

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting held 7th Aug 2012
in Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie; Cllr Ian Cockburn; Marianne Townsley and Michael Blake (SSE); 3 members of public.

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

Apologies: Jean Urquhart MSP, Nick Sage and Fiona Milligan (Infinergy), Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros), PC John Beverly, Gavin Steel and Morven Smith (SSE).

Declarations of Interest: None.

Chairman's Comments: Alex Mackenzie had been mentioned in the Ross-shire Journal's "22 Years Ago" taking part in the Lochcarron Games at Attadale. Condolences were extended to Cllr Richard Greene; and to the family of Mrs Hilda Ross who has passed away. Get Well Wishes to Andrew Allan. Best Wishes to Freda Mackenzie, TECS, on her retirement. The Chairman was at the Aultguish Sheepdog Trials which was very well attended.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the Community Council meetings are held in public and the public should be allowed to contribute; but they are not public meetings. G&DCC minutes and agendas are available at Garve PO, Garve and Achnasheen Village noticeboards, online at www.achnasheenandgarve.com, in the AGNV, direct from the Secretary (on gdcc@fsmail.net, tel/fax 01997 414201) or at each G&DCC meeting.

Approval of minutes of meeting held 3rd July 2012: Proposed by Alex Mackenzie, seconded by Jennifer Haslam.

Corriemoillie Substation & Mossford-Beaully Upgrade: The Chairman introduced Marianne Townsley (Liaison Officer) and Michael Blake (Project Manager) from Scottish & Southern Electricity. Michael Blake outlined the project which is made up of 2 parts:

1 – Building of Corriemoillie Sub Station, connections to grid and commissioning

2 – Rebuilding and upgrading of the power line from Mossford to Beaully

Corriemoillie Sub Station. Work started in May 2012. Construction involves civil works undertaken by contractors I&H Brown of mass earthworks, building the platform, concrete bases and control building. This phase is due to finish early 2013. To date peat has been moved, rock cutting and infill on site means low number of vehicles bringing materials in. Concreting expected to start Sept – Oct; concrete vehicles will be coming in. Once concrete platforms finished then Control Building will be erected. I&H Brown leave site flat to the finished level with palisade fence and control building with bund to obscure site. Work progressing well.

Overhead Line Connection. Work will start soon (Sept 2012) by Balfour Beattie Utility Services. This will take place in 2 stages this year and next year – 3 towers will take power out from Sub Station to Mossford – Beaully pylon line. Scaffolding will be erected across main road Oct – Nov.

Underground Cable Connection bringing power in to Sub Station due to start early 2013. Contractor for this will be named soon.

Electrical Fitting of Sub Station due to start Quarter 2 2013 when Balfour Beattie Engineering Services (different Balfour Beattie to above) take over the site from I&H Brown, and due to finish by end 2013. Then commissioning takes place. The connection cable from Lochluichart Windfarm to the Sub Station will be underground.

Q – Will the concrete be mixed on site? A – Not known yet but will probably be sourced from a local supplier.

Mossford-Beaully line. Working to increase the capacity of the pylon line to take power out from 2 windfarms. At present there are two lines of towers side by side. This is a unique situation in Scotland. The old towers will be replaced by a single line of slightly taller towers with six conductors (three on either side) instead of two lines of towers carrying three conductors. Highland Council has consented, Scottish Government still to determine but consent expected end of Sept. If so then contract will go out in Oct and work start in early Nov 2012. Order of work not drawn up yet. Construction and commissioning of new line should be completed by the end of 2014; dismantling work of old towers will continue until Quarter 3 2015.

Q – What about the osprey nest? A – Works are scheduled around nest.

Q – Will there be a reduction in the number of towers? A – 177 towers will be taken down and 97 new ones go up.

Q – Will the Windfarm connection have to wait for the new towers? A – No, the Windfarm connection can take place once the Sub Station has been completed.

Q – Why has the pylon line moved closer to houses in the section beside Garve? A – SSE has tried to move new pylon line further away from properties where possible. The topography of the section by Garve is challenging.

Q – Is there a map of where the towers are to be positioned? A – Yes, although there may be micro adjustment of towers once construction starts.

Western Isles Connector - the SSE representatives dealing with this have apologised for not being able to attend tonight. If there are specific questions about the Western Isles Connector project let Marianne know. G&DCC requested more info on this project.

Kenny Maclean also requested more info on problems faced by new hydro schemes at Achnasheen and further west in connecting to the grid.

Marianne and Michael were thanked for attending.

Matters Arising:

Signs at Wades Bridge and Silver Bridge – SSE have installed the warning notices as requested. Secretary has thanked Bob Olivant. The Chairman also noted his thanks to the Police and Dingwall Academy for their handling of the “tombstoning” issue last year.

Stone Wall Achnasheen-Kinlochewe – most sections at the Achnasheen end have been repaired thanks to TECS.

Garve Level Crossing – it has been announced in the press that barriers are to be installed before the end of next year (2013).

Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service – training including that of members of the Fire Board has increased. Ullapool and Dingwall Fire Stations are fully staffed. Kinlochewe and Lochcarron still have vacancies.

Scottish Water – complaints of chlorine taste and smell in the Garve water were due to a contractor working on a house site damaging the mains pipe. The water was chlorinated and repair completed, and the water should be clear again. Jean Bailey still experiencing a lot of chlorine – she will contact Customer services about it.

No updates from Eneco, E-On or Infinergy.

Jones Bros – still no water available on site. Looking to recruit a gatekeeper for Windfarm site.

Wester Ross Alliance – Sue Tarr reported WRA are currently updating the membership. WRA offering a web link to member organisations on their website for £10 per year. Membership is open to community organisations and local businesses.

Cllr Ian Cockburn raised WRA tax issue which directors are in discussion with Inland Revenue about.

Hazelbrae Landslip – work to repair this is expected to start soon and access has been agreed through a neighbour’s land. A squirrel survey has taken place to avoid disturbance to any squirrels. Concern was raised that progress was very slow. Sec to request update from TranServ.

Overhanging Trees in Stirling Drive – Residents have cut some trees down. It was reported that the Community Council had been quoted as saying they owned the trees and had given permission to cut the trees. Some trees on private ground have also been cut down, and the owner is unhappy about it. Sec to contact PC Beverly.

Bingo Night – G&DCC are holding a Bingo night in Garve Village Hall on Sat Sept 22nd at 7.30pm in Garve Village Hall to raise funds for the Over 60’s dinner. Arrangements were discussed. Aultguish Inn is kindly contributing towards the catering and Eneco have donated a bottle of Dalmore whisky as a prize. Fliers advertising the evening will be distributed.

Over 60’s Dinner – this will be held at Ledgowan Lodge Hotel on Thurs 25th Oct. Invites to go out next month. Agreed that table decorations not required.

Community service – Robbie Bain has taken the situation into consideration. Supervision is a factor in determining the location of community service.

Recycling Points – Kenny MacLean has inspected both Garve and Achnasheen and is pleased to report both sites are tidy, although the dustpan and brush at Garve seem to have disappeared.

Street Lighting – no comments have been received.

Cycling Event – the organiser of the police cycling event contacted Jean Hollingdale to discuss the complaint about poor marshalling at the Gorstan Junction. It turns out that was not the police event, but a different cycle event. Concern was raised about road safety issues during these events, with cyclist support cars being abandoned on the main road. Sec to contact PC Beverly.

Scam letter – Kenny MacLean highlighted a scam letter from “Lending Stream” about a loan of £600. Any concerns contact the Police (see tel nos below).

Police Report – Police are continuing to target the A835 and A832 for all types of traffic offences. 17 persons have been cautioned and charged for speeding and 2 persons reported to procurator fiscal. Police are also appealing for information regarding the theft of a red and black petrol lawnmower from a garden in Contin. PC Beverly can be contacted on 0845 600 5703 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Treasurer’s Report – Balance Fwd: £2223.37; Senior Citizens, 1105.71 less 30.00 (stamps) 1075.71; War Memorial, no change 140.86; Jubilee Fund, no change 124.52; Treasurer’s A/c, 852.28 less hall rent & expenses of 115.14 with income of Highland Council Grant 960.55 makes 1697.69; Total balance £3038.78.

Kenny MacLean wondered about starting a 100 Club to raise funds. Decided against at this time.

Correspondence – By email, PC Beverly – police report; Scottish Water – reply re Garve Water chlorination; Robbie Bain – Community Group Transport funding; Aultguish Inn – donation of jacket potatoes & stew for Bingo Night; Scottish water – further update re chlorine; Scottish Community Empowerment Bill – extension for comments; Robbie Bain – CC online training; NHS update; Ledgowan Lodge Hotel – confirmation for Over 60’s Dinner; Lochcarron CC mins; Strathpeffer CC mins. By Post, HC Licensing Board – consultation; Thankyou card from Isaac & Katherine Doswell.

AOB (members) – Bob Moir reported a scam phone call about Microsoft Windows, in the Congo.

Sue Tarr requested that the Gorstan - Achnasheen road verges be cut as they haven’t been done this year yet. The verges at Grudie didn’t get done last year at all. Cllr Ian Cockburn to chase.

Kenny MacLean reported that the grass around Achnasheen village had got very long and he had contacted Robbie Bain. The contractor had forgotten to come to Achnasheen but came the next day.

Kirk House (formerly the Free Church, Garve) has been short listed for a design award.

Highland Council is running Awareness Raising Sessions on welfare reforms.

AOB (public) – none.

Consultations – HIE Broadband. Aiming to roll out 30MBs by 2020 with significant progress (min 2 MBs) by 2015 across Highlands. No comments.

Door entry for Nightclubs – no comments.

Planning – Cllr Ian Cockburn to take no part in planning or licensing discussions; left the meeting.

No Building warrants.

Two planning applications have been determined:

Garage with residential accommodation, The Cottage, Achnasheen – refused.

Agricultural Building, Corriemoillie Farm – granted.

Strathbran Hydro scheme –current status -Environment Impact Assessment not required – the Forestry Officer has made recommendations should a full planning application be lodged.

Two Wind Turbines and building at Ledgowan – application withdrawn.

No Licensing applications.

Dates of future meetings: Tues 4th Sept 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall at 7pm; Tues 2nd Oct 2012 Garve Village Hall at 7pm; Tues 6th Nov 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall at 7pm; Tues 4th Dec Garve Village Hall at 7pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9pm.

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