

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st October 1996

Present: Mr Uisdean Menzies, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Mrs Einir Hughes Winship, Mr Ed Tarr, Mrs Brenda MacPhail, Miss Sheree Grant, Mr Doug Winship, Mr Alec Mackenzie, and 14 members of the public.

1. The chairman, Uisdean Menzies, opened the meeting at 8pm welcoming everyone to the first session with the new committee.
2. Apologies: Mr John Bedwell, Mrs Pat Macdonald, Mr Gordon Mackenzie.
3. Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting, the AGM held on 27th August, had been issued to those present, so were not read out. It was proposed by Doug Winship and seconded by Ed Tarr that these minutes be adopted as correct.
4. The secretary, Einir Hughes Winship, then dealt with matters arising from the previous minutes:

With regard to advertising community council meetings, some discussion took place as to whether an advertisement in the Ross-shire Journal, at a cost of approximately £16.68 each time, would be a better option than the usual system of notices put up in Garve shop and post office and Achnasheen post office. The general feeling seemed to be that these notices, along with word of mouth were sufficient, with the addition of notices being placed in Aultguish Inn and Inchbae Hotel. Brenda MacPhail suggested that news pieces should be sent to the Ross-shire Journal for inclusion in "News from Around the Districts". The secretary agreed to do that.

The Constitution of Garve Community Council is well out of date and it was agreed that copies of that as well as a "standard constitution" should be obtained. Sheree Grant agreed to do this. These to be discussed at the next meeting, and a new Constitution agreed upon. One essential will be a "no limit" on the amount of funds allowed to be held.

5. Correspondence etc.
From The Highland Council a summary of the document "Draft Small Scale Hydro Energy Policy Guidelines".
After some discussion it was agreed the Council should be told the Community Council require prior information of any investigation of or plans for schemes, and would request representation at any meetings concerning power schemes.

From The Highland Council Area Protective Services, Dingwall, a letter about litterbin replacement/provision.
The letter was read out, and the meeting noted that wheelie bin type litter bins on lockable stands were suggested as an acceptable alternative to conventional bins, especially as the Council can buy four of these types for every one standard bin.

- 5.(continued) The Council asked if the Community Council wished to demonstrate a need for any additional bins.

Suggestions came from several people. A wheelie bin as a replacement for bin at the playpark; a bin at the east-going bus stop; a bin at the Hall. Jean Hollingdale suggested a huge wheelie bin at the Gorstan lay-by.

Although no mention from the Council was made regarding bottle/can banks, the subject arose. Mrs Hollingdale said the can bank at the Gorstan lay-by had been filled and emptied, and asked whether it would be possible to site a bottle bank beside it.

Other people suggested a can bank should be placed beside the bottle bank in Garve.

The secretary will write to Protective Services with these suggestions.

6.

Any other business.

The 40mph limit through Garve was not working as well as expected, and it was suggested that the Council be asked to paint 40mph signs on the roadway as has been done at Fodderty, and for the 30mph signs in Contin. Some signs indicating concealed entrances might be helpful too.

The blowbacks problem. Stage II should go ahead. It was suggested that a questionnaire should be put to those in Stirling Drive who have the improvements and to those who haven't so far, to be passed on to the Council.

Matheson Road, the old side. Fencing is not meeting the desired standard. Pat Campbell informed the meeting that the Matheson Road sign was in the middle of her lawn, whether it had fallen off or been taken off, it needs to be replaced.

Railway crossing. The picket fence at the railway crossing is falling apart, and should be repaired if not replaced immediately. Secretary to write to Railtrack.

Noticeboards. Noticeboards for Garve and Achnasheen have been discussed on a number of previous occasions. Sheree Grant will make contact with the Council and find out what could be obtained. Although permission will have to be sought as to location.

Alec Mackenzie brought up the widening of Matheson Road which has been in the pipeline, as coal lorries and even cars cause major congestions. The parking of residents' cars was a problem, as although the newer houses have driveways, the older houses do not.

Mr Colmar of the Roads Department of HRC did have in hand the possibility of extending the hammerheads, but since the changeover to the Highland Council, and the retirement of Mr Colmar, it is not known if Ed Tarr's request to have this matter transferred has been dealt with.

White lining of roads within Garve could be helpful.

River bank. Gordon Mackenzie is dealing with finding out from Mott Macdonald/the Water Authority as to the situation with repairs.

3.

6 (continued) Playpark. The question of its dilapidated state was brought up. But the problem of obtaining Council help to upgrade etc is due to the rather vague situation. It is understood that the ground is rented by the Garve Parents' Association from Garve Shop. But there is no proper lease. If the Parents Association approach the Shop and obtain a secure, long lease, then the Community Council can approach the Council and find out about upgrading, equipment, maintenance etc. Sheree Grant will find out from the Council as to what sort of lease they would require. Ed Tarr spoke to Mr McArthur of the Chief Executive's Department, who said the matter must be sorted out at this end before the Council can assist.

A tree stump near the school/old cemetery has not been cut down far enough and several cars have hit it.

Water supply.....

Toilets. Eddie Smith suggested that there really should be toilets at the station. The matter of the Council sharing the toilets with the Hall seems to be at a stand. However, the lack of public toilets is a major problem, especially in the season, and a number of residents complained bitterly about human excrement in their gardens/driveways etc. At the very least, signs indicating the public toilets at Silverbridge and at Tarvie should be prominent in the village.

7. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 3rd December at 8pm in Garve Hall.

Chairman Uisdean Menzies closed the meeting at 9.05pm, thanking everyone for coming. Tea and coffee was then offered to everyone.