



**Minutes of the Garve & District Community Council ordinary meeting held on
Tuesday 19th August 2025 on webcam recording kept for 12 months**

<https://bit.ly/GDCCmeeting19thAugust2025>

Community Council elected members present: Bob Moir (Chair) Caroline Gamble (Treasurer) and Sadie-Michaela Harris (Secretary)

Community Council co-opted members present: Simon Friend.

Also present: Katrina Walker Project Manager - Boralex Lochluichart East BESS, Sam Nicholson - member of the public and Achnasheen resident and Cllr. Liz Kraft

Apologies: Fiona Middleton Boralex

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm by the Chair

2. Declarations of Interest

- The Chair is a Trustee of Garve Public Hall, a Friend of Garve War Memorial, a Lochluichart Community Trust (LCT) elected Director, and a member of the GD CORE Land Panel.
- The Treasurer is a landowner with regard to the SSEN underground cable from the Western Isles to Beaully.
- Elected Community Council (CC) member Sadie-Michaela Harris and Co-opted member Simon Friend are Friends of the Wyvis Natural Playpark Group.
- Cllr Liz Kraft is a member of the North Planning Applications Committee at The Highland Council (THC).

All elected members of the Community Council confirmed they had read all documents scheduled for discussion prior to the meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday, 9 June 2025 via webcam were approved without amendment.

- Proposed: Sadie
 - Seconded: Caroline
(A point of correction from Statkraft noted later in the meeting—see below.)
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4. Matters Arising

4.1 Boralex Windfarm <https://www.boralex.com>

No update.

Katrina provided an update on the proposed Lochluichart East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): <https://www.boralex.com/en/projects-and-sites/storage-lochluichart-east-bess>

- Application submitted to Highland Council on 12 August.
- Awaiting validation.
- Once validated, Katrina will provide each CC member with a memory stick containing the full application.
- In the interim, data from the traffic study (promised by Fiona in June) will be sent.
- Bob, Sadie and Simon visited the site entrance. THC requires 200m of tree clearance each side of the entrance due to a 60mph speed limit. Developers, CC, landowner and community believe this is excessive and support reducing the speed limit to 40mph to avoid tree removal.
- Engagement event to be held at Garve Public Hall - date TBC.

4.2 Kirkan Windfarm <https://www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk>

No update.

4.3 Tarvie Proposed Windfarm www.tarviewindfarm.com

Bob (in person) and Sadie (via Zoom) attended a meeting on 17 July with developers KRE, CCs from Contin, Strathpeffer, Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon, and the Tarvie Community Alliance Action Group.

- A further closed meeting is planned for October, ahead of the first public meeting.
- Status:
 - EIA survey: ongoing (due September)
 - Design phase: due December
 - Public meetings: November & February (TBC)
 - Application: May 2026
 - Construction: 2030/31

4.4 SSE Fairburn Extension <https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/fairburn-extension> No update.

4.5 SSEN Spital/Beaully 400kV <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--loch-buidhe--beaully-400kv-connection>

No update.

4.6 SSEN Underground Cable (Western Isles to Beaully) <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles>

- Bob attended a meeting with other local CCs regarding the Western Isles HVDC.
- Focus: developing a fully funded “shopping list” of improvements for affected areas.
- Minutes sent to SSEN (meeting held 16 July 2025).
- No significant items for Garve and District CC.

4.7 Corriemoillie Field www.fieldcorriemoillie.co.uk

- Project submitted in December last year - awaiting ECU decision.
- Ecology surveys ongoing and will extend through summer.
- Discussions continue with Highland Council on outstanding issues.

4.8 Carn Fearna <https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Carn-Fearna>

- Ongoing evaluation of consultation responses
- THC has requested an extension until the end of December 2025.

4.9 Correction Noted

Bob read a correction requested by Seamus concerning the June meeting.

4.10 Achnasheen Hall Sale

- No further developments.
- Previous estimate to repair roof alone: £100,000.

4.11 Roads and Traffic

- Separate road/traffic group meetings to cease. Items now addressed through CC meetings.

Check Rail Corner

- No update on permanent repair.
- BEAR's temporary measures (traffic lights) appear to have prevented further near misses.
- No new reports received by the CC.

White Lining

- Gorstan Junction white lining outstanding for over three years.
- Liz to chase THC.
- Garve village also requires white lining (outstanding since pre-COVID).

Overgrown Bushes

- Caroline noted encroaching foliage on Matheson Road and Check Rail Corner.
- Sadie to report Check Rail Corner to Network Rail and assess Matheson Road.

Dangerous Driving

- Concerns raised about motorists ignoring the 30mph limit at Check Rail Corner and overtaking dangerously—particularly by motorcyclists.

Achanalt Traffic

- Resident reported excessive traffic speed to Bob, citing danger to children and pedestrians.
- Bob to speak with Lisa at THC about installing “gateways” at both ends of Achanalt, similar to Mossford and Achnasheen.

Weeds in Village

- Bob noted the village looks unsightly due to weeds, despite the grass cutting team doing a good job.
- Liz has suggested using people on community service/payback schemes to address this.
- If not feasible, it will fall under THC’s Amenities remit.
- Weedkiller is no longer used; clearance will need to be manual.
- Liz to follow up both options.

4.12 Communications

- A new website has been launched: gdcc.scot
- Primary email: contact@gdcc.scot
- Chair email: chair@gdcc.scot
- Facebook facebook.com/GarveCC
- Bulk minute emails will no longer be sent.
- Hard copies of minutes will continue to be available in Garve Post Office and on the Achnasheen notice board within two weeks of each meeting. Copies also available on request.

4.13 Garve Hotel

- Contact has been made with hotel representatives.
- Two workers and a supervisor are currently tidying the exterior (weeds and rubbish).
- Renovation of hotel is still the intention.
- Power is on; lights visible in various windows.
- Hotel was broken into again on **Friday night, 15 July**. Police attended.

- SFRS contacted CC and have been provided with contact for hotel - in order to carry out a fire risk inspection. Updates to follow.
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4.14 Achanalt Flooding

- Residents supported by CC. THC culvert clearing debris remain outstanding.
 - Bob asked Sadie if she'd received an email from Andy Bone.
 - Sadie: No.
 - Liz to send Andy Bone's contact details to Sadie.
 - Freedom of Information (Fol) mentioned by Liz and reason for it explained by Sadie.
<https://bit.ly/Fol-Achanalt>
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4.15 Speed Limit Signage

- Old 30mph signs removed near Strathgarve School and Garve Public Hall.
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4.16 Network Rail Updates

- Planned overnight work in Garve: **27-28 August**, 11.00pm to 7.00am.
- Line closure from Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh: **19 October - 11 November**.
- Network Rail offered labour for social works in Achnasheen during this time.
 - Shelter repainting and gutter clearing suggested.
 - Shelter belongs to THC; Liz approved repainting.

Sam's Suggestions:

- Public parking area is muddy or overgrown. Suggest:
 - Clear channels for drainage.
 - Add and compact more gravel.
- All present agreed this should be taken forward as a suggestion for Network Rail.
- CC members will inspect area and clarify responsibilities between NWR and THC.

Community Engagement by Network Rail

- Network Rail staff open to attending any community events during their work period to talk about their organisation and careers.
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4.17 Sam - Sanitation Concerns at and around Achnasheen Station

- Tourists frequently defecate/urinate near the platform and in Sam's garden.
- In nearby bushes, other gardens and near pond.

Liz's Response:

- She flagged it with the Ranger Service.

- Local ranger Gregor is aware and monitoring.
- Abandoned caravan also reported.
- Rangers to increase enforcement checks.
- Liz gave Gregor Sam's contact details to follow up directly.

Sam:

- Welcomes contact from rangers.
- Requests email or phone contacts for future incident reporting.
- Liz agreed to provide contact information.

4.18 Wider Sanitation Issues

- Lack of public toilets discussed.
- Similar issues at Silverbridge, Rogie Falls, and farm track beside Garve Station.
- THC has no statutory obligation to provide public toilets.

Signage:

- Liz requested advance signage for toilet locations (e.g., Rogie Falls, Kinlochewe, Silverbridge).
- Liz will follow up again.

Temporary Toilets:

- Sam asked about temporary toilets for Achnasheen.
- Liz noted THC's environmental and health responsibilities.
- Repeated: illegal toileting is a police-reportable offence.

Enforcement and Data:

- Liz: Police, Environmental Health and Access Rangers all contacted.
- Areas with repeated incidents become data "hotspots", increasing chance of funding or enforcement.
- Wester Ross and NW Sutherland are the highest recorded areas for dirty camping in Highland.
- Residents encouraged to report all incidents.

Local Campaigning:

- Simon suggested approaching Network Rail for signage: "No access except to trains".
- Sadie asked Sam to email a "squiggle map" of the affected area to contact@gdcc.scot.
- CC will also visit the site.

Additional Solutions:

- Liz suggested solar compacting bins.
- THC may agree to empty them if community funds the installation. Liz to follow up.

- Sadie to follow up - lookup these bins online from CC side.

Sale of Achnasheen Hall:

- Sadie to send Sam the sale information: bit.ly/AchnasheenVillageHallForSale * **post meeting note closing date listed as 29th September 2025**
 - Liz wants the proceeds retained locally to support possible future toilet facilities.
 - Suggested models include Kinlochewe or Gairloch's schemes.
 - Would require a constituted community group to take responsibility.
 - Staffing such facilities remains a challenge (e.g. Midge Bite Café frequent closures due to lack of staff). As does a location in Achansheen once hall is sold.
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4.19 Scottish Water Issues

- Bob reported persistent water outages, including another burst pipe on Friday.
 - Scottish Water previously promised system replacement in 2025.
 - Now delayed; confirmed as a “priority” for the next investment period (~£2 million project).
 - Water currently only functional in flats beside hotel; main hotel remains without supply.
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4.20 Infrastructure

- Storm damage to Garve Station fence reported to Network Rail.
 - Temporary repair completed but deemed inadequate.
 - Awaiting further response.
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4.21 Beaully CC

- Currently in abeyance.
 - AGM planned for **25 August 2025**.
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4.22 Community Service / Payback

Liz following up with team on community payback actions:

- Remove broken fence at bottle bins.
 - Weed clearance in village.
 - Fix strainer post at wee football pitch by the station.
 - Gate at cemetery - still unresolved. Liz to chase.
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5. AOB

Caroline:

- Trees and bushes need trimming near Matheson Road, Primary School end.
- **Post-meeting confirmation: all on THC land.**

Simon:

- Bridge from village to Strathgarve is noisy again
 - Needs bolt/safety inspection.
 - Liz to action.
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6. Departures

- Liz left the meeting at 8.15pm.
 - Sam also left following discussion about the parking/toilet issue.
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7. Planning and Licensing

- No new scoping or licensing issues.
- Planning items now listed on the GDCC website with links to each application on The Highland Council / ECU planning portals.
[Garve & District Community Council | Planning](#)

Planning Applications:

- **Installation of a 20m telecommunications lattice mast and associated equipment**
- Location: Tollomuick, Innis Nan Nathraichean, A835 Near Garve, Strathvaich Estate, Highland, IV24 3BS
- Status: **Prior Approval Granted** - as determined 8th August 2025
- **Lattice Tower, Turbines, Solar Panels**
- Location: 3.5km NW of Aultdearg, Lochluichart, Garve
- Status: Under Consideration
- **Kiosk, Cabling, Access Track**
- Location: Corriemoillie Quarry, Garve
- Status: Awaiting Decision
- **Track Repair and Access Upgrade**
- Location: 2km NE of Badavanich, Achnasheen
- Status: Under Consideration
- **House at Silverbridge**
- Status: Still under consideration

Administration:

- THC recently sent planning communication to the former Chair's old address despite new contact details being advised.
 - Sadie following up with THC.
 - New CC planning profile being established.
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8. Inverness Convention on Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure on Communities - 12th August

- Attended by Bob, Simon and Sadie.
 - Bob praised Helen Crawford for circulating a letter of unified support for 11 MSPs/MPs to sign.
 - All 11 signed to confirm their support.
 - Recording available: bit.ly/InvernessConvention
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9. Meeting Format Going Forward

- Hybrid meetings to end - public not attending in person.
 - Face-to-face chats can be arranged in the hall meeting room on request.
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10. Treasurer's Report - slipped down the agenda - an oversight

Grant received: **£445.20**, credited after attempted deposit into old bank account.

- Bank balance: **£2,143.62**
- Recent expenditures:
 - £50: Gift voucher for Jean (account audit)
 - £118: Repayment to Sadie (website)
 - £7.20: Postage (postage)

Breakdown:

- Wreath Fund: £420.20
- Community Fund: £1,723.42

Banking Issues:

- Ongoing problems with Virgin Bank following office bearer changes.
 - Bob and Caroline to resolve.
 - Sadie opted out due to complications!
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Meeting Ended: 8.35pm

Signed

Signed

Date

This set of minutes were first published in draft form at 4.30pm on Saturday 23rd August 2025