

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council Meeting  
Held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Alex Mackenzie, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec); Fiona Milligan (Infinergy), Cllr Biz Campbell and 4 members of public.

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

Apologies: Bob Moir.

Declarations of Interest: Kenny MacLean, non-financial interest in Post Office Services. Jean Bailey to chair that item. Cllr Campbell is on the Planning committee; she is happy to stay for planning issues but will not take part in discussions.

Chairman's Comments: we learned with sadness that Lady Loch passed away recently; another member of our community, John Hayton has passed away and our thoughts are with his family. Brian and Margaret Downs have moved from Achnasheen and best wishes go with them.

At the HC meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012, it was agreed to freeze council tax for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running. No new cuts this year but savings will be required in future financial years. 3% of budget is put away for emergencies.

The Chairman attended the Strome ferry public meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and the NHS Planning for Integration meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb (integration takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> April, when HC takes responsibility for children's services and NHS takes over care for the elderly). He also attended the WRA AGM followed by Office of Fair Trading consultation along with Sue on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. The ward forum in Dornie was cancelled due to the Strome ferry problems.

Church news – best wishes to Keith Riddell who has been unwell. The vacancy for a new minister is still open. On 18<sup>th</sup> March Mother's Day there will be one service at Strathpeffer at 11am (no service at Lochluichart or Contin) and on 8<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday there will one service at Contin at 11am (no service at Lochluichart or Strathpeffer).

Training course for community councillors tomorrow (7<sup>th</sup> March), the Chairman and 5 councillors from G&DCC are able to attend.

SSE is planning an extension to the Fairburn Windfarm and are holding drop in sessions this week.

All G&DCC minutes and agendas are available on request from the Secretary at [gdcc@fsmail.net](mailto:gdcc@fsmail.net) or Tel 01997 414201; at Post Offices; at CC meetings; and on [www.achnasheenandgarve.com](http://www.achnasheenandgarve.com)

Approval of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 – Proposed Jean Hollingdale, seconded Alex Mackenzie.

Approval of minutes of Special Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 – Proposed Jennifer Haslam, seconded Jean Bailey.

Matters Arising:

Access at Ledgowan – HC solicitor Shona Pottinger had not been aware of the invitation to our last meeting. HC has a responsibility to resolve any objections to a consultation. They have received two objections to the Ledgowan right of way consultation, and a letter of support from G&DCC. Jimmy Smith has not yet had a meeting with Ledgowan Estate but is scheduled to do so this Fri (9<sup>th</sup> March).

Strome ferry Bypass – Hopes that the road would be re-opened by mid Feb have been delayed due to continuing bad weather and the scale of work required. Further problems were created this week when the ferry ran aground and was damaged. The ferry was repaired but suffered another engine break down. Biz Campbell was present today when Scottish Govt Transport minister Keith Brown met with local community representatives, councillors, TRAC engineering and TECS. No money available from Scottish Govt; HC don't have funds either. Discussions in progress with Network Rail about diverting road traffic onto railway. HC unable to give any statement on future solution at this time. Local business is struggling and it is causing a major disruption to the local area. There are knock on effects in this CC area also.

Community Benefit, Dosmucheran Hydro Scheme – Robbie Bain awaiting response.

Infinergy update – determination of the planning application has been delayed until mid April.

Eneco update – the wind farm entrance has been tarred and access track is progressing; they have hit rock and a detour is likely.

E-ON – no update.

Deer Fence at Grudie – awaiting response from SSE / FC.

Achnasheen Shelter – Biz reported that HC doesn't know who owns it. The village hall is owned by HC and is on a cyclical maintenance schedule. Biz advised G&DCC to get the job of repairing the shelter costed and apply to the Ward discretionary budget. Agreed Treasurer to apply. A member of public suggested that the community adopt ownership of the shelter. It was felt first step was to get it repaired.

Wester Ross Alliance – the present Leader money has all been allocated. The next round of Leader money is in progress and should be available from about 2014. In the meantime if projects require funding, don't wait until 2014, start application process off.

Red Light at Garve Level Crossing – in hand.

Public Entertainment Licenses – venues require a license from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 (e.g. Garve and Achnasheen Halls respectively). Groups using the halls will need to fill in a "needs" assessment for the venue applying for the license. G&DCC to confirm that both Garve and Achnasheen Halls are in process of applying. The forms are available online. *NB at time of writing the minutes the situation has changed and a license is not now required for free events.*

TranServ – the response is that they do regular patrols of trunk road. The grass cutting programme is under review.

HC resurfacing – sections on Garve to Achnasheen road and Gorstan are due for resurfacing this year. Reminders that the Strathgarve road and the bit by the school are both in very bad condition. The Strathgarve repairs are waiting until the tree operations have taken place.

Longart Foot Bridge – Peter Mackay, Forestry Commission has informed G&DCC that the footbridge has been put in place a year earlier than expected.

Diamond Jubilee – Achnasheen Hall Committee have plans in the pipeline – afternoon tea, plant a tree or a bench, keepsakes for the community. They would be happy to join Garve in their celebrations.

Other suggestions have been a cairn, plant a tree. The Chairman noted that Queen Victoria had visited Achnasheen in 1877, by train en route for Loch Maree.

Garve Hall is booked for 4<sup>th</sup> June (free of charge). The Head Teacher has indicated that there are 42 children from age 0 up to and incl all those still at school. G&DCC to follow this up with a list of names. A flag pole would need planning permission; it was decided not pursue this idea. £300 has been received in donations from local businesses towards the Jubilee commemoration. There are a great variety of souvenirs available and price ranges from £2 to £30/£40. Jean Bailey to continue looking at souvenirs. Jackie West offered an insert in the AGNV but at this point not sure that timing will work out.

Treasurer's Report: Balance forward, £2687.85 made up of Senior Citizens £1105.71; War Memorial £75.86; Treasurers Account b/f £1506.28 less hire Garve Hall £49.00, balance £1457.28; Diamond Jubilee donations £300.00. Total balance, £2938.85.

Secretarial Fee – due to be paid at the end of this financial year (31<sup>st</sup> March). This is currently £400 per year. Jennifer Haslam proposed that it be put up; Jean Hollingdale and Sue Tarr felt it should remain the same. Kenny MacLean proposed that the secretarial fee remain £400 and be split equally between the Secretary and the Minute Secretary; seconded by Alex Mackenzie. Members were 6-1 in favour.

Auditor's Fee – this is currently £80. Jean Bailey proposed that this be increased. Agreed that the Treasurer has discretion to agree an increased fee with the auditor.

Correspondence: By Email, Dorothy Stott, Planning Dept; Robbie Bain re Strome bypass; Robbie Bain re dates of meetings; TRAC – Strome bypass information; Lochcarron CC mins; Contin CC request for closer communication with G&DCC; Robbie Bain re Strome Bypass; Forestry Commission – Longart Footbridge now open; Strathpeffer CC mins; Robbie Bain re Entertainment Licensing; Robbie Bain poster for Rural Education meeting. By post, Moray Offshore Renewables – update; NHS briefing note; SSE leaflets re Fairburn Windfarm Extension.

AOB (CC members): Jennifer Haslam - Grudie Layby – had three TVs dumped at wheelie bin. The Chairman emailed TECS and they were lifted promptly by a little council van which should be congratulated for doing a good job for our area. Jennifer also cleared five bags of rubbish from the verge in that area. HC find it frustrating that dumping keeps happening in this area. Can the CC ask HC about using cameras at this layby?

The Chairman reminded everyone that TVs and other similar items can be taken to Dingwall Recycling Centre free of charge; although it was felt it was more likely to be people from out with our area who are responsible for the dumping. The estate will look at clearing some of the trees so the layby is more visible from the road. If anyone sees anything suspicious please report it.

The school bus now has to turn at Lochluichart and is churning up the verge at the Church layby. Biz Campbell to request the bus driver be more careful.

Kenny MacLean – Kenny MacLean – asked Biz Campbell if the Fire Brigade problems had been resolved. Fire men had not been receiving the correct training; they are now being trained up to standard. No Fire Stations will be closing down.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Corrieshalloch Bridge is closed for repairs and maintenance and until mid April.

The CC may not see so much of our councillors in the run up to the HC election in May. The Chairman thanked Biz and all the other councillors for their hard work and also our ward manager Robbie Bain.

AOB (Members of Public) – AGNV hopes to include mins from tonight in next edition.

Query about the upcoming Community Benefit workshop – unfortunately G&DCC representatives are unable to go to this.

No Scoping reports.

Consultations (3):

1. Post Office Service in Achnasheen - (this item chaired by Jean Bailey) the Post Office will close on 18<sup>th</sup> April when the post mistress retires. Post Office Ltd proposal is to have an outreach service which would be in Achnasheen Village Hall once a week, Tuesdays 2-4pm. Comments should be addressed to National Consultation Team, PO Box 1138, ST. ALBANS, AL1 9UN or by email at [consultation@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:consultation@postoffice.co.uk) by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012. It was agreed that G&DCC write in support of a continued Post Office service in Achnasheen with the proposed number of hours as a minimum.

2. Office of Fair Trading. The OFT event in Kinlochewe highlighted price of fuel, delivery charges, broadband, national grid connections amongst others as issues of concern. Further comments by July 2012 may be made online at [www.offt.gov.uk/OFTwork/consultations/remote-communities](http://www.offt.gov.uk/OFTwork/consultations/remote-communities) No comments from G&DCC.

3. Boundary Commission, UK Parliamentary Constituencies – deadline for comments is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Building Warrant application noted: 3-4 Mossford Cottages, Lochluichart - French windows.

Planning Applications:

All applications can be viewed on HC website. It is now easier for certain small domestic alterations which will no longer require planning permission – more information at

[www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning](http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning) As of 1<sup>st</sup> April the Planning Dept will no longer accept cash or cheques for fees.

Five applications have been determined (all granted) – conversion to six residential units, Inchbae Guest House; outline house at Silver Bridge; temporary power line at Glascarnoch (estimated to be 2-2½ years); underground power cable at Corriemoillie; and electricity supply at Achnaclerach.

No new planning applications.

Licensing: the variation to existing licence for Inchbae Café has been approved in full. No new applications/ variations.

Dates of future meetings:

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 Garve Village Hall 7pm

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall 7pm

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting Garve Village Hall 7pm

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall 7pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.