xi. **MLC:** MLC offered to construct a small bridge on the Strath walkway, at the corner of the horse field where it joins the embankment (currently just an unbridged burn crossing). VS agreed to forward contact details of the landowner so MLC can speak to him directly.

**13. Date and time of next meeting:**

**5 January 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom**