

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council Meeting  
Held 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 in Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie; Fiona Milligan (Infinergy); Guy Madgwick and Zoisa Walton (Eneco); Cathel Macaskill (TranServ); Robbie Bain (Ward Manager); Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros); Cllr Ian Cockburn.

The Chairman opened the meeting just after 7pm and welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Jennifer Haslam, Eliza Leslie Melville, Jean Urquhart MSP, Matilda Urie (E-On), Marianne Townsley and Michael Blake (SSE); PC Beverly; Susan Steven and Isabel Grant (Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon CC).

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Cockburn will not take part in Planning or Licensing matters.

Chairman's Comments: Thanks to the CC ladies for doing the tea and mince pies this evening. The Chairman attended the Remembrance Service at Garve War Memorial; he attended Lochcarron CC where there was a query about the Wester Ross Patient Participation Forum held recently and why was Achnasheen not represented. Some confusion about where NHS area boundaries lie. Garve is in one area and Achnasheen may be in another. There will be a District Partnership meeting in Feb, Robbie Bain to keep us informed.

The Chairman and six members of G&DCC attended a tour of the Lochluichart Windfarm Site recently. Thanks to Dennis Kearney for arranging this – all agreed it had been very worthwhile.

The Chairman was unable to attend the Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon CC meeting recently.

Strathgarve Primary School will be holding a school play on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec in the hall to which everyone is welcome. Church Services continue at Lochluichart at 12.30pm except 16<sup>th</sup> Dec when a joint service will be held at Strathpeffer at 11am and the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Dec when a joint service will be held at Contin at 11.15am. The Church has a website, [www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org](http://www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org)

Garve & District Community Council minutes and agendas are available at Garve PO, Garve and Achnasheen Village noticeboards, online at [www.achnasheenandgarve.com](http://www.achnasheenandgarve.com), in the AGNV, direct from the Secretary (on [gdcc@fsmail.net](mailto:gdcc@fsmail.net), tel/fax 01997 414201) or at each G&DCC meeting.

Approval of minutes of meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012: Proposed by Jean Hollingdale, seconded by Jean Bailey.

Matters Arising:

Stone walls on Achnasheen – Kinlochewe road – all sections have now been repaired.

TranServ – Cathel Macaskill gave a presentation on winter road maintenance and outlined the Kessock Bridge works scheduled for next year.

Winter maintenance takes place 1<sup>st</sup> Oct to 15<sup>th</sup> May. Scotland has a Multi Agency Response Team, which involves the Met Office, Police, and Transport Scotland. A daily action plan is produced at 12 noon based on Met Office weather forecast and current min temps, whether there is any ice or snow and what the salt requirements are. "Precautionary treatment" is the regular pre-determined salt treatment; if required "Patrols" provide extra treatment in more extreme weather. The Action Plan goes out to depots and then to drivers. Vehicles are loaded with salt and checked over. No grit is used; 6mm salt is "pre-wetted" which gives better spreading. The vehicles have sensors which send temperatures back to control centre, along with live weather conditions from roadside weather stations means the control centre can monitor road surface temperature, wet/ dry surface, rain. If rain or snow is washing salt off road then the gritter drivers are alerted. Micro-climates in localised areas can cause problems. TranServ have two "ice breakers" – vehicles which can break up compacted ice, and an advanced snow plough to cope with very deep snow. Traffic messages to the public are produced. Drivers should take notice of the weather conditions and plan ahead accordingly before undertaking a journey, and in particular remember that the road surface temp may be 2-3° below the reading on the car dashboard. The Traffic Scotland website is available to the public and gives a lot of up to date information on road conditions and roadworks. A mobile phone download is also available.

Kessock Bridge Works – these start 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 for four months; there is least disruption to local economy and tourism at this time. The bridge is now 30 years old and carries 30-33,000 vehicle movements daily, and has had no major works since it opened. Now getting a complete refurbishment. There were three options – 1, to close bridge completely and finish work in one year; 2, to deal with problems as they occur and have unexpected, unplanned closures; or 3, the chosen option, to do work in two phases and keep the bridge open. There will be a contraflow on one carriageway while other side is refurbished then in 2014 the other side will be done. Problems expected are queues at peak times (Southbound 8-9am and Northbound 5-6pm). Encouraging people to make changes on how they get to Inverness – by using public transport, car-sharing, avoiding peak times. There will be extra parking at rail stations and extra carriages on trains, as well as extra bus services. Employers are being asked to be more flexible with work times and Raigmore avoid giving peak time appointments to people from north of the bridge. Cycling and walking is encouraged in better weather. There will be no Park & Ride for 2013 as this has been withdrawn by HC due to high costs, but may be possible in 2014. Traffic arrangements while refurb takes place includes taking traffic going south of Inverness off the Longman roundabout instead going onto Stadium road and then onto the A9 S. Longman and Rose St Roundabouts will have traffic lights. There will be right turns from Henderson Road (Wickes) onto the Longman to avoid the roundabout getting clogged up. There will be a dedicated HGV/ bus/ emergency vehicle lane from Tore to the bridge in the fast lane with traffic merging onto the bridge. Traveline provides information about bus services within Inverness, eg if you want to get up to Raigmore.

Q: What is the lifespan of the bridge? Following refurbishment should last another 30 years if not more.

Q: The snowploughs block side entrances and laybys – can they try and clear these? Cathel noted these concerns.

Landslips – Hazelbrae – there have been some movements of large rocks since the repairs. TranServ are monitoring these and are satisfied that base layer has not moved and structure is ok.

At Tarvie, a drainage assessment of the whole area is currently being carried out. Initial fears that the hillside was unstable have been allayed and the road base is stable. Long term it is a challenging problem. The traffic lights are likely to remain for a few weeks yet.

Bear will be taking over maintenance of the NW Unit on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. Cathel provided some Kessock Bridge leaflets and doodlebugs, and the Chairman thanked him for attending.

Jones Bros update – the weather has slowed down work. 15 turbine bases are completed. The construction site is closed due to ice and is likely to be shut down this Fri until after Christmas. Due to be up and running again 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan depending on weather conditions. Have applied to the Planning Dept for an extension to the construction timetable as a result. There are still legal discussions regarding Erica (the Lochluichart Extension) to be finalised before the contract for the extra six turbines can be confirmed.

Infinergy update – Fiona Milligan wishes to gauge the likely uptake of the community benefit scheme for the extension (LEO scheme). They are distributing a newsletter to households in near future. Some residents have joined the LEO scheme already. The LEO scheme does not affect social security benefits.

Eneco update – Lochluichart Community Trust is having a directors' meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec and are currently advertising for a Company Secretary.

E-On update – Tree-cutting work on Corriemoillie site has been held up. The Community Liaison Officer should be appointed soon – there have been several candidates. Robbie Bain confirmed there was no news about community benefit negotiations.

Jubilee Tree – a site meeting was held with representatives from SSE and I & H Brown. Browns are going to replace the two trees that were destroyed and also provide the Jubilee tree. They will put up a protective barrier fence around it. Planting will take place soon, depending on weather. Jean Hollingdale proposed that G&DCC provide two plaques – a plastic one for the tree and a metal one that could perhaps be placed in the hall. Secretary to write to the Chairman of the Hall Trustees to see if this would be feasible.

Deer fence at Grudie – SSE are dealing with.

Floodlights at Corriemoillie Sub Station – the floodlights are very bright and have been left on all night some nights. They are not supposed to be left on and are causing disturbance to residents. Marianne Townsley has been contacted.

CarnGorm Windfarm – P.I. Renewables are happy to keep G&DCC informed about progress.

Gorstan drains – work has been done on clearing roadside drains following flooding problem.

Potholes – the pothole at Garve has been cold filled. HC are liaising with Forestry Commission about the Strathgarve road. FC to address immediate problem; Robbie Bain alerted the CC to the fact that HC is unable to prioritise major works on this road in the future due to lack of money.

Wester Ross Alliance – no update.

Grasscutting at War Memorial – this is not HC ground so the council is unable to provide grasscutting.

War Memorial – Jean Bailey informed the meeting that a local individual is looking at setting up a Trust to raise funds for the War Memorial maintenance and to repair the steps leading up to the memorial which are in a poor condition. Presently G&DCC hold some money for the WM but holds no responsibility for WM. It is understood that a public meeting will be held about setting up the Trust and that G&DCC will no longer have any involvement with the WM. Robbie Bain noted that there is a small HC fund (£5000 per year for Ross & Cromarty) for WM structures. HC would want to make clear what the responsibilities were with the Trust – Robbie Bain to discuss the background with individual concerned. G&DCC have invited receipts for maintenance to be presented so volunteers can be reimbursed. G&DCC agreed that the WM money they hold could be passed on to the Trust when set up.

Schoolbus turning at Lochluichart Church – it has been confirmed that the schoolbus is not to blame for churned up verges.

Over-60's Dinner – discussion on next year's dinner to be left until nearer the time.

Police Report – One person has been reported to Procurator Fiscal for drink driving on A835. There has been a theft of diesel at Corriemoillie; also a metal gate was stolen on Lochcarron-Achnasheen road and there was a theft of copper. Police are alerting businesses to be aware of a phone call scam where they are approached offering services and advertising in a Police magazine. The Police do not have any advertising.

Treasurer's Report –		
Total Balance b/f	2228.73	
Senior Citizens	370.96	
Less dinner expense KM & JH	-38.70	
Add donation rec'd EMMM	30.00	
Add receipt Ledgowan sale	55.00	
Add receipt Christmas sale	140.10	557.36
War memorial no change	140.86	140.86
Diamond Jubilee no change	124.52	124.52
Treasurer's Acc	1592.39	
Less hire of Achnasheen hall	-20.00	1572.39
Carried Forward		£2,395.13

Fundraising – The Christmas stall raised £140.10. The Chairman thanked Dorrie Tarr for helping with the G&DCC stall, all members of the community who supported the morning and everyone who helped in any way, especially Jean Bailey for getting everyone organised at a week's notice.

Arrangements for the Burns Night were then discussed. This will be held in Garve Village Hall on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 7-10pm. Fliers will be distributed to all households after the next meeting.

A Summer Fair is also in the pipeline.

Correspondence: By Email, TranServ re Hazelbrae landslip; HC Consultation report – householder permitted development rights; SSE Jubilee Tree site meeting date; Scottish Health Campaign Network info; Jackie West; Kris & Anna Gamble re Strathgarve Potholes; Robbie Bain – Woodland share knowledge event; PC Beverly Police Report; Lochcarron CC mins; Strathpeffer CC mins. By Post, UHI – grant money for scientific/ technology projects; Review of polling districts and polling stations.

AOB (Members): Bob Moir said that the pedestrian warning sign at Mossford was still lying on the verge. Cllr Cockburn to chase.

Kenny MacLean said that the Give Way sign approaching the Gorstan junction has lost its reflection and doesn't show up in the dark. Cllr Cockburn to deal with.

Kenny MacLean also reported that the train timetable changes this Fri (7<sup>th</sup> Dec); details of the mobile library service were distributed and HC salt supplies are at maximum.

Consultations:

G&DCC has received three consultations. 1, HC House of Multiple Occupancy (Inverness) Guidance. Members had no comments. 2, Polling Districts Review. It appears no changes are proposed. No comments. 3, Fire & Rescue Service Framework which comes into effect 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. No comments.

Planning:

Forestry related building at Lochluichart Estate – granted.

1 x turbine at Ledgowan – awaiting determination.

House site at Silver Bridge – awaiting determination.

New application – Change of use from care home to residential house, Strathgarve Lodge. No comments.

Licensing: none.

Dates of future meetings: Tue 8th Jan 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 5th Feb 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 5th Mar 2013 at 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall; Tue 2nd Apr 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 7th May 2013 at 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall; Tue 4th Jun 2013 AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 2nd Jul 2013 at 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall; Tue 6th Aug 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 3rd Sep 2013 at 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall; Tue 1st Oct 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall; Tue 5th Nov 2013 at 7pm, Achnasheen Village Hall; Tue 3rd Dec 2013 at 7pm, Garve Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions over the last 12 months and wished the community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.