

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council Meeting
Held 2nd Oct 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; Fiona Milligan (Infinergy); Donald Morris (Comunn na Gàidhlig); Cllr Ian Cockburn for part of meeting; 4 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone, including visitors from the newly formed Marybank, Strathconon & Scatwell CC.

Apologies: Robbie Bain, Jean Urquhart MSP, Marianne Townsley (SSE), Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros), Cathel MacAskill (TranServ), PC John Beverley, Nick Sage (Infinergy).

Val MacIver (member of public) thanked G&DCC for their get well wishes during her recent illness.

Declarations of interest: None – noted that Cllr Ian Cockburn will not take part in planning or licensing discussions.

Chairman's Comments: The Chairman noted some facts about local voter turn-out – G&DCC area turn-out was 35%, slightly below average. The Chairman attended the Ward Forum at Lochcarron along with Jean Bailey. The topic was the HC Budget Consultation and was poorly attended. He was unable to attend the Rogie Falls Bridge opening, but Jean Hollingdale attended as well as the Strathpeffer Walking Group and children from Strathpeffer Primary School. He attended the first meeting of the newly formed Marybank, Strathconon & Scatwell CC. Church update – the vacancy for minister is still open. Normal services at Kinlochluichart Church are at 12.30pm except for 28th Oct when the service will be at 11am. The Chairman made a request that any CC correspondence arrive a few days before the meeting to give members time to read it all.

All 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 the minutes of meeting held 4th Sept 2012: proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Eliza Leslie Melville.

Matters arising:

SSE signs – the new signs have been put in place at Wade's Bridge and Silver Bridge.

Bilingual Activity Centre - Donald Morris from Comunn na Gàidhlig gave an outline of their proposed project to set up a bilingual Gaelic medium outdoor activity centre in the Highlands. It would take the form of a social enterprise company with the focus on young people. Activity courses would be residential with qualified Gaelic instructors. It would employ people and train instructors. Currently there are no facilities for bilingual outdoor activities. It is based on a Welsh model which caters for 20,000 young people a year through four centres. Currently are looking at possible buildings – estates, bothies, MoD, HC redundant schools and are seeking opinion from G&DCC on their thoughts.

Q: How would it be financed? Grant funding from a variety of sources would be sought to build up skills of trainers. Would work on social enterprise principles where money coming in is reinvested into activities.

Q: Where would the people come from? Currently there are 2500-3000 Gaelic medium pupils; but other school and youth groups would also be targeted; would also be a resource for the community. Feis is supportive of the model. Potentially people could come from throughout Scotland but core area is the Highlands.

Q: Would young people be wandering around the area at night causing disturbances? A programme of activity is adhered to and young people would not be let loose.

Members expressed general support for the idea.

To sum up, finances are challenging but it can be done. The Director of Education has given no commitment – HC is strapped for cash but in principle could look at redundant schools. Have spoken to various people about possibilities in different areas in the Highlands.

The Chairman thanked Mr Morris for attending.

E-On Update – the position for PR consultant will be going out to tender soon. Activities on the Windfarm site include tree felling Oct–Dec 2012; planning conditions should be discharged by March 2013; construction starting in Oct 2013 and grid connection by Oct 2015. E-On to set up Community Liaison Group once the PR Consultant is appointed. G&DCC members felt that the best way for E-On to keep the community updated was through regular updates to the Community Council and delivery of newsletters direct to every household.

Community Benefit negotiations are still on-going between Matilda Urie and Robbie Bain.

Infinergy Update – Fiona Milligan informed the meeting that the Lochluichart Extension planning consent has been received from the Scottish Government, with 37 conditions. Jones Bros will do the construction.

SSE Copper Beech – have confirmed that they are happy to provide a copper beech for the Gorstan Layby, but require permission to be confirmed from TranServ and Highland Council. G&DCC are waiting for TranServ to confirm.

SSE Deer Fence at Grudie – Jennifer Haslam reported that a deer has been hit and killed on the unfenced road at Grudie. Deer crossing the road here is a danger to traffic.

SSE Fairburn Windfarm Extension – currently refining the detailed design plan; there is an extended period for comment. Public exhibitions will be held in the New Year before submitting the planning application.

Hazelbrae landslip – most of the work has been completed, with the stone wall still to be cleared and repaired. Thanks to Macgregor's, TranServ and Murdo Mackenzie for all their help with this matter.

Wester Ross Alliance – No news about Cape Wrath Trail or Biosphere Project. Next round of Leader money may appear by 2014.

Adopt-a-Station – Jean Bailey reported that Strathgarve Primary is interested in getting involved and there are some volunteers from the public. The Area Station Master has to inspect the stations and give the go ahead.

Cllr Ian Cockburn arrived.

Bingo Night – thanks to all who attended and for donations received. The grand total of £501 was raised, from which hall rental is to be deducted. Members agreed it was very well supported and a very good night. The Chairman wished to note that a raffle prize that was handed in was kept over for the Christmas fundraising; members agreed that in future, donations made for an event should always be used at that event.

Over 60's Dinner – about 49 acceptances so far. Achnasheen Amenties have kindly offered to contribute the raffle prize.

Grass verges – the Gorstan – Achnasheen grass cutting is now complete, including the roundabout. Thanks to Cllr Cockburn for his help.

Traffic at Lochluichart – G&DCC has received a letter from Paul Moxon about dangers at Lochluichart Station Road. Some trees have now been cut to improve visibility. Hamish Leslie Melville has had a reply from Charles Kennedy who is contacting the authorities about the speed problem. Cllr Cockburn reported that the request for a 40mph zone is now on the review list but this takes time.

The missing pedestrian crossing sign to the west of Lochluichart is still not in place. Cllr Cockburn to chase.

Eliza Leslie Melville left the meeting.

Police Matters – there are new area divisions. We come under Wester Ross, which is covered from Dingwall under Insp Mackinnon. The Chairman noted that the disturbance in Kinlochewe mentioned recently was misreported and actually took place in Laide. Police Report – in the Garve area there have been two road traffic collisions, one with a deer and one with a tree. Police continue to target road traffic offences in the area resulting in one vehicle being seized and one person being reported to the procurator fiscal for having no insurance. The public are being alerted to scams by phone or email where older people in particular are conned out of large sums of money. Never give out any bank details over the phone or by email.

Treasurer's report: Balance b/f, £3038.78 made up of Senior Citizens: 1075.71 plus proceeds from Bingo, 501.00, total 1576.71; War Memorial (no change): 140.86; Diamond Jubilee (no change): 124.52; Treasurer's Account 1697.69 less ink and hall hire, 57.94 total 1639.75; carry forward £3481.84.

Fundraising - G&DCC hope to have a table at the Christmas Fair in Garve Hall. Jackie West has kindly offered a free table at her Craft Fair at Ledgowan on 17th Nov.

Correspondence: by email, Robbie Bain – Speed Limit review; Cllr Cockburn – Achnasheen School; Paul Moxon – Speed Limit at Lochluichart; HC Insurance form for CC; HC/FC Invitation to Rogie Falls bridge opening; Robbie Bain – Agenda, Ward Forum; Chris Hamilton – request for information re Ledgowan Wind Turbines; Robbie Bain – Grudie Bin; SSE – Copper Beech Tree; Strathpeffer CC mins parts 1 & 2; PC Beverley – Police Report; E-On – update; Strathconon Estate Forest Plan Scoping Report. By post, SSE – planning consent Beaufoy-Mossford Power Line.

AOB (Members): Jennifer Haslam found the bin in the Grudie layby was overflowing; Kenny reported it and it was emptied very promptly. She also raised concerns about the Forestry Commission picnic area at Grudie where fishermen have been cutting down trees to light fires and generally leave a mess. Bob Moir to contact Peter Mackay.

Kenny MacLean had a report from a member of the public that the gate on Ledgowan Old Bridge had been locked again. It has been reported to Phil Waite, HC Access Officer, who has liaised with Tec Services and the HC solicitor and appropriate steps have been taken.

Highland Council is looking for community volunteers willing to help with winter snow clearing.

Remembrance Service – G&DCC will lay a wreath at the service at Garve War Memorial on 11th Nov at 12.30. The grass cutting at the War Memorial is done by volunteers – is there a possibility of HC taking on some grass cutting? Cllr Cockburn to enquire, but warns we are unlikely to get extra services.

AOB (public): none.

Scoping Report: Strathconon Estate Forestry Plans. These include areas at Achanalt and Achnasheen. Secretary to acknowledge scoping report.

Highland Council Budget Consultation – no comments.

Stage 2 Consultation on Parliamentary Boundary Changes – no comments.

Consultation on Court Services – proposal to close Dingwall Sheriff Court – members felt this was a retrograde step and detrimental to the wider community. G&DCC to object.

Planning Applications: Lochluichart Windfarm Extension (Scottish Govt) permission granted with conditions.

Beaulieu – Mossford Pylon line upgrade (Scottish Govt) permission granted with conditions.

Revocation of Bell Mouth Junction at Corriemoillie complete.

Siting of Catering Caravan at Garve Hall granted for 3 years with conditions.

Renewal of Chalet at Achnaclerach granted with conditions.

Licensing Applications: None.

Dates of future meetings: 6th Nov 2012 Achnasheen Village Hall at 7pm; 4th Dec 2012 Garve Village Hall at 7pm; 8th Jan 2013 Garve Village Hall at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend.

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