

GARVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of meeting held in Achnasheen Village Hall on 1st August 2006

Present: Helen Grainge, Marian Taylor, Alex Mackenzie, Kenneth MacLean, Pat Campbell, Sheree Grant, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Ian Dickinson, Donald Northwood, Uisdean Menzie, Cllr Ewen Mackinnon

2 Members of the Public

Apologies: Jim Ruggles Brise.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Sheree Grant and seconded by Marion Taylor

1) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

Post Box at Tarvie is to be repainted by the Post Office, but no time table has been set.

BT: There are still on going issues with the broadband service and residents of Achanalt have been told they will not get this service as they are to far away from the exchange. It was further reported that residence in Garve had been without broadband for seven days due to a fault on the system.

Road signs are still on going issues.

The winter help line a letter has been sent out to all those concerned and the school heads are to be updated.

Dog fouling is still an ongoing issue in Achnasheen with the absence of a proper dog waste bin. It has been suggested that it was removed on the instructions of the Highland Council.

2) Treasurers Report: The accounts were presented to the community council and adopted, with the note from the accountants that all documents should have two signatures and that receipts should be better implemented for fund raising events. They further added that they were unable to verify income from the News and Views; all agreed that this needed looking into and the system tightened up.

The fun day at Garve Village Hall raised £531:00; therefore boosting the Christmas party fund to £843:00. The War memorial fund holds £124:00 and the general account £2596:00 following the Highland Councils contribution.

Concern was voiced by the chair regarding the need to raise further funds for the Christmas dinner and on the issue of the War memorial funding as currently the up keep and funding of the memorial is undertaken by Uisdean Menzies. It was suggested by Donald Northwood that the community council look more closely at this issue and Uisdean was asked to provide the council with a break down of the cost.

- 3) Planning Issues: There were no planning issues that affected the community to report and no information to report on the proposed Lochluichart wind farm.
- 4) Correspondence received since last meeting: Both the Chairman and the secretary reported that there had been little in the way of correspondence and listed, News letter from Age concern noted, a request for the community to nominate council employee who had excelled in the past year, noted. Details of the SNP's preparations for 2007, noted. Letter from Tenant Participation Advisory Service, noted. Letter received from the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust re: website goes live (www.hscht.co.uk), noted. Correspondence from the Fire Brigades Union with reference to your service and risk assessment, noted. Application from the Highland Council for nomination for the Ross & Cromarty Area Forum, noted. All the correspondence was available for the public to inspect.
- 5) Any other Business: Gordon Mackenzie raised the issue of the proposed wind farm and stated that a number of statements and correspondence had been lodged that were misleading. He then produced a photo copy of an article from the Sunday mail by Julia Hunt stating that it looked from the photographs that the Secretary was about to have a wind farm in front of their house and that as he was against them what did he have to say. The chairman was about to comment when Donald Northwood the Community Council Secretary said he would like it put on public record that Mr Mackenzie's comments were misplaced and incorrect and that he is not against wind farms or any form of renewable energy projects and has supported and put his name to a number of renewable projects including wind farms. What he did object to was poor development projects that would have detrimental and serious consequences for the community and environment, including safety issues. He added that the current wind farm application if approved not only had serious implications; it still has not answered the issue of how the generated power will be transported from the site. He did agree that the article was misleading and that as Secretary he would take issue with the author and write to them.

Fund raising was discussed with a number of suggestions being put forward including holding a race night (to be assessed) another fun-day in Achnasheen, Car boot sale and a bingo night, these would all be considered for the next meeting.

There had been complaints about cows wandering into village and had been getting in via the river bank. Uisdean Menzies would inquire into who should be contacted and try to get a telephone number.

The trees passed 9 Madison Drive needed cutting and Alex Mackenzie said he would undertake to cut them back.

There was a question over the latest minutes not being available to the public before the meeting due to the photocopier breaking down and resulting in a late publication and distribution of the News and Views. It was agreed that as the minutes are produced well in advance they could be made available at the Post Offices that service the area; even though the Post Office had reduced their hours they would be available. The Secretary agreed to send copies out from the current date

Signs for the school gate in Garve were still missing and this would be looked into by Cllr Mackinnon.

A venue for the senior citizens Christmas dinner was discussed and it was agreed that Sheree Grant would write to the local Hotels enquiring if they would be open and the cost per head for running the event. All agreed that last year's event was a great success with no complaints about the venue or the quality of the food.

There was no other business and the Chairman thanked every one and closed the meeting.

The next public meeting will be at 7:30 on the 3 October 2006 at the Garve Village hall.