

**Minutes of the Garve & District Community Council ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2025 on webcam
{ Recording available** [**https://bit.ly/GDCC9June2025incAGM**](https://bit.ly/GDCC9June2025incAGM) **}**

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

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

**Also present**: Cllr. Liz Kraft (from 7.20pm until 7.40pm), Tina Hartley (Development Manager, TG&DDC) Fiona Milligan (Boralex), 1 member of the public

**Apologies**: None

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.20 pm and welcomed everyone.

**Declarations of Interest** – the Chairman is a Garve Public Hall Trustee, a Friend of Garve War Memorial, a LCT elected Director and a member of the GD CORe land panel. The Treasurer noted she is a land owner with regards to the SSEN underground cable from the Western Isles to Beauly and Community Council elected member Sadie-Michaela Harris and Co-Opted member Simon Friend are Friends of the Wyvis Natural Playpark group. Cllr Kraft is a member of the North Planning Applications Committee at The Highland Council.

Community Council elected members confirmed that they had read all documents due to be discussed tonight before the start of this meeting.

**Approval of draft minutes** of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 via webcam were proposed without amendment by Sadie and seconded by Caroline, unanimously agreed. Minutes will be signed by our Chairman and Treasurer in due course via post. {Kenny has already signed the AGM draft minutes, added in the Minute Book, Caroline will sign when next passing Bob’s}

**Matters arising** –

Bob on behalf of us all and the community offered condolences to Kenny on his recent loss. Then gave thanks to Kenny personally for all the help and guidance he's given and he will continue to give because his phone number is on speed dial! Expressed our hope for the four of us to get together and have a lunch with Kenny to send him off properly soon. Date TBC

**Boralex windfarm** – <https://www.boralex.com> – The Highland Council North Planning Applications Committee notes that the application was approved by them in January 2023. Details for the satisfaction of pre-start planning conditions are pending consideration by the planning department. **No further update received.**

**Proposed Boralex Lochluichart East** BESS - <https://www.boralex.com/en/projects-and-sites/storage-lochluichart-east-bess> -

Fiona Milligan shared that as we discussed previously her team are looking at the speed of traffic going through Lochluichart, and whether they could do something to help the community, because obviously, they know that we've been trying to have the speed reduced there for many, many years. Boralex have completed the speed survey, Fiona believes the average traffic speed was in the 50+ MPH range TBC with Katrina and Gordon. If that can help make a case for reducing local speed down to 40MPH on that section of road through Lochluichart, Boralex will very happily put that information forward. Further discussion to take place at a later date offline to discuss how to progress to support any application to the Highland Council. Fiona reiterated as previously discussed Boralex would still want to have another open day kind of coffee morning likely on a Saturday morning. Date TBC- following cross checking diary dates for all parties and hall availability. Depending on how quickly Katrina needs to complete her side of things; - the community coffee morning may take place after a submission. But still within time for people to make comments. Fiona has done that before; it worked quite well; - so she'll see how the timings go and keep us posted.

Sadie confirmed with Fiona that the traffic speed would need to go down to 40MPH for the trees at the entrance to the proposed site not to have to be taken out as discussed in detail at our May meeting. Fiona confirmed.

**Kirkan Windfarm** – <http://www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk> **no update.**

**Proposed Tarvie windfarm** – [www.tarviewindfarm.com](http://www.tarviewindfarm.com) – **no update.**

**Proposed SSE Fairburn windfarm extension** –<https://www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/fairburn-extension> - **no update**

**SSEN Spittal – Beauly 400kV project** – <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--loch-buidhe--beauly-400kv-connection> - 3D modelling of the proposed route can be viewed - <https://www.3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/ssen/spittal-to-beauly/portal-update/> which show they are still thinking of routing the line east of Contin rather than east of Garve. SSEN plan to submit a section 37 planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in spring 2025.

**SSEN underground cable from the Western Isles to Beauly** – [https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles](https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles/) no further update from SSE. Public consultation event Wednesday 15.30 -18.30 Contin Village Hall. Proposal map currently looks to run under The Ave, Strathgarve, a traffic count took place there recently. We hope to learn more at the consultation as to how they're going to do it.

**Field Corriemoillie** – [www.fieldcorriemoillie.co.uk](http://www.fieldcorriemoillie.co.uk) **no further update**

**Proposed Glasa windfarm** - <https://glasawindfarm.com/>
Coriolis Energy, with development partner ESB are considering a 27-turbine windfarm on the Strathvaich estate. The turbines would be 250m tall from base to blade tip generating up to 189MW of electricity. A public drop event was held in Garve on Wednesday 2 April 2025; - **no further update**

**Proposed Carn Fearna windfarm** – [https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Carn-Fearna](https://projects.statkraft.co.uk/Carn-Fearna/)
ECU consultation closed to representations on 4th June

There was only 10 -12 people that came to the hall to read the documents that Statkraft left. Bob asked all that attended, and they all wanted to object, this was the general feeling throughout the community too. As a statutory consultee the Community Council has submitted an objection. Bob thanked Sadie for penning that and summarised the points which formed the basis of the objection.

**Negative Visual Impact** - will be seen from Culloden, not only locally!

**Cumulative Negative Impact** with the existing unplanned wind farms. The pylons, associated infrastructure because we know from experience, once you get one, then it just gets extended, and extended, and then the pylons get on.

**Negative Impact of construction, travel, traffic**

**Negative Impact on nature and wildlife**

**Long term effects of the bases being left in situ in the pea**t - which brought on another topic which I'll let Sadie discuss later.

**No demonstrated need** for them, because Scotland is already producing more electricity than it can use.

Just a quick summary but the actual objection runs into 6 pages, it will be online on our site for anybody to see it and on the ECU portal. Somewhere in the region of a thousand objections to the Scottish office. (ECU) Most yet to be published!

Scott Valance has notified us that he's no longer involved in this project. He's moved on and he's passed on contacts, if we need them, and they are not showing any interest in attending this meeting or any future meetings at the moment.

{Paraphrasing}

**Kenny:** "Can I just say that you guys objected. I didn't comment one way or the other on that because I knew I was retiring, just so that the public are aware that the Community Council were you 4."

**Bob:** "Yes, I was going to say that, Kenny. I and the others {CC members} objected personally too. Made personal objections as well that is."

**Sadie:** "Just to say though, that we were raising the objections of the community. We separately did our own. This was what the community wanted and what we were told by them."

**Bob:** confirmed Yes, that came from just people I met in the village and in the area, who asked me if we were going to object on their behalf. Plus, the people who did come here to view the documents."

**Sadie:** Mountaineering Scotland also put in a really big objection against it and Transport Scotland have raised quite a lot of points.

It's all online. They've given a big, long list of points and they've asked for lots more information and said they won't decide one way or the other until they've had that. Mountaineering Scotland said an outright no.

**Bob:** "Quite an extensive objection. They put in by both".

**In related news** - [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/carn-fearna-wind-farm-connection](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/carn-fearna-wind-farm-connection) There is a public event on the 25th of June, in the hall from 15.00 to 19.00 regarding the connection if the wind farm goes ahead.

**The EDF Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund - no update** details can be found at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/corriemoillie-education-training>

**The Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) –

**Achnasheen Hall**

Bob asked Liz - Cllr Kraft - Any news on the former Achnasheen Village Hall regarding the sale?

Liz: "Nothing, but I've made it very clear. I want the money to stay here, but it's moving at glacier pace."

Sadie: Has Submitted a Freedom of Information request, because we aren't getting any answers.

Liz: "Well, to be honest, I mean, it's up to you if you want to do a Freedom of Information request, but that actually slows things up, because then the officers don't speak to us because they're too busy doing FoIs. I've got the guy's name, and I can just keep pestering and getting them on Teams. I can invite him to the area meetings for now it's up to you.

If you want to do it. I can't stop you, but my experience has been when I'm dealing with things that actually, the FOI's then slow things up because

we've actually got somebody employed in Highland Council who does nothing but FoIs. It's a whole officer's time.

So, I'm not absolutely convinced that you would move things along any faster, and you'll probably get the same information that I could get you. But I'll follow up. It's definitely going to be sold.

**Bob:** we'll leave it with you. I think that's the best way.

**Sadie:** I've done one privately. It's in.

**Defibrillator**

Bob will follow up on the Defibrillator. It's not been moved yet that he is aware of and will ask the contractor.

The Highland Council notes that **residents should report issues directly to them** by calling The Highland Council’s Call Centre on 01349 886606 or via [www.highland.gov.uk/report](http://www.highland.gov.uk/report) In all cases, you will be given a reference number. The Highland Council also appreciates photos showing the actual problem.

**A835 Trunk Road issues -** Resurfacing starting at Garve - A835 on the 11th June overnight with closures and amnesties. The section between, roughly, the telephone exchange up to just past the hotel. Also, A835 ongoing resurfacing works at Tarvie. Tonight, should be the last night but it seems they've got a lot of work to do tonight. If they're going to finish, maybe a delayed finish. No update on the Check Rail Corner but with traffic lights and resurfacing here. It's going to be a 30-mile limit through the resurfacing works even during the day, when they're not working. That, combined with the Check Rail Corner, has got to slow things down. Advised to give yourself plenty time.

**Faults on the Trunk Road (A835)** should be reported via [www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/](http://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/) or 0800 028 1414. Members of the public can live track gritters on the trunk road network using Transport Scotland’s online ‘[trunk road gritter tracker’](http://arcg.is/GritterMap). It displays the current location of gritters and where they have recently treated.

Garve & District Community Council currently has vacancies on the Community Council.  The Community Council elected members consider it to be very important to have as broad a representation of our community as possible, as we cover a wide variety of community issues and to do this well, we would like members from all corners of our large area.  We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month.  If you are aged 16 or over, live in the Community Council area and are on the electoral roll and would like to be considered for co-option onto the Community Council, please email contact@gdcc.scot with your name and contact details. This update has already appeared on our online channels. LCT and the Development Company also have vacancies, contact them directly for more details.

**Police update -**

**Police update covers a period from the 1st of April to the 30th of April**.

So, it's a bit out of date, and there's not much in it other than continuing to stop vehicles for speed. A motorcycle safety campaign: - that covers the whole area not just locally. Whole ward is covered as is the Kessock Bridge.

As reported at previous Community Council meetings, anyone who wishes to raise an issue with the police are asked to **call them directly on 101** at the time of the incident and make a witness statement.  Video, dashcam or photo evidence is also welcomed, indeed encouraged by the police. The police can also be contacted on [www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/)

**Any questions so far?** – No
**Additional mentions** - 17th May a motorcyclist took ill and fell off his motorbike at Gorstan Junction. People with him remained there until the ambulance came.

Caroline: Has reported the sight lines along that stretch of road coming out of the Little Garve exit. The trees are in full leaf at the moment but could do with getting trimmed, Gorstan Junction as well.

Bob: Garve junction on the main road too and will keep an eye and see if they get cut.

Simon: Where the road is being resurfaced there are manhole covers / iron works sitting proud be careful it could potentially do some damage.

Bob: Reply from Maree Todd MSPs office regarding the parking on the roadside near Ben Wyvis carpark the Police, Transport Scotland, BEAR are aware and will monitor it, and, if necessary, take action

Caroline: A Change of responsibility for it was mentioned - The Highland Council will take responsibility going forward.

Sadie: The document from Maree's office has already been shared on our GDCC Facebook page.

**Treasurer’s report** -
Caroline: The bank balance is still the same as last month, and the month before. We haven't had to money going out or coming in. So, the present bank balance is £1,873.62p. Broken down, the ring-fenced Wreath Fund is £420. 20p. Our community fund is £1,453.42p We usually get our grant round about August. We'll be submitting the signed accounts after tonight to The Highland Council. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

**AOB from Community Council members** –

Bob: No movement on the wooden fence {behind the recycling bins and near the bridge} it is still falling down! Still missing one bin at the new cemetery.

Liz: will follow up both; - Rangers have just been reinstated so maybe we could get something done there.

Bob: already sent photos to Liz previously and she will get new ones and follow up. All agreed the broken fence is not really needed needn't be replaced and will make grass cutting easier too.

Sadie: Just a few things for diary dates. This coming **Saturday 14th June**; - Bob, Simon and Sadie will be attending **Communities & Community Councils Convention in Beauly {on Negative Impacts of Major Energy Infrastructure for Communities}** **Phipps Hall 2-4pm**.

**Wednesday 18th June** Mid Ross Community Partnership meeting 10 till 12.

**Tuesday 24th June** Suicide Prevention. It's a whole community conversation starter. So not just people from the Council, for everybody that wants to attend 5pm doors open for a 5.30pm start North Keswick Village Hall. {Details / poster already shared and pinned on our Facebook page.}

**Thursday 29th May** Simon and Sadie attended Community Council training on Energy Consents with PAS - Planning Aid Scotland on behalf of The Highland Council. Simon sent follow up questions which he has shared with CC members already. {Unfortunately, the Q and A section was not recorded - which is a shame that's where the value in the discussion was!}

**Wednesday** **4th June** Sadie attended SEPA's new EPAS - Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme overview on reporting issues and the way they're going to do that going forward. Consultation period going on until the end of this month and Sadie has shared a video and links about that for every one that wants to see that.And a follow up question has been sent, and we await an update on that. {In respect of Caesium – Cs 137}

**Radon** keeps popping up and having investigated this- There's an interactive map
{ <https://bit.ly/RadonMapUK> } which is updated every 10 years. Put in your postcode into to see if there's any likelihood that you have it in your area. If you do have any of it near you, you can mitigate it in the home. We've got a bunch of links for that which we will share.

In brief - It all shows up on the map, just put your postcode in results are shown in areas of 1 SQ. KM. Our area has results of under 3% likelihood, 3-10% likelihood. 10-30% and over 30%. A testing kit is available if needed to put into your home and advice on how to do that. So, we'll share that on our Facebook page too.

Caroline, Sadie, Bob: shared anecdotes on Radon and granite rock.

Finally, we're looking into / aware of Caesium, CS137 which has a half-life of 30.17 years and following the Chernobyl disaster that happened in 1986 Scotland suffered the biggest potential risk from fallout, and it was well documented. So, we're looking into that, basically because we believe that under current legislation this should be taken into account for EIA - Environment Impact Assessments. **{See our objection letter for Carn Fearna for more details on this.}** People are aware following the Toxic Town documentary about Corby of the need to be risk proactive. We are doing what we can to follow up on that and have sent a request for next step action advise to EPAS and await a reply.

**AOB from members of the public** - no issues raised by those present. Those who cannot attend our meetings can, as always, write to us by post or email with any issues they wish raised at garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com

Kenny: “It's lovely, you know, just to sit here. I don't need to do anything. Oh, I could get used to this. Thank you very much. No, the good thing is like I've said you guys have been there, Bob, since 2010, Sadie 2017, Caroline 2015. You guys know what you're doing. Crack on. You don't need me on speed dial!”

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** –

Nothing to share.

All Highland Council consultations are available at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal> All Scottish Government consultations are available at <https://consult.gov.scot/consultation_finder>

**Liz - Cllr. Kraft**: left just before Planning discussion began after thanking Kenny again and reminding him, she too has him on speed dial!

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - Nothing to share

**There are no new building warrants** currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area.

**No previous planning applications** have been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting.

One planning application for telephone mast a small generator, turbine and solar panels set up as well.

<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SVW5HTIHG3000&activeTab=summary>

Peat Restoration Achanalt application - which was determined on 28th May as prior approval IS required.

<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SV46BQIH0LD00>

A possible planning breach can be reported at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning_-_applications_warrants_and_certificates/170/planning_enforcement/2>

All planning applications can be viewed at [www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning\_-\_applications\_warrants\_and\_certificates/143/planning\_permission/4](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning_-_applications_warrants_and_certificates/143/planning_permission/4)

**There were no new licensing issues** for us to consider this evening.

**Other dates to note** – none not already mentioned.

Our new Chairman started to draw the meeting to a close by asking all present if anyone had any final questions and closed the meeting at 19.57

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

[www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict)

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552992414355](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552992414355)

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This set of minutes were first published (in draft form) at 23.52 on 23rd June 2025