

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD AT GARVE ON

Tuesday 7th December 1999

Present: Doug Winship, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Einir Hughes Winship, Brian Denoon, Pat Campbell, Cliff Ellis, George Gamble, Sheree Grant, Alec Mackenzie, Marianne Mackenzie, Dena Ross, Councillor Ewen Mackinnon and 5 members of the public.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed approved by Marianne Mackenzie, seconded by Alec Mackenzie.

Achnasheen Community Hall

Pauline Wilson, cleaner, reported water coming into toilets. Highland Council representatives state they are looking for money to repair. Councillor Mackinnon has been told the roof is repaired, over £2000 spent. Internal decoration to complete. The leak above the toilets is to be looked at.

NoSWA: Ron McAulay and David Warren gave information regarding water supply in both Garve and Achnasheen. WTW Garve will not be operative until after the millennium break, ie end January. Once up and running, water quality from the borehole will be much improved. Achnasheen, money set aside in following financial year for WTP for Achnasheen, legislation decrees it must be up to standard by 2003.

Dena Ross queried chlorine in water. Mr McAulay stated this is needed for disinfection purposes.

George Gamble stated that the water in Garve is foul. The stuff the public is getting is foul. Hill water is good, father in law is 84 and drinking hill water.

Sue Tarr asked is water over chlorinated? Mr McAulay said they do all they can to keep level to keep water safe. A trial has taken place in the Strathpeffer/Contin area - choramination, chorine and ammonia. Trial successful. No complaints of chlorine taste etc. Not convinced this is suitable for Garve. Once new borehole running, quality will be much more consistent and it should be possible to minimise the amount of chlorine. Reason chlorine there is by law. Mr McAulay is not happy about the possibility of water borne disease.

Cliff Ellis said it seems residents often have to bathe in sludge/silt, putting chlorine in the water does not help this problem. Mr McAulay stated this problem won't occur once new supply is running. Should be simple - opening stopcock and draining system.

George Gamble noted that sludge probably clogged up pressurised central heating systems causing problems.

Mr McAulay is pushing to get this finished. Contractor went into liquidation causing major problems. New contractor. Sheree Grant asked if there is there a penalty clause? No answer. George Gamble said they are connected to asbestos/tar pipe - shouldn't asbestos have been taken away? Leaks across the road, for at least 6 months, can smell it. Small manhole, plastic pipe 4 ins connected to asbestos.

Asbestos/concrete, no risk from drinking water, but brittle pipes. Tar in the bath. Pipe at least 30 years old. It was suggested that tar might be peaty deposits. Mr McAulay said there are 1000s of miles of pipe within the Highlands to be replaced.

New treatment plant will have oxidation plant - carbon dioxide.

Mr McAulay answered queries about overdosing with chlorine. The World Health Organisation recommends 5 parts per million. In Scotland the recommended amount is 3 parts per million, and more likely into distribution of 0.2ppm. In terms of safety he is quite comfortable with the status quo.

Water quality changes. The more coloured the water, the more chlorine is used, and the clearer the water the more chlorine is noticed.

Bertha Logie enquired if we can be assured that chlorine is not harmful. Mr McAulay replied that chlorine has been used as a disinfectant for 100 years. Mrs Logie asked do we not have any freedom of choice? Mr McAulay replied that primary legislation in British law states that water must be wholesome and fit to drink. Europeans are also bound by this directive.

Some hollow laughter from the floor as comments such as "Our water stinks", "People are drinking bottled water". Pat Campbell enquired as to who is paying for all the bottled water residents are buying.

Mr McAulay pointed out that bottled water usually comes from springs/boreholes. They are tested and have been found to have no impurities. Some Highland springs come into water supplies. Ultra violet kills a few bugs, but if there is any particle of colour in the water, bugs will hide behind them. Regrowth is possible via pipelines and distribution of bugs.

Sue Tarr asked if there is a date for replacing old asbestos pipes. Mr McAulay said no.

Replacement have been carried out in many areas, but it is a huge programme, so he is unable to give dates. Bursts are the priority. There are 154 different supplies for 200,000 people, and 130 needed upgrading. Temporary improvements have been made to keep up with legislation.

Flooding: In the Garve area, caused by the snow and heavy rain, is again a problem at the end of the loch, and especially on Killin Farm land. The Hydro and SEPA to be contacted.

Footpaths: Questions have been asked about a footpath between Gorstan and Garve, especially from Gorstan to the shop. Are there any old right of ways or old footpaths. Highland Council Planning and Environment to be contacted.

Roadsweeping: Cliff Ellis asked when was the last time a roadsweeper was seen in Garve. It does not seem to have been this winter, according to Pat Campbell. So who should be clearing the drains etc.

Bailey Bridge: The metal bridge has bits coming off it. When was it last inspected? Contact Roads Department.

Cesspit: There is no gate at Garve cesspit. Children are sledging there. Contact NoSWA.

Next Meeting: Will be held in Garve Hall on Tuesday 1st February 2000 at 8pm