

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Garve Hall on June 6th 1994
Chairman Mr. G. G. MacKenzie.

Present.

Mr. U. Menzies, Mr. C. Ellis, Mr. J. Allison, Mr. E. Tarr,
P.C. Chisholm, Mrs. P. MacDonald, Mr. A. Logie, Mr. R. MacKay,
Mrs. B. MacPhail, Mr. G. G. MacKenzie, Councillor R. Stirling.

Apologies

Councillor Green and Mrs. Winship.
The Meeting was opened at 8.00 pm.

Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 11th April 1994 were
read and approved.

Matters arising from the minutes and correspondence.

Housing Matters. Chairman asked Mr. Stirling for comments.

There were none.

The secretary had written to the housing
department.

The letter received from Mrs. Stewart denied any
complaints about smoke were outstanding and no
action was being considered.

The question of double glazing and doors was in
hand for the current financial year.

An animated discussion about smoke blowing back into almost all of the
council houses in Garve took place. Several council members stated
that complaints flowed frequently on this subject over the years and
that it was persistent inertia from the housing department that led to
a feeling that reporting blowback problems was useless.

Mr. MacKay said that a Cowl cost £40, but the usefulness was limited.

Mrs. MacPhail said an enclosed room heater solves the problem
completely.

Mr. Allison said such heaters have been fitted in Ullapool.

Mr. Menzies said about £600 for an enclosed heater solves the problem
completely, whereas before their house was uninhabitable on certain
days they now have no problem. He thought that the medical
implications should be brought to the attention of the Medical
Officer.

The Chairman who had lived in Matheson Road, said the problem had
existed from the start and the Housing Department had been unable to
solve the problem with their simple improvements.

Councillor Stirling agreed to take up the matter.

The question of Mr. Ellis's house in Matheson Road was again brought
up; so-called repairs have been made on 5 occasions without solving

the problem.

The Chairman asked if building worksheets could include details of:-

- 1) The Problem
- 2) The Remedial Work Done
- 3) Who Did It
- 4) Approval of the Householder

Councillor Stirling said moves in this direction were already in motion, and were on the agenda of the House of Lords this very week.

Registrar's Post: Signatures to date were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the post at Garve.
The Council endorsed the majority view of the survey.

Trunk Road Traffic The Chairman presented a letter from Councillor Green to the Director of Roads H.R.C. expressing worry at the dangerous road between Contin and Garve.

Mr. Menzies (an H.G.V. driver) said over night movements are very heavy and the pulsing of the traffic due to ferries etc. caused serious problems at times.

P.C. Chisholm agreed to try to obtain information on road accidents for this stretch of road.

Mr. Menzies re-emphasised that H.G.V.'s find difficulty and danger at particular spots e.g. Blackwater checkrail, Killin Farm corner, Hazel Brae, and the Gorstan Junction.

Chairman Mr. MacKenzie expressed dissatisfaction with his previous contacts with the H.R.C. hierarchy for dealing with these matters.

Councillor Stirling commented that the Trunk Roads are funded by National Government, the rest are locally funded.

Mr. MacKenzie again complained that it is difficult to get any responsibilities placed within the H.R.C.

Mr. Menzies again emphasised that attention to certain bad spots could provide large improvements for modest outlay, and he suggested contacting the M.P.

Mr. Logie said some of the foregoing points were not completely true.

War Memorial. Mr. Ellis reported that no change had happened. The Chairman reported that Gordon Brown H.R.C. was also unhappy and planned to remedy the poor handrail installation.

Mr. Ellis said the steps were also unsatisfactory, as was drainage. Design and execution of the job could have been better.

Mr. Menzies. Visitors find no seats, untidy area, bad visibility, bad

access due to steps and rails.

At this point the Chairman said the Planning Officer wants ideas for improving the Garve area.

Mrs. MacDonald said improvements at Achnasheen were good for tourism and for local pride and local youth.

The meeting approved formation of a sub-committee to look at the Garve vicinity including the Memorial, and with a view to sounding out ideas for improvements.

Sub-Committee: C. Ellis, U. Menzies, E. Tarr.

Mrs. MacPhail asked if anyone ever visited the Memorial. It was confirmed that a wreath was always laid, for Poppy Day but not by the Community Council.

The Chairman said he would contact Mr. Brown at an early date.

Mr. Menzies brought up the matter of the Post Office Field - he suggested ploughing, re-seeding, Highland cows. He commented that CHAPS the contractors to the Garve road improvement scheme had given undertakings to plough and re-seed the field in part return for its use as a site for its contracting equipment. They had failed to do this.

The Chairman pointed out that the field was the property of private owners and that it was not possible to make any plans without direct consultations with the owners. He said the field and the Village Hall as central features of the village could be linked together in some plan and share financial support from schemes available.

Mr. Logie said he would speak to Miss C. MacKenzie about the field.

Village Hall. The poor condition of the hall was brought up.

Mr. Logie serves on the Hall Committee and said their problem was lack of funds.

Mr. Stirling commented that the Education Department has an interest as the School uses the Hall, that a split in funding of 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, District Council/ Education/Hall Committee, would apply. He suggested putting estimates to the District Council and R.A.C.E. He said the District may help on a one-off basis but was reluctant to consider continuing maintenance.

Garve Flooding. A letter from the H.R.C. says it is in the hands of consultants. The meeting felt this was a minimum reply and wondered what was really happening, and that this was just a way of shelving it for a while again

Garve Water Supply. Again a very vague excuse for not showing any advance. The meeting felt the large sum of money which was apparently made available, is now being used to bailout the finance of some other scheme.

Toilets. Mrs. MacPhail said she had been getting tourists using the excuse of looking for accommodation/facilities just to get toilet

access.

Mr. Menzies asked why there are no toilets in Garve.

Mr. Stirling said he had tried for years to get them.

Mr. Menzies asked why the Hall toilets cannot be used on rental from the Hall Committee - solves two problems at once.

Mr. Logie agreed to raise this with the Hall Committee.

Mr. Stirling will also raise it at District level.

The Chairman was asked to attend the next Hall Committee meeting.

P.C. Chisholm addressed the meeting briefly to outline his possible inputs to the District Community. He offered to arrange attendance of a Senior Police Officer to explain any particular points required, and himself complained the lack of good contact between Police and Public is due mainly to public apathy. The Chairman thanked him warmly for his contribution.

Water and Sewerage. A request to consider this matter ^{was} shelved as Re-Organisation was taking place already in the Houses of Parliament ^{was} so no useful action was possible.

Mr. Stirling deplored the decline in contact between local feelings and Government. He said Mr. Mair would come to explain Re-Organisation on request.

H.R.C. Special Projects Grants. In View of the Hall situation Mr. Logie agreed to take the literature to the next Hall meeting.

Any Other Business

Mr. Ellis. Matheson Road Cherry Trees, have been killed by Council agents in a wrong application of herbicide. This mistake had been reported two years ago on various Council estates in Easter Ross. The trees are still there and still dead. Mr. Stirling said he would look into this.

Mr. Menzies Childrens Playground

- 1) i; Fence badly damaged - no gate.
ii; Area badly fouled by sheep droppings
- 2) i; There is no litter bin at the bus shelter. This causes accumulation of blown litter in to house gardens.
ii; Request for a bin to be placed at the new picnic table (proposed).
- 3) i; Lack of tourist signposting for Garve.
ii; Confusion over speed limit signs at Garve.

Mr. Stirling and Chairman will contact the Planning Officer to include these matters on the Garve improvement scheme.

Bus Shelter.

- i; Design not suitable for Highland weather.
- ii; Mr. MacKay has seen tourists sheltering in the ONLY shelter, then dashing across the trunk road in order to catch a bus.

P.C. Chisholm said the design is not negotiable because of vandalism, and cleansing requirements.

Footpath Station Road/Bus Shelter. Cars have been seen squeezing up the footpath. Suggestion - a Bollard.

Mr MacKenzie said he has one he will donate to H.R.C. roads or District whoever is responsible. A letter to H.R.C. Roads.

Also safety on Garve's internal roads.

- 1) Speed limits signs are not consistent and some seem to be missing altogether.
- 2) In view of the narrow roads, young children, sharp bends, in the vicinity of, the Primary School and also young persons on motor cycles, there is a need for sleeping policemen rather than speed limit signs.

- These points to be included in a letter to Mr. Colmar on other matters raised in this meeting.

Next Meeting 1st Monday in August, Garve at 8 pm.

Thanks expressed to Mr. Stirling and David Chisholm for their inputs to the meeting.

Closed at 10.30 pm.