

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council
Meeting held 1st May 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); Zoisa Walton and Katherine Dalton (Eneco); PC Alison Millar; Cllr Biz Campbell; 2 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everybody.

Apologies: Bob Moir.

Declarations of Interest: Biz Campbell will not take part in planning matters.

Chairman's Comments: Condolences to the family of Iris Gordon who passed away recently. It has been a sad year and we remember the loss of other members of the community.

Best wishes to Helen Wilson, Lochluichart, who has moved.

The Chairman attended the Torridon & Kinlochewe CC meeting on 4th April, where issues included the Fire Service and repair of stone walls at Glen Docherty.

Strathgarve Primary School is collecting the Tesco vouchers for sports equipment and would be very grateful to receive your vouchers.

G&DCC minutes and agendas are available at Garve Post Office, Garve village notice board, the new Achnasheen village notice board, online at www.achnasheenandgarve.com, from the CC Secretary by email gdcc@fsmail.net or telephone 01997 414201, or at each CC meeting.

Approval of Minutes: There was a query about the £25 cheque being cancelled. The Treasurer clarified that this was a donation which was returned. Minutes proposed by Jennifer Haslam, seconded by Eliza Leslie Melville.

Matters Arising:

Refurbished Laptop from Reboot – this will be available soon to collect from Forbes.

Achanalt Kerbstone – this has been repaired ahead of surface dressing to be done on that stretch of road soon.

Stone Walls on Achnasheen–Glen Docherty road – HC is going to repair small sections over next two to three years when finances allow.

Achnasheen Post Office has now closed and the new outreach service from Kinlochewe has started in Achnasheen Village Hall every Tues 2-4pm. There has been a request for a larger post-box in Achnasheen which is being processed.

G&DCC noted their appreciation for retiring Postmistress Gill Ross and all her years of service to the community.

Rogie Falls Footbridge – the new bridge is in process of being installed.

Corrieshalloch Bridge – work to repair this is ongoing.

Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service (HIFRS) – the Kinlochewe Fire Station has had its planning permission extended for the next two years. Torridon & Kinlochewe CC are liaising with HIFRS on situation re rural fire stations. The Fire Board audit discussions have been deferred until after the election and will now take place in June. HIFRS are holding a series of public meetings which will discuss the future of the Fire Service in the Highlands and Islands – the nearest one is Inverness on 8th May 2012 6.30pm at Charleston Academy.

Jean Hollingdale and Sue Tarr to take up invitation to visit the Kinlochewe Fire Station.

Ledgowan Access - the HC Access Officer has met with Ledgowan Estate manager and the estate has agreed to remove padlocks from gates where the fields have no livestock and to look at installing side gates. The route along the old road is still in negotiation between HC and landowners. Most of the building rubble has now been cleared from the old bridge. Ongoing.

Stromeferry Bypass – now open with no weight restrictions. There will be a public meeting in June to discuss long term solutions. The cost of recent operations will be up to £1.5million which has come out of HC emergency reserves. Construction of an avalanche-type shelter is a possible option. Members noted that there had been a noticeable increase in traffic again since the road re-opened.

Eneco update – The Lochluichart Community Trust AGM will be 14th May in Garve Village Hall at 6pm. LCT members are encouraged to attend. Guy Madgwick will be acting Chair and Katherine Dalton acting Secretary. The new directors will be formally recognised.

Jones Bros – Dennis Kearney informed the meeting about progress on the construction of Lochluichart Windfarm. He apologised for miss-spelling of Lochluichart on the road direction signs. Weather at the start of construction had been atrocious which held things up but they are now catching up. The access tracks should be finished by Nov; construction of crane pads and bases start next month. Concrete will be mixed on site. Construction of the sub-station will start in Sept. The turbines will not arrive until next Sept (2013) – Siemens are supplying and erecting the turbines and Lochluichart is on a waiting list. The site is expected to be dormant next year while waiting for turbines to arrive, and work is expected to be completed by March 2014. Work depends on birds nesting. Jones Bros have a local recruiting campaign in the P&J; they have other projects in the Highlands & islands. Agreed to use the AGNV as well.

He provided the CC with contact cards and a copy of the contract programme for work. Please get in touch if there is anything that needs attention.

E-On update – Tree felling on the Corriemoillie site is due to start in late summer. Community Benefit Fund discussions are ongoing. E-On wish to set up a Community Liaison Group. It was agreed that we suggest G&DCC act as the Liaison Group and E-On can then give regular updates through the CC meetings.

Infinergy update – planning still to be determined.

Deer fence at Grudie – action is expected this summer. In hand.

Wester Ross Alliance – next meeting is 15th May so no news.

Red Light at Garve Level Crossing – the new hood has arrived but has not been installed yet.

Walls at Station Road, Garve – HC is responsible for the walls. Bryan Stout is dealing with.

School bus turning at Lochluichart – Jennifer Haslam has repaired damage to the verge and cleared two run-offs. The problem has not been repeated, G&DCC to contact Biz Campbell if it does.

Diamond Jubilee – the presentation coins have been purchased. Jubilee fund was £800, less 55 coins @ £12.99 = £714.45, which leaves £85.55 for tree planting. A tree is probably not suitable for Achnasheen due to deer. Biz stated that Porterfield Prison makes good benches at low cost. Jean Bailey proposed that half of the remaining money be given to Achnasheen Amenities towards their Jubilee project. Discussion on where to plant tree at Garve end and what kind of tree would be suitable; agreed that Sec would contact HC requesting permission to plant a copper beech at the Gorstan layby. G&DCC to put a “thank you” to local businesses in the AGNV for their generous donations. Jennifer Haslam proposed that Eliza Leslie Melville and Jean Bailey to do the presentations; seconded by Kenny MacLean, all agreed.

Treasurer’s Report: Balance forward, £2953.85 comprising of Senior Citizens (no change) £1105.71; War Memorial (no change) £100.86; Treasurer’s a/c (no change) £947.28. Diamond Jubilee fund see above item. Total balance, £2239.40. The accounts are waiting for final bank statement before going to the auditor.

Correspondence: By Email, Consultation on Planning Reforms – Scottish Govt; Jones Bros – attendance to G&DCC meetings; Alison Clark – National Network of CC’s; Fraser Nixon – Highlands and Islands Fire Service; Post Office Ltd - Achnasheen Post Office new hosting times; TECS – Achnasheen fly tipping; Matilda Urie - E-On update; Chris Hamilton – planning comments; Reboot – G&DCC laptop update; Lochcarron CC Mins; Torridon & Kinlochewe CC Mins; Strathpeffer CC Mins.

By Post, Highland Soil Biodiversity Festival leaflets; Scottish Community Foundation - workshop.

AOB (Members): Several members had received comments about the burger van parked at the hall. Agreed that Sec write to Chairman and Secretary of the Hall Trustees bringing these concerns to their attention.

Kenny MacLean noted that the first AGM of the AGNV is at the end of the month.

Kenny MacLean welcomed recent police presence checking for speeding – PC Millar confirmed that at least 10 drivers had been caught speeding in Achanalt area over last month. Speeding cars and motorbikes is an ongoing problem but police speed patrols will continue. PC Millar apologised for not attending previous meetings but offered to send a police report by email if unable to attend. Members agreed this was a good idea.

Kenny MacLean praised TECS for their prompt action on recent fly tipping. Jennifer Haslam highlighted that paint tins are now being dumped in the Grudie bin. PC Millar noted this and suggested that the police keep an eye on the layby too.

Hazelbrae Traffic Lights – these have been in place due to two landslips below the road. The Chairman showed photos of the landslips, which look very serious. TranServ are waiting for a geo study to take place. G&DCC are very concerned about the situation and the heavy traffic that uses the road. There may also be a risk to the railway if it gets worse. Jones Bros are about to have a lot of sand lorries going through; there is heavy use from ferry traffic and also now the Strome bypass is open this is the main route to Skye. Sec to email Cathel Macaskill for update and also to request that the traffic lights are moved further west round the bend to give traffic time to stop safely.

AOB (Members of the Public): none.

Consultations & Scoping Reports: No Scoping reports. Five consultation papers re planning reform (Scottish Govt), deadline 22nd June 2012. G&DCC have no comments to make.

One consultation re Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (HC), deadline 28th June 2012. There is a consultation drop-in in Contin on 16th May at 2-6.30pm. Some members hope to attend.

Building warrants: none noted.

Planning Applications: None have been determined yet.

Two new applications:

1) 12/01300/FUL - Bell mouth junction at Corriemoillie. G&DCC have no comments to make on this application.

2) 12/01141/FUL - 2 x 50kW Turbines West of Ledgowan Lodge Hotel.

A member of the public had a query about it being on an SSSI. It is on an SSSI zone 2 which allows some development. SNH are not objecting to the site. Some members felt that a comment should be made about the visual intrusion of the turbines and that grey would be a more suitable colour; Jennifer Haslam felt that the CC should not comment. Kenny MacLean proposed that G&DCC make a suggestion that consideration should be given to having turbines which are a colour other than white to blend in better with surroundings; seconded by Jean Hollingdale; all in favour.

The Chairman read out a letter received from Chris Hamilton about representing the views of the Achnasheen community in planning matters. G&DCC had received one comment from Achnasheen but meetings are open to the public and people are welcome to come with their views.

Licensing Applications: none.

Date of future meetings:

Wed 6th June 2012 7pm Garve Village Hall, AGM followed by ordinary meeting. Tea and sandwiches will be served.

Tues 3rd July 2012 7pm Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 7th Aug 2012 7pm Garve Village Hall

Tues 4th Sept 2012 7pm Achnasheen Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and thanked Cllr Campbell for all her help, and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.