

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council AGM
Held 6th June 2012 in Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Alex Mackenzie; Cllr Ian Cockburn; Robbie Bain (Ward Manager); June Ross (TECS); Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros); Nick Sage and Fiona Milligan (Infinergy); three members of public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Bob Moir, Jean Urquhart, Richard Greene, Matilda Urie (E-On), PC Alison Millar, Nell (Dog Warden). G&DCC has sent Richard best wishes for his operation.

Declarations of Interest: none.

Approval of minutes of AGM held 7th June 2011: Proposed by Jennifer Haslam, seconded by Jean Bailey.

Matters arising: three financial items agreed at last AGM have all been actioned.

Chairman's Report: Regulars to the G&DCC AGM meetings will know that I feel that a Chairman's annual report should not just be a look back on the last twelve months, it should also look forward to the next twelve months and it should thank certain individuals for their help to the G&DCC or for playing their part within the community.

The first few months following the last AGM were dominated by the setting up of the Lochluichart Community Trust (LCT). Although the G&DCC had until April 2012 to complete this task, I felt it was best to address this issue early on so as to give the Community Council members time to consider the options. Once the Company was set up with its charitable status (SC409591), the founding Directors took over from us at the CC meeting held on the 4 October 2011. In February 2012 the founding Directors held an election to elect the first full suite of elected Directors. Turnout was an excellent 84.7%.

In those summer months of 2011 we witnessed the first test run for the transportation of turbines through from Invergordon onto the Eneco Lochluichart Windfarm site. That was a day that everything stopped in its tracks to observe those proceedings. Eneco and Natural Power found the test run very useful.

The G&DCC elections took place over September-November 2011. This was the first time that all 156 Community Councils in The Highland Council area held elections at the same time. We thank The Highland Council for running those elections; I thank those who were willing to stand for a four year term and to those who served during the last term.

October 2011 saw the introduction of blue recycling bins to every house in our area. This is another step along with the village recycle points to help us all to do our bit.

Eneco, in conjunction with Jones Brothers started construction of the consented Eneco Lochluichart Windfarm on the 14 November 2011. CC members were very pleased to have been asked to attend the first cutting of the turf.

The negotiations between E-ON and The Highland Council over community benefit from the now consented E-ON Corriemoillie Windfarm are ongoing. G&DCC members wish both parties well. E-ON hopes to start tree felling of the site later this year.

Infinergy have applied for planning permission to build 6 turbines as an extension to the consented Eneco Lochluichart Windfarm. Infinergy have also set up their own LEO fund as a form of community benefit directed towards those who live within the G&DCC area.

Our table at the Christmas Fair held in Garve Hall in December 2011 was well supported by the members of this community. All the funds we raise go towards the upkeep of the War Memorial and the over 60's dinner. My thanks to all who supported us that day.

The over sixty's dinner in December 2011 was well attended. I think the Aultguish Inn did the community proud in the way they kept the event on track despite the terrible wet and windy weather that night. The various donations from individuals in the community as well as from local businesses really helped to make the night enjoyable for all. The generous donation from Eneco was very much appreciated. We hope that the weather will be kinder to us this year.

In March 2012 I along with five other Community Council members attended the first Highland Council organised training course for Community Council members – I always like to attend these kinds of events and hear the latest thinking. I found it a very interesting evening and it was good to see so many people from other Community Councils in attendance (around 90 people from 33 different CC's). I'm sure Community Council members who were new to the business of a Community Council found the evening invaluable.

Last month we witnessed The Highland Council elections for the new term. Congratulations to our recently elected ward Councilors all of whom I hope to see become regular attendees at G&DCC meetings, although that is dependent on the weather and the Stromeferry Bypass of course!

HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations took place this week. My thanks to all concerned especially the individuals and businesses that made donations to G&DCC so that we could purchase royal mint coins which were given to the schoolchildren in our area and the commemorative tree which is to be planted in Gorstan to mark this special event.

The G&DCC has considered fourteen consultation documents, one variation to an existing licensing application, six building warrants, one screening report and nineteen planning applications since the last AGM. I know how much CC members enjoy a good read of all the paperwork – it helps them sleep! All planning applications are available online at www.highland.gov.uk/yourenviroment/planning

We have addressed a number of other issues since our last AGM such as road resurfacing, road drains, road white lining and the general winter maintenance of the road network. The extra £2 million found by The Highland Council for its entire road network has been welcomed by this Community Council. We also addressed the issue of the new mains water supply to Garve, faulty street lighting, loose kerb stones, tombstoning, fly tipping, broadband and 3G and 4G upgrades, issues on and around the railway crossing, bus shelters and the Achnasheen Shelter, speeding traffic, the "magnetic" bends, the replacement of the Rogie Falls and Longart Footbridges, repairs to the Corrieshalloch Footbridge, changes to Post Office service provision, school buses, deer fencing, the Olympic flame, public rights of way, damaged stone walls, HIFRS, NHS and The Highland Council's integrated social/health care provision which came into effect from 1 April 2012, the Stromeferry Bypass and the knock on effects that has had on this community, public entertainment licences, Hazelbrae landslip as well as the usual small items that crop up at Community Council meetings from time to time that help keep the whole thing varied. One G&DCC member and her husband even had to help a lorry find a windfarm site! Everything is looked into to try and make things a little bit better for all who live and work here.

I still feel none of the issues could have been dealt with so quickly if we had not moved to monthly G&DCC meetings, a decision taken by G&DCC members in August 2010. I feel that decision has been key as to where we are as a Community Council and as a community.

There are three departments at The Highland Council I must single out, namely Street Lighting, Planning and TECS all of whom have shown us great courtesy and helpfulness in anything we ask of them. We send them our thanks.

All the issues have been discussed at twelve ordinary meetings, two special meetings and one sub-committee meeting of the G&DCC since the last AGM. The minutes of those meetings cover some forty pages and G&DCC members have spent over thirty hours together at these meetings. The meetings have been well attended by the members of the G&DCC, representatives from different companies, agencies and the public. We have distributed two sets of fliers to every house in the G&DCC area since our last AGM. These have been another way along with the minutes that help to keep everyone in the G&DCC area up to date with the G&DCC discussions and decisions. My thanks to the flier volunteers and also the outlets in the G&DCC area that helps us to get the information out to the community. The new more detailed Agendas introduced at the start of this year give everyone a flavour of what is coming up at each meeting. I know how much CC members have appreciated them.

I haven't needed to travel into Inverness so much to attend Highland Council meetings in the last twelve months as so many of The Highland Council meetings are now webcast. It has made life so much easier for everyone to view The Highland Council in action. I have however attended six meetings of neighbouring Community Councils, two Ward Forums, numerous public meetings, drop ins and exhibitions and I have kept in touch with the local school, especially while the Parent Council is in abeyance. All this has been reported back to G&DCC members within Chairman's Comments.

In the next twelve months we will continue to work on all the various issues that come before the Community Council for the benefit of this community that we represent.

I would like to thank all the G&DCC members for the continuing support they show me, for their help and advice and may I thank them on behalf of the community for all the hard work they do as G&DCC members. Regular attendees of the G&DCC know that I like to start the meetings promptly at the time advertised. I have noticed over the last six months or so that Community Council members have been, on average, sat on their seats around the Community Council table at least ten minutes before a meeting is due to start. I very much appreciate this as I do like to start on time.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Jennifer Haslam, who oversees any catering requirements the G&DCC may have; Mrs. Jean Hollingdale who, as Madam Secretary helps me every inch of the way. I know CC members are grateful

for her updates on the various issues between meetings. It helps us all to hit the ground running at the following meeting. I have always felt that the more informed we are, the more informed our discussions will be; Mrs. Jean Bailey who, as Madam Treasurer helps to keep the figures in the piggy bank correct; Miss Sue Tarr for all her hard work she does for us by representing this community at the Wester Ross Alliance and for producing the fliers and posters and of course as our Minute Secretary, I know she has been a great help to Madam Secretary which is very much appreciated.

Thank yous must go to our ward Councilors, Jean Urquhart SNP MSP as well as Mr. Robbie Bain Ward Manager for their input and advice. I for one am always grateful to them all for taking the time to visit us and for all their help; Jones Brothers for their monthly updates with which they provide the G&DCC; all the energy companies and their associated colleagues and representatives from the emergency services for their help and time; Mr. Uisdean Menzies and his mother, Mrs. Janette Menzies for their continued up keep of the War Memorial and its surroundings and finally, but by no means least, a thank you must go to the people of this community. The support which the G&DCC members receive from you does help make this VOLUNTARY job so much easier.

Jean Hollingdale thanked the Chairman for all his hard work which was much appreciated by the community councillors. Jennifer Haslam proposed thanks to the two Hall Committees for being so helpful throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report: Annual accounts for year 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012 were presented. Balance fwd. £1806.93; surplus for year £1146.92; balance £2953.85 made up of War Memorial surplus 18.52; Senior Citizens surplus 466.77; Diamond Jubilee 800.00; Treasurer's A/c deficit 138.37.

The deficit on Treasurer's A/c is due to paying two years of secretarial fees and auditors fees in one year so fees are paid in relevant year; this won't happen next year. The accounts were proposed by Eliza Leslie Melville and seconded by Sue Tarr. Jean Bailey proposed thanks to Ann Macrae for auditing the accounts so quickly and efficiently.

Election of Office Bearers: Eliza Leslie Melville proposed that current office bearers continue "en bloc".

Seconded by Alex Mackenzie. Returned unopposed: Kenny MacLean, Chairman; Jean Hollingdale, Secretary; Jean Bailey, Treasurer; Sue Tarr, Minute Secretary.

Members also agreed that Kenny MacLean continue to deal with Press Enquiries and liaise with the school and that Jennifer Haslam continue as Catering.

Provisional Dates for future meetings:

The dates for the coming year are the 1st Tues of every month, with the exception of Jan 2013 which will be 2nd Tues, at 7pm. Venues to be confirmed.

3rd July 12 Achnasheen Village Hall; 7th Aug 12 Garve Village Hall; 4th Sept 12 Achnasheen Village Hall; 2nd Oct 12 Garve Village Hall; 6th Nov 12 Achnasheen village Hall; 4th Dec 12 Garve Village Hall; 8th Jan 13 Garve Village Hall; 5th Feb 13 Garve Village Hall; 5th Mar 13 Achnasheen Village Hall; 2nd Apr 13 Garve Village Hall; 7th May 13 Achnasheen Village Hall; 4th June 13 Garve Village Hall (AGM).

Dates proposed by Kenny MacLean, seconded by Jean Hollingdale; all agreed.

AOB: none.

Date of next meeting: 7pm June 4th 2013 in Garve Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the AGM at 7.40pm for tea and sandwiches.