

~~Draft~~ Minutes of G&DCC Meeting held at Garve Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

PRESENT: Kenny MacLean (Chairman); Steve Jones (Vice Chairman); Jean Hollingdale (Sec); Jean Bailey (Treasurer); Jennifer Haslam; Pam Morrison; Sue Tarr; Alex MacKenzie; Robbie Bain (Ward Manager); Andy Anderson (Platform PR); PC Iain Macdonald; PC Alison Millar; 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Bob Moir; Ruari Matheson; Jock Logie; Cllr. Jean Urquhart; Cllr. Audrey Sinclair; Val MacIver (Platform PR).

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6.30 pm and announced a change in the running of the agenda taking Community Benefit first as Robbie Bain had to leave early for another meeting.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT: Update from Robbie Bain - the main discussion tonight is to decide whether or not to appoint SCF to manage the Eneco and E-ON community benefit funds. Very late this afternoon Robbie Bain had a telephone call from Eneco. Rather than channel the Benefit fund through SCF, Eneco would prefer to work more closely with the community through a charitable trust. The set-up of the charitable trust would be written into the agreement that HC is currently negotiating with Eneco. Eneco Believes that they have a different ethos to other companies and want to reflect this in how community benefit monies should be handled. Setting up a charitable trust will conclude the negotiations regarding Lochluichart Community Benefit; Eneco have no expertise in setting up such a trust and have asked that HC act on that. HC would ask a body such as Ross-shire Voluntary Action or Highland Opportunities to set up trust.

CC members expressed their surprise that this had not been raised before this evening.

Steve Jones commented that SCF provide the "tool kit" - why do Eneco not want SCF?

Jean Bailey asked would Eneco pay the initial costs, and would costs in the future be covered. The legal side to all this is very complicated; Reply Robbie Bain is pushing for Eneco to pay the costs but Eneco are not keen – SCF 10% charge on every project funded.

Sue Tarr asked would it be possible for the charitable trust to use SCF for fund management; Reply Robbie Bain, in principle, yes but other bodies may charge less. Discussions with Eneco are very close to completion. Eneco desire to be closely involved in the trust, with local people on the board.

Jean Bailey talked about SCF being outwith the community which is advantageous although final decisions are made by the local panel.

Public comments: We can't make a final decision yet anyway – developer could walk away if we don't agree to their deal; E-ON seems keen to work with SCF.

Robbie Bain advised it is a reasonable deal with E-ON, go for it and get it signed.

Q: Eneco have requested that one trustee be appointed by themselves- have they made any other demands?

A. Who represents the community is still to be discussed in detail. Trustees are likely to be elected from community or community bodies, trustees make decisions on how money is spent. Important to know how much control the community will have over the trustees. Trustees should be on the electoral roll.

Jean Bailey -What did Fairburn do in the beginning before they appointed SCF?

Steve Jones - The developer said they were using SCF.

Sue Tarr – the public think we are going to ask SCF, we need to let them know the situation has changed.

Kenny MacLean – we need more information, we should defer the decision regarding Eneco until next meeting. It seems we have to set up a charitable trust, is there a time by which to get the agreement signed?

Robbie Bain – No. Robbie to ask questions of Eneco for more enlightenment.

Kenny Maclean suggested that Eneco be invited to a meeting.

Robbie Bain said the HC lawyers will start to look at the paperwork and the small print. Negotiations with Eneco to continue. The developers are not keen on merging funds as there is a loss of PR.

Public comments – advantages in spreading money in different funds; Q: Had E-ON agreed foundation costs? A: they had agreed to look at costs; but the actual costs appear to have come as a surprise to E.ON. It is believed that E.ON and SCF have had further discussions. Robbie Bain has had no further feedback to-date. Steve Jones proposed that G&DCC agree in principle that SCF be appointed as fund manager to E-ON community benefit subject to further negotiations; Alex MacKenzie seconded; unanimously agreed. Steve Jones asked would the Eneco Indexing (inflation rate) be matched by E-ON? A: Yes. The E-ON concentric circles will be approx 1km further east of Lochluichart Windfarm, which may bring some houses from Gorstan / Garve into the inner zone; and some additional Contin houses into the outer zone. The analysis of this is not yet complete but it may be that the changes would balance out, leaving a similar split of funds. E-ON will study the results of this analysis before deciding whether to adopt the concentric circle model.

Robbie was asked about TranServ contract and the £15 million from the Scottish Government for road repairs. The Luib section of road at Achnasheen - when will repairs be carried out? Hopefully this year. Robbie was thanked and left for his next meeting.

POLICE MATTERS: Jennifer Haslam reported that a large blue tanker had been parked at Grudie Bridge since Saturday with no number plates. The Police will look into the matter. The two Police Constables were thanked then left the meeting as there was no other business for them.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Kenny MacLean attended the Parent Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan which turned out to be no meeting as the Headmaster was leaving his post the next day. All CC members were asked to forward any emails they receive to G&DCC email. Best wishes were sent to Betty Macleod and Jonny Niblett for a speedy recovery. Thanks to Pete Hollingdale for help with printing when the Sec's. printer ran out of ink.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 11<sup>TH</sup> January 2011 with amendments: Mr. MacPhail did NOT request his letter to be read out. The Chairman has sent his apologies to Mr. MacPhail. Spelling mistake page two should be Enquiries and not Inquiries. Proposed; Jennifer Haslam; seconded Steve Jones.

MATTERS ARISING: The leftover branches from the tree cutting have now been removed and thanks sent to the Hydro. Query from Dave Mudie re Corriemoillie Windfarm -the Chairman has sent a reply. The matter of the grit bin in Achnasheen has been dealt with by the Chairman. Road gritting – HC restriction on salt stocks for road gritting has been lifted as road salt stocks have been replenished. Blue recycle bins – all houses in the CC area that don't already have one will be issued with a blue bin in October 2011; everyone will go onto alternate fortnightly collections, with green bins one week and blue bins the other. Railway level crossing at Garve - Sec wrote to MSP but no reply so far. Slow signs for Lochluichart have been ordered. CC members' insurance by HC – members are basically covered except for travel to and from meetings. The Sec. read out her report on the meeting with AGNV (see appendix). Jean Bailey reported that AGNV had copied the accounts for the financial year, no further contact from AGNV so far. TranServ - have replied to our letter and are dealing with the matters. Co-option- as we have a vacancy it was agreed to put out a flier requesting that anyone interested put their name forward to the Sec. before the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's Account: £1216.88; News & Views: £836.42; Senior Citizens: £645.72; War Memorial: £82.38. Fundraising – Jean Bailey suggested an event in the summer involving the whole community along the lines of a fete, using the hall. A committee was formed to start organising – Jean Bailey, Jennifer Haslam, Jean Hollingdale, Sue Tarr, Pam Morrison, Alex MacKenzie.

CORRESPONDENCE: By post - Membership application for Wester Ross Alliance; Inner Moray Firth Development Plan; Letter from Mr. MacPhail; HC Supplementary Guidance – Sustainable Design and Trees and Woodland Development. E mails - Steve Jones re -Public Meeting Agenda; Blue bins from Robbie/June Ross HC; Consultation Public Transport Re-Tenders (discussed, no comments); Loch Broom CC minutes; Bob Moir Branch removal done; SCF winter update; Fannich Hills Section 7 minutes; Broadband update from WRA; Reply from TranServ.

AOB: Forestry Plan for Strathbran – Pam Morrison raised a query about local access, Sec to send letter. Jennifer Haslam asked what are the chances of getting something done about the mess on the verges at Matheson Road, Garve, of cars and engines etc; it is a disgrace to the village. Letter to be sent to HC.

Sue Tarr informed members the Wester Ross Alliance AGM is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

AOB (Public): A member of the public informed the CC that the roadside litter bin in the lay-by just south of Silver Bridge, Garve, is overflowing and has not been emptied for some time. Sec. to contact HC.

It was brought to the notice of the CC that the Drove Road foot paths at the Little Garve section is overgrown with gorse bushes and is impossible to access. Sec. to contact Forestry Commission.

PLANNING and LICENSING: Planning Ref; 10/05068/Ful, 10/01/2011, Alteration and erection of extension to Ledgowan Lodge and erection and extension to house. Planning Ref: 11/00118/AGR, 06/01/2011, Erection of agricultural building land adjacent to Ledgowan Lodge. Planning Ref: 11/00155/FUL, 25/01/2011, Erection of 132,000 volt electricity substation including outdoor electrical switchgear, control room building, fencing, landscaping and formation of access tracks. Land at Corriemoillie Quarry Garve. No comments from CC members on any of the above applications. No Licensing this month.

NEXT MEETING: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 Achnasheen Village Hall 7.00pm. Following meetings: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 Garve Village Hall 7.00pm; 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 Achnasheen Village Hall 7.00pm; 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 AGM Garve Village Hall 7.00pm. Ordinary CC meeting to follow AGM.

Meeting Closed 8.10pm.

## REPORT ON MEETING WITH AGNV ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011

### ACHNASHEEN VILLAGE HALL 2.00PM

Present for AGNV: Jackie West; Gill Ross; Moira Harris; Debbie Peters.

Present for G&DCC: Jean Bailey; Sue Tarr; Jean Hollingdale; Alex Mackenzie.

Jean Bailey started the meeting by giving out copies of the latest accounts and informed AGNV that all figures have to be kept for GDCC accounts, what will be passed over to AGNV will be an overall balance.

Jackie West stated that AGNV would like copies of the year accounts for this financial year. This was agreed.

Jackie West asked about the list of subscribers and was informed that the GDCC list was the same as the AGNV list.

AGNV were then informed that they would have to set up a new bank account in their own name. A cheque was then made out to AGNV for £500.00 to start the account signed by Jean Bailey and Jean Hollingdale. Sue Tarr made a comment that different banks seem to have different ways of setting up accounts. AGNV agreed and that the account name would be AGNV. Jean Bailey will update the accounts until the bank account is set up.

Insurance for the printer; AGNV were informed that the GDCC will have to see an insurance certificate and date before we can pass over the printer for £1.00 to AGNV sole ownership.

Jean Hollingdale asked Moira Harris if she would send a copy to GDCC of their revised constitution and the minutes with amendments of their Public Meeting for the GDCC files. Moira Harris agreed to do this

The Highland Office Equipment account to be transferred to AGNV. AGNV will do this.

GDCC members wished AGNV well and the meeting closed.

~~DRAFT~~ MINUTES: GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
WITH ENECO ON COMMUNITY BENEFIT  
9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 7PM GARVE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Steve Jones (Vice Chair), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr, Pam Morrison, Alex MacKenzie, Ruari Matheson, Jock Logie, Robbie Bain (Ward Manager), Guy Madgwick (Eneco), 12 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Jean Urquhart, Cllr. Richard Greene, Cllr Audrey Sinclair, Bob Moir.

The meeting was delayed due to Guy Madgwick, Eneco, being held up in traffic on his way from Aberdeen Airport.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00pm and welcomed Guy Madgwick and thanked him for his urgent communications and for flying up from London today. The Special Meeting had been called under paragraph 7.2 of the constitution.

Two points had been raised at the previous ordinary CC meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2011) re the Lochluichart Community Benefit:-

1. SCF Costs; 2. Eneco PR. Kenny MacLean asked what exactly are the concerns for Eneco on these points.

Guy Madgwick replied Eneco really want to work closely with the community but they do not know enough about the principles of SCF with regards to the way the money is managed. Eneco stand by the £2750 pledged in the negotiations. At the Community Benefit public meeting (24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011) it seemed to the Eneco representative that SCF had been placed in front of them as the only way to go. It is important that SCF come up to Eneco standard. Eneco are not ruling out SCF they want time to check out SCF thoroughly. Costs are not the issue.

Kenny MacLean – SCF have done fund management for various renewable developments and other organisations.

A: Eneco – The timescale is important but not over urgent – the agreement though needs to be signed as soon as possible.

Steve Jones - Two points: 1. Fund management – SCF are very flexible. The community can set up its own profile. 2. Administration side, how do they run things for the community – SCF ask what the community want and assist. The developer is very much involved in the administration of the money.

Kenny MacLean – What are Eneco's concerns about PR?

A: Ideally Eneco would not want a buffer between themselves and the community, do not want to "hide" behind SCF. Eneco wish to make sure there are no misappropriation of funds, and are not going to be bounced into a done deal. Eneco want to understand SCF better; they are not ruling SCF out. There is a considerable sum of money involved and they want time to go through everything; talking with SCF should sort out any issues, but make no guarantee at this time - Eneco do understand that the community wish to go with SCF. Eneco would be perfectly happy with SCF if they come up to "due diligence".

Jock Logie – What happens if SCF do not come up to the Eneco principles?

A: We would come back to G&DCC for further discussions.

Jean Bailey – I understand where Eneco are coming from; was SCF asked to be involved with the Tullo windfarm?

A: No, they (Mearns Community Benefit fund) are running it themselves and decided it themselves.

Jean Bailey – SCF checks out grant applicants and applications, it is difficult if a local panel have to check out local applicants.

Eneco – Do not want to be seen as the bad guys in the area they want to work with the community.

Pam Morrison – How do you vet SCF – will you have to talk with SCF?

A: Eneco – We must talk to SCF we should have done it before now, and we apologise.

Steve Jones- It would be unworkable to have three funds on the go.

Jock Logie - That is hypothetical at the moment.

Sue Tarr – From the point of view of setting up a charitable trust, it would be important that the community is not rushed into that and we would need time.

Alex MacKenzie – When will the agreement be signed?

A: Eneco – Hopefully by the summer.

Eneco asked what did Infinergy suggest in the beginning when windfarm was first planned.

Member of public thought that Infinergy looked at three trusts but never went to any stage of set up.

Eneco - It is important to have the community on our side. We will have a meeting with SCF and try to come up with something also we will look into other bodies. I will take a personal interest.

Member of public - Do you have a back up plan if it is not SCF?

A: confident that Eneco will reach an agreement with SCF. It has a big impact on the community so want to get it right. Eneco will be paying SCF so want to be in control of SCF not the other way round.

Kenny Maclean – What about arrangements for Contin and Marybank?

Eneco - prefer a single fund.

Steve Jones – the cash could be paid from Garve to Contin and Marybank communities on a yearly basis into their funds which they have set up with SCF. Robbie Bain said there is a difference between Contin and Marybank but there should be a way of setting it up – need to discuss that between himself and Guy Madgwick.

Member of public – The previous Community Council agreed the money be paid straight to Contin and Marybank every year; Robbie Bain – Still to have a discussion about smaller payments of 3% and 8% to Contin and Marybank; Kenny Maclean - The other two communities should do their own negotiations on setting up a fund for their communities.

Member of public – We were all shocked to hear Eneco were not happy with SCF; Jennifer Haslam –Eneco did not do their homework before our Community Benefit public meeting.

Eneco apologised.

Pam Morrison - alerted Eneco to fact that G&DCC usually meet on first Tues of every month. He agreed to keep CC updated for each meeting.

Robbie Bain - When the construction phase starts there would be a local liaison group with developers and construction companies formed to keep community updated on the development site. Kenny MacLean thought this would be useful. Eneco expects construction to start in 2013.

Member of public – How does this affect negotiations from HC view?

Robbie Bain – My job is to see that both sides are happy in equal measures; it will be nice to get things to a conclusion. I will have a meeting tomorrow with Guy Madgwick. The final draft needs to be signed. Some details can be decided after the agreement is signed.

Kenny MacLean requested G&DCC be kept up to date on negotiations

Eneco – Have you looked at other bodies? Kenny MacLean - Yes to some degree.

Guy Madgwick suggested Eneco organise drop-in sessions for the community with first one targeted for the summer. This leads into Construction Phase. Kenny MacLean agreed it would be useful for the community; the more information the better.

Jean Bailey – If you decide against SCF would you help set up the trust. A: Yes.

Guy Madgwick, Eneco, was thanked and invited to attend some of our future meetings.

Meeting closed 8.45pm.

**~~MINUTE~~ MINUTE: FUND RAISING COMMITTEE MEETING 22nd FEBRUARY 2011 GARVE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Kenny MacLean, Jennifer Haslam, Jean Bailey, Sue Tarr, Jean Hollingdale, Alex MacKenzie, Penny Moir.

**Apologies:** Pam Morrison

Kenny opened the meeting at 2.00pm.

**Easter Fair 22<sup>nd</sup> April Garve Village Hall:** A large table has been booked for CC. CC to run a bottle stall, a spring picnic hamper to be raffled, and for the children: 'Which hole does the Rabbit live down' with a prize of a Fluffy Rabbit. Sue to draw up the rabbit warren. Penny will donate the basket for the hamper; donations for the hamper would be gratefully received from members. Jean H will donate a packet of smoked salmon, cheese, and napkins. We would like oatcakes, hot X buns, chutney, pâté, chocolates, Easter cake; we already have a bottle of champagne, and any other ideas from members for this item on a "spring" theme. For the bottle stall we would like donations, hand cream, bubble bath, shampoo, etc. and the usual bottles of drinks.

**Summer Fair Extravaganza (Garve Fun Day): 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011** subject to confirmation. Enquiries about Garve Hotel Field on going, but we can have the use of the Hotel Car Park. The idea is to have games for the children and adults alike to participate - for a small fee. This Fair needs to be widely advertised i.e. Ross-shire Journal, Moray Firth Radio, etc. Kenny will check with Garve School about providing teas in the Village Hall and hopefully some stalls in the Village Hall. Various games/events have been suggested. Penny is willing to run a Burger stall in the car park. Jean B to find out about Red Cross attendance, and also Insurance cover. Kenny to enquire about the possibility of pony rides, and to book the Village Hall.

**Autumn:** It was suggested that we could possibly have a Bingo night and or Beetle drive with prizes.

**NEXT MEETING:** 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00pm Garve Village Hall.

Meeting ended 3.30pm.