

Draft Minutes of AGNV Public Meeting, 11th January 2011, 6.30pm, Achnasheen Village Hall.

AGNV Management Committee

Present: Jackie West, Moira Harris, Laura Gauna, Debbie Peters, Barry Peters, (Gill Ross joined during the meeting).

Apologies: Harry Grainge, Helen Grainge, Jim Curry, Michelle Stevenson

Chairperson: Jean Urquhart (Highland Council).

Members of the public: numbers varied as people arrived and left at different times throughout the meeting, but approximately 20.

Jean Urquhart (JU) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She stated the purpose of the meeting was to publicly endorse the Achnasheen and Garve News and Views Constitution. She acknowledged that the AGNV was an excellent newsletter that many communities would be very happy to have. Furthermore, she said that the ambition of the AGNV Management Committee is to maintain and continue this good work and to set up its own organisation, hence the Constitution.

JU thought it was unnecessary to work through each point of the Constitution as everyone had been provided with a copy in the December issue of the AGNV. She referred to amendments that had been agreed between herself, Robbie Bain and the AGNV Management Committee.

These are (numbers correspond to those in the Constitution, amendments in bold):

Point 2 shall now read, "fulfilment of the **AGNV's** objectives as set forth in this Constitution."

Point 4a shall now read, "for the furtherance of the objectives of the **AGNV** in such manner as the Management Committee may think fit."

Point 4c shall now read, "in the furtherance of the purposes of the **AGNV**" "to promote the aims and services of the **AGNV**."

Point 7 shall now read, "The AGM shall be convened b y the Management Committee **within the four months following the end of the financial year.**

Point 10 shall now read, "The **AGNV** may at any time be dissolved," etc.

The meeting was opened to the floor for questions and points of clarification. Following a discussion the following amendments were also agreed:

Point 4d shall now read, "To make **grants**, or loans (**with security**) to any other body or purpose".

Point 8.2 omit "**officer or**"

JU read out the names of the current AGNV Management Committee:

Harry Grainge, Helen Grainge, Gill Ross, Moira Harris, Debbie Peters, Barry Peters, Jackie West, Jim Curry, Laura Gauna, Michelle Stevenson.

JU recommended to the public to accept the current committee members and to adopt the amended AGNV Constitution. Her recommendation was accepted.

JU confirmed that the first AGM would be held within the four months following the end of the 2012 financial year.

JU closed the meeting.

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting held
11th Jan 2011 in Achnasheen Village Hall

PRESENT: Kenny MacLean, Jean Hollingdale, Jean Bailey, Jennifer Haslam, Pam Morrison, Ruari Matheson, Jimmy Ruggles-Brise, Jock Logie, Alex Mackenzie, Sue Tarr, Bob Moir, Steve Jones; Cllr Jean Urquhart; Robbie Bain; Val MacIver; 16 members of public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.25pm following the public meeting regarding the future of the News & Views and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He had received a request to read out a letter received from Mr MacPhail which had not been read out at the previous meeting. He summarized the sequence of events that had led to this letter, and read out the letter. Steve Jones then read out the letter that he had sent to Mr MacPhail in reply. Jennifer Haslam stated that the CC should support Steve Jones.

The Chairman then raised an email which Steve Jones had received from Dave Mudie, Planning Officer, which the Chairman had received via Robbie Bain enquiring about G&DCC comments on Corriemoillie Windfarm Planning Application. Agreed that the CC reply was that they had no comments on the application a had been agreed at the Special meeting on 19th Oct 2010.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Audrey Sinclair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: for 20th December 2010 meeting (query from Pam Morrison about BMX magazine comment – all agreed it should remain unchanged) proposed by Ruari Matheson and seconded by Bob Moir.

The Chairman then read out an item found in CC files which listed questions about “GM”, his business, family and windfarm interests. Agreed that it shouldn’t remain in files.

MATTERS ARISING:

Grit Bins: Concerns that a particular grit bin in Achnasheen had a lot of salt removed by a single resident, possibly leaving others with not enough. The Chairman will deal with this issue.

Blue Bins: Jock Logie had received query about why the people living on the Achnasheen road did not have blue bins. Secretary to find out when we will get blue bins.

Scottish Water: Reply received about query about Garve mains supply. They confirmed possibility of a mains pipeline from Assynt to Garve – more information will be available by Feb. Willing to come to a CC meeting. Denied that Garve water was below standard.

Winter Roads Maintenance: Reply received from Ian Hay. The gritter drivers have discretion on how to use the snow blades and spreading of salt, according to road conditions. Comments were made that the salt/grit mix being used now was not so effective; shouldn’t the Highland Council be getting a better share of Scottish salt resources?

Level Crossing: Jock Logie raised issue of dangers of Garve Level Crossing – very difficult to see red lights when the sun is low at this time of year. Dave Thompson MSP is leading a campaign on level crossing safety. Secretary to write to the MSP for an update.

Police issues: a speed camera vehicle has been seen up and down the Garve/Achnasheen road this last week.

Slow signs: Cllr. Urquhart has sent an email to Ian Hay Tec services, on going.

CC Members’ liability: Ongoing.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Balances as follows - Main Account £1267.80; News and Views Account £1364.63; Senior Citizen’s Account £615.72; War Memorial Account £82.38.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Following the public meeting held earlier this evening by the new AGNV Management Committee to endorse their constitution, CC agreed to wish AGNV well. The Management Committee had requested a meeting with CC representatives. This would go ahead on Wed 12th Jan 2011 with Jean Hollingdale, Jean Bailey, Sue Tarr and Alex Mackenzie attending on behalf of CC. Jean Bailey proposed that CC hand over ownership of the printer and News and Views account as soon as possible; Jennifer Haslam seconded and all agreed.

Jackie West (editor) stated that Management Committee would continue to work hard and give the community the newsletter that they want. ALL FUTURE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NEWS & VIEWS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE AGNV MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND NOT THE G&DCC.

CORRESPONDENCE: Christmas card from John Farquhar Munro MSP; SEPA magazine; Association Scottish Community Councils; Highland Small Communities Housing Trust re representative from G&DCC; Sea Energy Consultation on Moray Firth wind energy (not meant for us). E mails: Moira Harris re 12th Jan meeting with G&DCC; Scottish Water reply; Ian Hay Tec services reply; SCF re public meeting; Platform PR re public meeting; Jackie West to Jean Bailey Treasurer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

TranServ – Bob Moir highlighted that a number of jobs that we requested had not yet been done (trimming of beech trees at Station Road and Killin, clearing of branches at Rogie and now also at Hazelbrae, water lying on the road at Hazelbrae and at the Check Rail brae, and the low verges between Killin and Rogie.) Secretary to write to TranServ for an update.

Donation of paper – The Chairman thanked Jennifer Haslam for her donation as the CC members receive a lot of paperwork from the Secretary.

Resignation – Jimmy Ruggles-Brise is moving out of G&DCC area by the end of January so will no longer be a CC member. He wished the CC luck, saying it had a lot of important things to decide. The Chairman thanked him and wished him well for the future.

Cllr Jean Urquhart left the meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS: No planning applications this month.

The Chairman had received a verbal request from Simon Bedwell for help with planning applications for two houses at Achnaclerach. Some details of the applications have been refused. Agreed that while the CC has sympathy for the situation it is not able to get involved.

LICENSING MATTERS: No Licensing applications this month.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDS:

A Public Meeting has been organised for 24th Jan 2011 7pm in Garve Village Hall. Bob Cameron (Highland Council) will chair the meeting and representatives from Eneco (Lochluichart Windfarm), E-on (Corriemoillie Windfarm), Infinergy (Lochluichart Extension), and Scottish Communities Foundation will attend. The public will get the opportunity to ask questions about fund management, with a view to the CC taking a formal decision at the next CC meeting. An agreement about community benefit fund management can then be signed. The Chairman suggested that CC distribute a flier to all households advertising the meeting and asked for volunteers from members to deliver to their areas. All agreed.

Jennifer Haslam suggested we have a break in the middle with tea/coffee allowing people to discuss things; agreed that was a good idea and Penny Moir volunteered to help.

The Chairman asked Robbie Bain some queries about "Pan Highland Fund" where Highland Council gets a large share of any Community Benefit Fund arrangements. The HC is due to decide on this in Feb. Robbie Bain stated this won't apply to agreements currently in negotiation (Eneco and E-on). The Lochluichart Eneco agreement can't be signed until a means of management is in place.

Signatories would be HC, Lochluichart Estate and Eneco although if SCF are going to manage the fund then they may be more appropriate as a signatory instead of HC. The meeting of 24th Jan will give us the means to move on to next stage. The negotiations with E-on are ongoing; a decision about fund management will be helpful.

Val MacIver confirmed that E-on would be very keen to use SCF as managers – advantages are that they protect the money, they protect the community, and E-on will pay SCF the management fees.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm; DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 1st Feb 2011 6.30pm Garve Village Hall.

REPORT ON MEETING WITH AGNV ON 12TH 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.

Chairman: Bob Cameron Corporate Manager Highland Council.

Present: Robbie Bain Ward Manager, Di Agnew Ward Manager (Black Isle), Jonn Barnes and Nicola Brookes – Eneco; Robert Trotta, Sophie Moeng and Matilda Urie – E-ON; Mark van Rij – Infinergy; Daljit Singh – Scottish Communities Foundation; Val MacIver – Platform PR.

Members of public: 28

Meeting was opened at 7.00pm by Mr. Bob Cameron who welcomed everybody. Kenny MacLean Chairman of G&DCC then stated that there had been a public meeting 15 months ago when it was suggested that SCF should be invited to give a presentation to inform the community about the work they do managing community benefit funds. Also tonight we have representations from three windfarm companies here to give update on their present positions.

Jon Barnes, Senior Production Developer – Eneco, gave a brief resume, stating that Eneco are a Dutch utility company, solely Dutch owned who have been operating in the UK for 2 ½ years with a windfarm in Aberdeen, Lochluichart and one offshore in southern England. Update on Lochluichart windfarm - further site investigations taking place, it will take over one year to build and will become operational in two to three years. They are creating a data base of plant contractors from the local area. They will honour the agreements already set up and are looking to finalise these agreements within the next few weeks, as they are keen to see the site built as soon as possible. The community benefit is £2750 per mega watt which equates to £140,000 per annum over 25 years. Pan Highland fund will not be part of this agreement.

Sophie Moeng - E-ON representative stated that E-on are already negotiating with SCF on 2 other windfarms. They are constructing 2 windfarms in Highlands and have built 1 off-shore in Solway Firth. They anticipate that the planning application will be determined on 8th March 2011. Negotiations taking place with Highland Council; community benefit on the table is £2750 per mega watt installed which equates to £120,000 per annum for 20-25 year life span. They wish to reserve the right to approve the fund manager. Pan Highland fund will not be part of this agreement.

Mark van Rij – Senior Project Manager, Infinergy. Having previously worked on the Lochluichart Windfarm application he knows the site well. Infinergy have started surveys for the proposed Extension and will complete the Environmental Statement soon. Plan to have public presentations on the proposed windfarm at the end of March 2011. The scheme will be smaller than previously proposed – less than 13 turbines. Cannot say much about community benefit at this early stage but it will not be less than £2750 per mega watt.

Daljit Singh – SCF. SCF work with over 50 Community Councils throughout Scotland to support and administer community benefit funds of different kinds. These groups need a vehicle to receive funds. SCF can provide a service to cover the administration of appointment of trustees, costs involved in management of Community Benefit Fund, auditing. They open a bank account for the fund which is a restricted fund. A written agreement will be in place on how funds are spent. Decisions would be made at Community Council meetings, minuted then passed onto SCF. SCF take legal responsibility; they monitor use of money granted to groups and report back to the Community Council. Cost of administration would be £400 per year. Community Council could also have a micro grant scheme where they have a pot of cash to hand out small sums of money direct to applicants – this would be an extra £100 per year to administer.

There is also an option to have an Endowment Fund, where some money is directed into an investment portfolio which is managed by SCF appointed experts– gives a potentially bigger return than keeping the money in a bank account.

There is an option to set up an award programme for example a sum of money set aside each year to distribute to individuals or groups. SCF create an application form and set up a community panel to approve applications; they will run ballots to appoint the panel members.

Another option is to commission a community profile – this service costs extra.

SCF currently administer the Fairburn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

Robbie Bain Ward Manager – update on negotiations. The negotiations with Eneco are at an advanced stage and will hopefully be signed within days/ weeks. Negotiations with E-on are quite far forward – have agreed on a lot of principles but are not yet at the legal agreement stage.

Has not been asked to negotiate with Infinergy. By the time Infinergy are ready, the community may be able to negotiate with them directly. Infinergy have different ideas on what form community benefit may take – not necessarily cash, possibly cheap electricity instead.

Legal terms for Lochluichart – the signatories will be Eneco (LZN)/Landowner/Highland Council. The agreement will be binding on successors of all parties, i.e. if Highland Council became something else then that new body would still be bound to the agreement, and similarly for other signatories.

With Corriemoillie, it is not clear if the landowner will be a signatory – the agreement will be between E-on and Highland Council. In some cases SCF may be signatory rather than HC. E-on are keen to follow a similar agreement to the Lochluichart agreement.

The agreement allows the fund to be retrieved from SCF in the future.

Tea break was followed by Q & A session.

Q: If SCF are chosen are they willing to work with all three energy companies and vice versa?

A: Yes

Q: Are the developers willing to pay SCF fees?

A: Eneco – open to suggestions; E-on – open to suggestions; Infinergy – open to suggestions.

Comments: Understand that it is the norm for developers to pay fees; Fairburn developers pay the fees.

Q: Would payment of the fees be in the contract?

A: (Robbie Bain) Actively negotiating.

Q: Do the public get a vote on setting up fund?

Comments: Fairburn have a public meeting and four people are elected to the panel; Highland Council would be guided by CC; CC want to hear the public's views so CC as elected representatives of community can make the decision.

Q: Are SCF the only body offering this service?

A: No, but others charge more.

Kenny MacLean, CC Chairman then asked what the general feeling in the room was, should we get SCF involved? Positive response, no-one objected.

Community Council aim for this meeting was to put the SCF option on the table for the public to consider so they can then go away and think about it; CC will make decision at next CC meeting and welcomes responses from members of public.

Other Comments – Could negotiations on cheaper electricity from Infinergy start now? A (Robbie Bain) there is not enough information to base negotiations on yet; both Eneco and E-on are clear in their agreements that money is for charitable groups not individuals; Pan Highland Fund would be a 3 tier system that may address the idea of individuals applying for money/ free electricity etc (in the future); member of public keen on idea of free electricity.

Bob Cameron thanked CC, speakers, tea ladies, audience for coming and Jean Hollingdale for taking minutes and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.