

**DRAFT Minutes of the Garve & District Community Council**

**Annual General Meeting held on Monday 9 June 2025 via webcam & hybrid in Garve Public Hall**

**Community Council elected members present**: Kenny Maclean (Chairman & Secretary), Bob Moir (Vice Chairman), Caroline Gamble (Treasurer) and Sadie-Michaela Harris.

**Community Council co-opted members present:** Simon Friend.

**Also present**: Cllr Liz Kraft, Tina Hartley (Development Manager, TG&DDC) and Fiona Milligan (Boralex).

**The Chairman opened the 2025 Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm** and welcomed everyone. He also confirmed that this meeting would be recorded as per the agenda and will be archived and available for viewing for twelve months thereafter.

**Declarations of Interest -** none. Community Council elected members confirmed that they had read all documents to be discussed tonight before the start of the meeting.

**Approval of minutes** of the last Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 23 July 2024 were proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris, unanimously agreed.Minutes will be signed in due course.

**Matters arising** – none.

**Chairman annual report** - this along with the independently audited financial statement have already been sent to The Highland Council. These documents were also sent out via our emailing list, by email to Community Council members and were available in Garve Post Office and on the Community Council website. Copies were also available on request.

*This is my seventeenth and final annual Chairman’s report for the Garve & District Community Council and as ever, there has been plenty going on covering a wide range of issues since my last report twelve months ago.*

*We were saddened by the passing of Dr Val MacIver OBE, Gill Cameron, Ross Cowie, Betty Mackenzie, Doug Chappel and Betty Maclean over the last twelve months.*

*Remembrance Sunday – a service took place at the Garve War Memorial on Sunday 10 November 2024; it was a mild dry day. I was joined by the Vice Chairman and the Treasurer who laid the Community Council wreath on behalf of the community (apologies noted from Community Council elected member Sadie-Michaela Harris). He was also joined by Rev Ronnie Gall, Cllr Liz Kraft, the Lord & Vice Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet and around 50 members of the community. After the service, soup and sandwiches were provided in Garve Public Hall. As always in recent years, our Chairman on his way home sat on Eliza’s memorial bench at Lochluichart to remember our old friend and colleague and left his poppy on her gravestone. Eliza as well as being a long serving member of the Community Council, was also a regular attendee of Remembrance Sunday. A re-dedication service marking 100 years since the Memorial was built was marked on Saturday 26 October 2024 which was also well attended.*

*One joint meeting between TG&DDC, LCT and the Community Council has taken place over the last twelve months discussing various issues. It is hoped another will be held this September.*

*Three meetings of the Garve & District Road Safety Community group have taken place since we took the lead on this subject. There has been lots of discussions both at those meetings and the ordinary meetings of the Community Council where road markings, signage and a greater police presence have already been achieved.*

*We are most grateful to the various windfarms both built and proposed who have kept us updated on developments along with proposed battery storage facilities and proposed additional powerlines and the EDF Education & Training Fund reports.*

*Our website -* [*www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict*](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict) *continues to be well used since it was first launched in March 2013, receiving around 200 “hits” per month. All minutes from April 1994 are available to view or download from our website along with other Community Council documents including the members list. Our emailing list continues to grow, just email us at* [*contact@gdcc.scot*](mailto:contact@gdcc.scot) *to be added to the list to receive agendas, minutes and general updates. In November 2023 we launched our social media page* [*www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552992414355*](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552992414355) *which now has 196 followers*. *Our recorded meetings are viewed around 45 times each month.*

*We have addressed or investigated many issues since our last Annual General Meeting such as Local Place Plans, replanting The Avenue, public toilets, grass cutting in the cemeteries, the future of Achnasheen Village Hall, public toilets and the mobile library service, schools, mains water, bottle banks, motorhome levy and tourism levy, community bus/regular bus services, in person/online meetings, geothermal energy, Post Office services, planning website and mapping, GD CORe land, various NHSH matters, fly tipping and bins, empty buildings, schools, Polling Station review, NC500, NHSH appointment letters, train passenger numbers and timetable changes, cycle paths, station adopters, e-bikes, Garve Hotel and the future of the payphones (again!). We are also regular attendees of the Dingwall Medical Group meetings, now in their fifth year.*

*Another topic that is a regular one not just over the last twelve months but over many years has been the road network. The various road issues have included potholes/resurfacing works, wooden fencing, whiting lining, signage, gateways, speeding and speed zones, sightlines, surface dressing, railway crossings, “check rail” corner, hedges, Inchbae bridge repairs, winter service plans, extra passing places, grit bins, potholes, Gorstan Junction issues, flooding, and various parking issues. With having a trunk road as well as Highland Council roads in our area, we have a lot of liaising to do with different people and organizations. I am sure roads will continue to be a regular topic of our discussions. I know Community Council members also enjoy hearing about my memories from my many years on the Community Council which is why I did a little look back from time to time.*

*The various issues have been discussed at eight ordinary meetings, and one non-quorate meeting since the last Annual General Meeting lasting around twenty hours. The Community Council has also considered two scoping reports, eleven consultation documents, four building warrants, five Prior Notification Orders, and thirteen planning applications We also noted one licensing issue since the last Annual General Meeting.*

*I would like to thank all the elected Community Council members for the support they have given me over my many years and may I thank them on behalf of the community for all the hard work they do as Community Council members. It should always be remembered that Community Council members VOLUNTEER their time to represent their community.*

*We must thank Caroline Gamble who, as Madam Treasurer oversees our accounts and to Jean Bailey for auditing them, Bob Moir for his support as Vice Chairman and Sadie-Michaela Harris for her webcam knowledge. We must also remember poor co-opted member Simon Friend who has only just joined us yet is already in the thick of it!*

*A thank you must also go to Cllr Liz Kraft who regularly attends our meetings and keeps in regular contact. I must also thank the various local groups who keep in touch with their updates, it is all very much appreciated and helpful.*

*Finally, but by no means least, a thank you must go to the people of this community for their support to me, and their Community Council and I wish you all well for the future.*

*Kenny Maclean, outgoing Chairman, Friday 9 May 2025.*

Those present had no questions on the Chairman’s report.

**Treasurer’s audited accounts** – the audited report for 2024/2025 has, as usual, been available in Garve Post Office and on the Community Council website over the last few weeks. Copies were also available on request. Those on our email list have already received a copy. The Treasurer noted expenses were like the previous year. Those present had no questions on the audited accounts. The audited accounts for 2024/2025 were then formally proposed for adoption by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris, agreed. Kenny Maclean abstained as he is retiring from the Community Council at the end of this meeting. As this is the last meeting of our outgoing Chairman who is also Secretary, Kenny is due a secretary fee for April 2025 and May 2025. Kenny was happy to decline the payment.

**Election of Office Bearers** – all Office Bearers stand down at each AGM but can stand again if they wish. Any changes to office bearers take affect from the end of this meeting. Our Chairman confirmed that as he was retiring from the Community Council at the end of this meeting, he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman and/or Secretary and would abstain from this election process.

Bob Moir was nominated as Chairman, proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris, agreed.

Sadie-Michaela Harris was nominated as Secretary, proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Caroline Gamble, agreed.

Caroline Gambe was nominated as Treasurer, proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris, agreed.

Sadie-Michaela Harris was nominated as press officer, proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Simon Friend, agreed.

Bob Moir was nominated as data controller, proposed by Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Caroline Gamble, agreed. (ICO informed).

Bob Moir for named GPDR statement, proposed Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Caroline Gamble, agreed.

Admin for Community Council website and Facebook page? Sadie-Michaela Harris nominated, proposed by Bob Moir, seconded by Simon Friend, agreed.

It was also agreed that bank signatories will be Caroline Gamble, Bob Moir and Sadie-Michaela Harris only. (Kenny Maclean to be removed).

**Dates of future meetings** – our outgoing Chairman confirmed that, having discussed the matter with The Highland Council, the remaining Community Council members will continue to try and meet on the first Tuesday of each month as per 1.2 of standing orders (first Tuesday of each month except January and July when no meeting shall take place) but will confirm exact dates nearer the time.

**Any other Annual General Meeting business –** none.

**Date of the next Annual General Meeting** - Tuesday 2 June 2026, 7.00pm, tbc.

As this was our outgoing Chairman’s final meeting before he retires, Kenny spoke about his time on the Community Council.  Kenny Maclean was first elected in September 2003 and served until December 2006.  He was re-elected to the Community Council in June 2010 after the previous Community Council was dissolved.  He was first elected Chairman in October 2005 aged just 24 and served until December 2006 and was re-elected Chairman in June 2010 and took on the extra role of Secretary in June 2023 following Jennifer Haslam stepping down from the role although he had been covering for around six months previously after Jennifer went on sick leave.  It is believed this makes Kenny the longest serving Chairman since this Community Council was established in 1975. In Kenny’s time on the Community Council he has seen meeting start times move from 8.00pm to 7.30pm to 7.00pm and even the odd 6.00pm start when there were extra topics to cover although Kenny admitted that earlier start times did not always lead to earlier finishing times.  He has served alongside 27 other elected or co-opted members, some he noted, stayed longer than others and seen meetings move from alternating between Garve Public Hall and Achnasheen Village Hall to just Garve and now mainly online/hybrid due to travelling costs, Hall hire fees and the move to greater public attendance online.  He saw the first of the windfarms come to the area, grant money to Community Councils cut by 50%, the setting up of the LCT and later TG&DDC and the Community Council having an emailing list, website and social media page, all unthinkable 22 years ago when he was first elected.  He also saw the first broadband survey in 2015 and the Community Needs Survey in 2016, education bursaries via EDF and the late Dr Val MacIver OBE, something we were told at the time could not be achieved, 5.00am gritters on the A832, a vital link for east and west coast communities, greater police presence in the area especially for speeding issues, a road sweeper in the area and pavements cleared of snow and gritted since 2021.  The Achnasheen EVC installed after a five-year battle, restocking The Avenue trees, recycle bins in the community after the village skips were stopped due to them being abused and noticeboards for Achnasheen and later the village shelter in Achnasheen being renovated.  He saw benches and picnic benches being installed, Jubilee trees in 2012 and 2022, better signage on the A832 in Lochluichart and Achnasheen just this spring, and as ever potholes no name just a few of the many topics Kenny has overseen alongside his fellow members over the years.  Kenny has met many officials at our meetings over the years, many have become friends.  They have come from all walks of life, some Kenny was pleased to meet, though there are others Kenny was pleased to see the back of.  It is thought Kenny has attended around 250 meetings of this Community Council over the last quarter of the century as a member of the public, as an elected member of the Community Council but mainly as Chairman and in his time and it is thought he, as Chairman, has talked for about 350 hours … well believable!  He has stood in the last eight elections and was elected seven times.  Kenny thought we must be doing something right when Highland Council officials would send other Community Councils to us to see how it is done or to get advice.  There have been ups and downs, and although Kenny will in the main miss us, he will not miss the timewasters, or those who clearly did not do their homework before attending a meeting, or those who just moaned and were never seen at a fundraising event when it really counted, very telling in Kenny’s eyes.  It should always be remembered that Community Council members are volunteers.  Kenny was recently asked what was the biggest challenge as Chairman.  He noted it was not always all plain sailing, community work can, at times, be a very thankless job but he felt it was probably making sure his tribute to our former Treasurer Lady Eliza Leslie Melville at her memorial was right as there were no second chances to get it right.  Kenny could have stayed on until the next elections due around 2027/2028 but Kenny felt following his mother’s passing at Easter, and having looked after two elderly parents his whole life, it was time for a fresh start.  Being a Community Council member is not just about turning up to a meeting, there are always emails or matters to deal with 24/7 and that is before we think of Kenny’s day job.  Kenny wished to thank all the Community Council members for their unwavering support not just in recent weeks but over the many years and wished to thank the community for their support while he represented them at these meetings and for the cards and messages received in recent weeks from them and from other neighbouring Community Councils.  Cllr Kraft hopes that when new toilet facilities are built in Achnasheen that the building will be named after Kenny’s mother.  As Kenny said, *“time will tell but it would be an honour”* but for now, in so many ways, from a Community Council, Achnasheen and Maclean point of view, this is an end of an era but Kenny also acknowledged that there are still plenty experienced members staying on who can keep the work moving forward.  All those present gave Kenny a round of applause.

The outgoing Chairman thanked everyone and closed the Annual General Meeting at 7.20pm.

Signed …………………………….

Signed …………………………….

Date ……………………………….

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