

~~Draft~~ minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting held 3rd July 2012
In Achnasheen Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Alex Mackenzie; Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros); Matilda Urie (E-On); 3 members of public. Cllr Biz Campbell attended part of the meeting as did PC Alison Millar and PC John Beverly.

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

Apologies: Bob Moir; Jean Urquhart MSP; Robbie Bain (Ward Manager); Cllrs Ian Cockburn, Richard Greene & Audrey Sinclair; Fiona Milligan (Infinergy); Guy Madgwick & Zoisa Walton (Eneco).

Declarations of Interest: none.

Chairman's Comments: Best Wishes to Steve Young who is home from hospital; Best wishes to Betty Mackenzie who has moved; Congratulations to Alex and Elspeth on arrival of their grandchild also to Pam Morrison on arrival of her grandchild; Best wishes to Keith Riddell on his recovery from his operation. Church services at Kinlochluichart continue at 12.30pm unless otherwise advertised. Jennifer Haslam requested that she be informed if an event was on in the Church so she could move the flower arrangements as necessary.

The Chairman thanked Jennifer Haslam for her donation to G&DCC of paper. The Chairman, Jean Hollingdale and Jean Bailey had attended the HIFRS meeting in Kinlochewe; improvements to the recruitment and training of firemen have been put in place. The Chairman attended the Jones Bros office opening in Inverness; he had a talk with Fergus Ewing Scottish Govt minister and received the gift of a Jones Bros umbrella. He was unable to attend the Strome ferry Bypass meeting in Lochcarron.

HC news – they have agreed their programme of priorities for coming year. The Ross & Cromarty Area Committee could be resurrected in the future. There will be a budget consultation coming on where savings are to be made.

The Aultguish Sheepdog Trials are to be held this Saturday (7th July).

All minutes and agendas are available from Garve PO, Garve and Achnasheen Village noticeboards, online at www.achnasheenandgarve.com, in the AGNV, direct from the Secretary (on gdcc@fsmail.net or tel 01997 414201), or at each G&DCC meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held 6th June 2012: proposed by Eliza Leslie Melville, seconded by Jean Bailey.

Matters Arising:

Achanalt Post-box – a new post-box has been installed. The new design has a “weather flap” to prevent rain getting in. Achnasheen is on the waiting list for an extra large post-box.

Office of Fair Trading – Kenny MacLean and Sue Tarr had attended this consultation event back in Feb. The report has been published and highlights issues affecting remote communities. The report will help these issues to be addressed.

Grudie layby – the local estate has cut the trees to improve visibility and discourage fly-tippers. The layby is now fully visible from the road and it has made a difference to the amount of rubbish being dumped. The branches will be chipped. The Chairman thanked Lochluichart Estate.

Ledgowan Bridge Access – access to the public has re-opened, with a pedestrian gate installed at the bridge. All rubble has now been removed from the road. G&DCC welcomed this news; the Chairman reminded the meeting that walkers should adhere to the Scottish Access Code which is a “right to responsible access” and show courtesy to the privacy of private residences. Anyone with access issues should contact the HC Access Officer, Phil Waite.

Strome ferry Bypass update – the cost incurred to re-open the road was £2.8m. HC has costed various options ranging from £23m to £115m. They are not yet at the stage of deciding which option to take; there will be more public consultation.

Dates and venues of future G&DCC meetings for the coming year have been confirmed.

Scottish Water update – the new water supply for Garve has been turned on; comments initially were that the new water was very good however subsequently a lot of chlorine was coming through, but now it is better again. It was believed there had been a burst pipe when the water was switched on. Sec to request an update from Scottish Water.

Rogie Falls footbridge – the new footbridge is open. The fallen rocks in the river have been removed, and the fish run is clear.

Jones Bros update – Dennis Kearney informed the meeting that there was a problem with lack of water on the site for concrete mixing. The burns on the site which have permission for water extraction are dry and a 50m borehole has produced just a trickle. Water is being bought in in the meantime. The first batch of concrete has been mixed on site today (3rd July). A member of the public enquired whether SEPA monitor the site. A – Natural Power are contracted to do the monitoring; there are 5 points at extremities of the site where water is tested monthly. SEPA have been invited to the site but not visited yet. Cannot comment on conditions attached to other Windfarm sites.

E-On update – Matilda Urie informed the meeting that timber felling on the site would start this month. SEPA is monitoring these operations. SNH is to determine whether trees can be mulched on site or whether timber will be removed from the site. The timber is not of commercial value. Timber access is from Corriemoillie. E-On is also looking for a local Community Liaison Officer. This is a paid position to work with contractors and local communities during construction and transportation of turbines from Invergordon. An advert will be in the AGNV. Re Community Benefit, E-On hope to conjoin with LCT – good progress being made but there are some legal and commercial issues to sort out. The date for grid connection is, first phase 30th April 2015 and second phase Oct 2015. Dennis and Matilda to discuss common issues for the two windfarms.

Infinergy update – HC planning committee decided to raise no objection to the Infinergy extension. The final decision goes to the Scottish Govt.

Wester Ross Alliance update – there has been a press release about the Biosphere project.

Police report – PC Alison Millar is moving to a new post; she introduced our new Community Officer, PC John Beverly. Road Traffic matters in the Garve area recently were a one vehicle collision at Tarvie, one person reported to the Procurator Fiscal. A835 continues to be targeted regarding all types of traffic offences; four persons have been charged with speeding. Police are appealing for information regarding the theft of a small apple tree in Achnasheen. PC John Beverly can be contacted on 0845 600 5703 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. There have been a lot of deer collisions recently. Jean Hollingdale raised an issue about the cycle event held last Sat, where the marshal at the Gorstan junction was causing confusion to the traffic. PC Millar to highlight this with event organizer.

Hazelbrae landslip – no news about how the landslip will be repaired. Concern was raised about a diesel container at the traffic light site. The branch cutting has improved visibility making it easier to see the traffic lights.

Stirling Drive – overhanging trees – these have been causing difficulties for lorries in particular. Kenny MacLean has lopped some offending branches off. Maybe residents could do this too.

Fundraising – it was agreed to have a Bingo night in Garve Village Hall on Sat 22 Sept, to raise funds for the Over 60's dinner. Donations for bingo prizes and raffle prizes would be most welcome.

Over 60's dinner – Aultguish Inn, Ledgowan Lodge and Garve Hotel were approached for menu quotes for a dinner late Oct/early Nov. Garve cannot say in advance when their bookings are, so regretfully are unable to do it. Menus were supplied from Ledgowan and Aultguish. Members agreed to go with Ledgowan, date and time to be confirmed. Arrangements for wine, entertainment and transport were agreed. G&DCC also thank Aultguish Inn for their offer.

Achnasheen Village bin – has had continuing problems with rubbish overflowing. Kenny MacLean asked for a bigger bin which has arrived promptly.

Recycling – HC recycling rates are up and landfill waste going down. Recycling from the blue wheelie bins go to three facilities, the local one being at Evanton. Overflow from this goes to Perth and Grangemouth. Plastic bottles are recycled into clothing, garden furniture and new plastic bottles.

Treasurer's report: Balance fwd, £2281.82 made up of Senior Citizens (no change) 1105.71, War Memorial (no change) 140.86, Jubilee fund (no change) 124.52, Treasurer's a/c 910.73 less hall rent and AGM expenses leaves 852.28, total b/fwd of £2223.37. HC Grant this year is £1046.02 less Insurance 85.47, meaning we will receive £960.55. A decrease in grant of £74.15 and increase in insurance of £18.37 means the amount we receive has decreased from last year.

Correspondence: By email, Andy James – date of HIFRS meeting; June Ross TECS – fly tipping at Achnasheen; Ann Hackett – Rogie Falls bridge opening date; Inner Moray Firth Development Plan Report; Robbie Bain – Rogie Falls bridge; HIFRS – date of meeting; Moira Harris AGNV – G&DCC mins; Robbie Bain – date of Stromeferry Bypass meeting; Matilda Urie E-On – Liaison group; Roger Cundiff, Lochcarron & District Business Assoc. – survey report on effects of Stromeferry Bypass closure on local businesses; PC Alison Millar – change of community police officer; PC John Beverly – police update; Jackie West – private water supply; Lochcarron CC mins; Strathpeffer CC mins. By Post : Thankyou card from Maisie Mackenzie; Jones Bros newsletter.

AOB (Members) – Jennifer Haslam raised an issue about a person doing Community Service having to travel daily to Nairn to carry this out. Biz to find out why they could not do Community Service locally.

Eliza Leslie Melville – E-On's request that G&DCC help find a Liaison officer – the community council shouldn't have to do this.

Kenny MacLean – There was a lot of broken glass at the Achnasheen recycling point recently. Sue Tarr mentioned that a dustpan and brush had been placed at the Garve bottle bank a while back so anyone could sweep up broken glass if they saw some; she didn't know if it was still there or not. Cardboard was also dumped at the Achnasheen point but the bin doesn't take cardboard.

Robbie Bain is planning a ward forum meeting in Aug/Sept.

Power fault at Achanalt – SSE phoned residents to advise them that the power was going off; workers kept going to fix the fault despite the onset of a thunderstorm. Residents much appreciated SSE efforts – Sec to convey thanks to Bob Olivant.

AOB (Public) – Jackie West has placed info about the Hitrans traffic camera at Achnasheen on the AGNV website. The number of street lights in Achnasheen was mentioned. G&DCC would be interested to hear from residents of Achnasheen and / or Garve if they think the number of street lights could be safely reduced, or if they think that would be a bad idea. The Highland Council is trialling reducing street lighting some areas with a view to saving electricity, but currently have no plans to do this in Achnasheen or Garve.

Pam Morrison has contacted the Scottish Government about noisy motorbikes and will keep G&DCC informed of progress.

Consultations – (1) Scottish Govt Community Empowerment – members have no comments.

(2) Extending late night opening hours for catering establishments - deadline 31st Aug 2012. The nearest such premises are in Dingwall. No comments.

Planning – as previously mentioned HC raised no objection to the Lochluichart Windfarm Extension.

Agricultural Shed at Achnaclerach has been granted.

There is an amendment to a previous application, Bell mouth junction at Corriemoillie. The junction has moved slightly. No comments.

Date of next meeting:

Tues 7th Aug 2012 Garve Village Hall at 7pm; 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.

All are welcome to attend.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm