

~~Draft~~ Minutes: Garve and District Community Council held
1st March 2011 at Achnasheen Village Hall

PRESENT: Kenny MacLean (Chairman); Steve Jones (Vice Chairman); Jean Hollingdale (Sec); Jean Bailey (Treasurer); Sue Tarr; Alex MacKenzie; Jennifer Haslam; Pam Morrison; Jock Logie.

Eneco – Guy Madgwick, Nigel McManus, Nicola Brookes; E-ON – Matilda Urie, Val MacIver (Platform PR); Infinergy – Mark van Rij, Nick Sage; Cllr. Isobel Campbell; Robbie Bain (Ward Manager); 4 members of public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Jean Urquhart; Bob Moir; Ruari Matheson.

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Thanks were given to the Sec. for all the minutes over the last few weeks and belatedly to the ladies who provided the tea at the meeting of the 9th February. Kenny MacLean attended the last service of the Minister before he leaves the area and joined the tea afterwards. He also attended the Parent Council meeting at which it was stated that Lucky Numbers had not been drawn for the past few months; they are now up to date. The Headmaster has left and the position has been advertised and closing date passed, as yet no news of a new Head for the school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: for 11th January 2011 (with amendments) and 1st February 2011 - Proposed Pam Morrison, Seconded Jennifer Haslam. 9th February 2011 Special Meeting - Proposed Jock Logie, Seconded Alex MacKenzie.

MATTERS ARISING:

Luib Road repairs: this section will be resurfaced possibly in the summer 2011.

TranServ contract renewal date: Robbie still to find out.

Blue Tanker parked at Grudie: was in connection with Fannich Estate and has been removed.

Plastic bags at Grudie: Jock Logie reported. The matter is in hand.

Level Crossing, Garve: No reply from Dave Thompson MSP but a newspaper article of possible changes by Scottish Parliament and the power to close level crossings by the Scottish Parliament was noted.

Forest Plan for Strathbran – reply received stating the Scottish Outdoor Access code applies to this area. Jock Logie thought the Wester Ross Deer Management Group will deal with informing the public of stalking dates.

Matheson Road, Garve: The Highland Council is looking into this matter.

Litter bin in lay by near Silver Bridge: the bin was emptied but the litter was left on the ground, our Chairman went with rubber gloves and cleared the mess into the bin which has now been emptied. Jock Logie mentioned that a rude letter was attached to a green wheelie bin recently. Jock was requested to bring letter to next meeting.

Access to the Drove Road at Little Garve: has been dealt with by Forestry Commission.

CO-OPTION: This was advertised and one name received for co-option, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville. Robbie Bain confirmed that none of the existing members were co-opted, then a secret ballot was taken; members unanimously agreed to co-opt Lady Eliza Leslie Melville onto the G&DCC as a co-opted member. Sec to write to Lady Eliza.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's account: £1166.84; Senior Citizens: £645.80; War Memorial: £82.32. New and Views: A cheque for £811.01 has been passed to AGNV and members agreed that the account can now be closed. The Treasurer asked what members felt about using a local auditor for the accounts this year. Members agreed that this was a good idea. Treasurer to look into this matter.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: The minutes of the 22nd February meeting will be attached to members' minutes. A table has been reserved for G&DCC at the Easter Fair to be held in Garve Village Hall 22nd April. G&DCC to run a bottle stall, spring hamper raffle and a rabbit game for the children. Members were asked to bring contributions for bottle stall and spring hamper to next meeting. G&DCC is to organise a Summer Fair on 28th May in Garve. Garve Hotel has given permission to use their grounds. Parent Council will do the teas; there will be various games etc, and stalls in the hall. Robbie Bain was asked if we would be covered by our insurance for this day, he will look into this.

CORRESPONDENCE: Email- J. Seligman re Community Benefit queries; HC re Matheson Road Garve; E-On re draft contract; HC re lay by litter bin; Boults reply re Strathbran Forest plan; Various Parent Council meeting notes and minutes; Sheildaig CC mins; Lochcarron CC mins; Strathpeffer CC mins; Torridon and Kinlochewe CC mins; SCF info; HC re Litter pick; Forestry Commission reply re Drove Road; Eneco re visit. Post: Alzheimer Scotland – leaflets; Highland Lib. Dems.; HC offer of computer equipment – agreed to request a laptop for CC use; HC planning meeting for 1st March; Wester Ross Alliance agenda for AGM; Various newspaper articles from H Murchison; NHS letter and posters; Playscapes leaflet; Violence against women info; Press and Journal report about collaboration between Forestry Commission and E-On.

AOB (members): Robbie Bain - the next Ward Forum meeting is 21st March in Plockton, 3pm. Subjects incl West Highland College and Community Care Review.

HC meeting 3rd March will discuss Pan Highland Fund and new CC constitution. No news to date about Liaison Officers and also training for Community Councils. Robbie Bain will provide a projector for the next meeting with Eneco.

Wester Ross Alliance AGM report from Sue Tarr - annual review, minutes from last AGM, and leaflet on Bio Sphere Reserve available. Web site link to be sent to members on email. International Appalachian Trail project progressing. Wester Ross Alliance would like to recruit more members from community organisations, CC's and businesses especially from the east part of the ward.

Jock Logie asked why we have to wait until October for blue wheelie bins. Kenny MacLean replied that costs were a factor.

Pam Morrison asked about the notification for deer stalking, Wester Ross Deer Management Group will deal with this.

Jennifer Haslam reported that the wall cladding along Station Road, Garve is falling off due to road salting; this is the responsibility of TranServ. Sec. to contact TranServ.

Road closure by Network Rail at Balnacra level crossing - a small advert appeared in a local paper a few weeks ago and a notice at the crossing was only placed there 4 days before the closure. Kenny MacLean suggested more advanced notice in more prominent places would have been helpful.

AOB (Public): None.

Cllr. Isobel Campbell was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

INFINERGY: Mark van Rij and Nick Sage gave an update about the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension; Infinergy are finalising their plans for the proposed extension of 6 turbines to the Northern side of the Lochluichart Windfarm. Drop-in exhibitions will be held at Achnasheen Village Hall 28th March 2-8pm and Garve Village Hall 29th March 2-8pm. Exhibitions will be well advertised in advance; please attend and any questions regarding this extension will be answered at the exhibition. Infinergy hope to submit their plans early summer.

SCOPING REPORTS and CONSULTATIONS: None.

PLANNING: E-ON - Matilda Urie - Corriemoillie Windfarm planning meeting was deferred to a public hearing and site visit to be held 22nd March. The date and venue (Dingwall Council Offices) to be confirmed.

The houses at Achnaclerach have been granted permission. No new planning applications this month.

LICENSING: None.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT: Eneco Update - Guy Madgwick stated almost at a point of agreement with HC. Nigel McManus (Commercial Manager Eneco) informed the meeting that the proposal is to set up a charitable trust which would receive the money ("Lochluichart Charitable Trust"). Meetings with SCF are moving along. G&DCC would lead on setting up the trust but in practise would do it through Ross-shire Voluntary Action. Eneco would pay.

Steve Jones - Why do we have to set up a trust?

Robbie Bain- Advantage is if a trust is set up it is the employer, SCF would be employee and gives the Trust control over SCF or any other fund manager. Trust would be made up of community members and one Eneco representative.

Jean Bailey - We want to avoid the community being in the position of managing fund.

Eneco - SCF would be the main provider and report directly to the trust board. The Community's job would be to receive information and keep abreast of things.

Sue Tarr - Would trust have the power to sidestep a fund manager?

Steve Jones - is there a future opportunity to change including the option to manage the money ourselves. SCF would be employed by us and could be changed.

Eneco confirmed.

Steve Jones - Would SCF be answerable to the Trust board, would this give the flexibility required. Would the panel of people approving grants be totally separate from the Trust?

Eneco - Yes, the panel would be SCF led. The G&DCC role is with the Trust.

Robbie Bain - thinks it is a sensible way forward. G&DCC working with RVA and Eneco to decide structure of trust.

Steve Jones - feels strongly he wanted a representative of G&DCC to take part in negotiations.

Robbie Bain - the present situation is that there are a couple of paragraphs to resolve between HC and Eneco (hopefully in next few hours) then he would copy G&DCC into the draft agreement as it stands. Then are 2 phases -

1. The three signatories to the agreement agree to set up trust (Agreement does not contain much detail)
2. Detail of setting up trust, which G&DCC is involved with.

The agreement should be able to move forward at the next meeting 5th April.

E-ON - Kenny MacLean asked Matilda Urie about the Strathpeffer CC. Matilda confirmed that Strathpeffer falls out with concentric circles of the Corriemoillie windfarm. He then asked about E-ON's letter about the negotiations on Community Benefit. He felt we should not be involved with E-ON directly. Steve Jones thought it was good to see the letter and that G&DCC should provide a response. Robbie Bain reported that E-ON has raised several items that he is working on; felt that G&DCC should not be involved until planning outcome is known.

Kenny distributed some printouts of emails, to and from SCF, to members and asked Steve for comments. Steve explained that he had asked SCF for more information on costs relating to Endowment Fund Management. Kenny felt that individual members should not be corresponding with SCF without the knowledge of G&DCC members as they had not agreed it. Steve felt we did not have the full info and apologised, Kenny stated he was grateful for the apology but reiterated that G&DCC decisions are made at the table by G&DCC members as a group and requested that correspondence with all energy companies and SCF is directed through the G&DCC email address only. The sec can then distribute it to members. Sec asked for donation of paper.

Dates of next meetings:

5th April 2011 7pm Garve Village Hall

3rd May 2011 7pm Achnasheen Village Hall

7th June 2011 7pm (AGM and Ordinary meeting) Garve Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

4/5/11

6/5/11