

~~Dist~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council Meeting
Held 5th March 2013 in Achnasheen Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Eliza Leslie Melville, Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir; Dennis Kearney (Jones Bros); Fiona Milligan (Infinergy); Cllr Ian Cockburn; 2 members of public.

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

Apologies: Alex Mackenzie, Jean Urquhart MSP, Matilda Urie (E-On), Morvern Smith (SSE), PC John Beverly, Susan Steven (Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon CC).

Declarations of Interest: Eliza Leslie Melville re Lochluichart Estate Forest Plan; Cllr Ian Cockburn will not take part in planning matters.

Chairman's comments: Best wishes go to Cllr Richard Greene who has been in hospital; best wishes to Jackie MacDonald who has moved away from the area. The Chairman updated the meeting on The Highland Council budget, council tax and rents. Cllr Audrey Sinclair is now the Vice Chairman of the local Planning Committee. The Chairman attended a public exhibition on the proposed Kishorn development for offshore renewable energy. He was unable to attend the SSE Depot Open Day. He reminded the meeting that the Single Police Force and Single Fire Service come into effect on 1st April. Strathgarve Parent Council is up and running with Larisa Jansen as Chairperson and Sarah Jane Bedwell as Secretary. Church of Scotland Services continue each Sunday at Kinlochluichart at 12.30pm except Easter Sunday when the service will be in Strathpeffer at 11am. The new minister, Rev Erasmus, will take up his post later in the year. A fundraising Soup Lunch will be held in Strathpeffer Church Hall this Sat from 12-2pm. The Chairman announced that G&DCC now has a website:

www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict

All G&DCC minutes and agendas are available on the new website, 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 5th Feb 2013: proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Jean Hollingdale.

Matters Arising:

The TV programme with Michael Portillo has been broadcast with him visiting Garve, Rogie Falls, with views along the line to Plockton; it attracted 2 million viewers.

PI Renewables (Carn Gorm Windfarm) has informed G&DCC that there will be a public exhibition at the end of March, date to be confirmed.

Avenue Trees, Strathgarve – some trees had been marked with tape. SSE has confirmed that this is the route of the Western Isles Underground Connector Cable. There have been no decisions taken as yet to cut the trees but SSE is in consultation with Highland Council.

Nick Richards, HC Forestry Officer had been in communication with G&DCC to inform them that ownership of the Avenue was still being investigated but it was thought to have passed from Forestry Commission to HC. HC has discussed with SSE the most appropriate and least damaging route for the underground cable and the marked trees indicated ones which may need to be removed. HC would require mitigation measures i.e. replanting or tree safety work, and if Forestry Commission owns the trees they would probably require the same. There are no Tree Preservation Orders on these trees.

Members were concerned to learn that a limb had been removed from one of the trees but it appears this may have been done to allow access into the field. It was agreed that G&DCC contact SSE, HC and FC to let them know that the community wish to protect the Avenue and would be very concerned at any trees being cut down.

E-On update – they wish to increase the capacity of the Windfarm, this would not mean an increase in number or size of turbines but instead installing turbines which can produce more electricity. E-On are preparing a scoping request. This means that Community Benefit negotiations are likely to be put on hold until final capacity of the turbines has been decided. Meanwhile work has started on upgrading the access track at Corriemoillie and tree felling on the Windfarm site is due to start soon.

Infinergy / LEO update – Fiona Milligan thanked everyone who responded to the LEO scheme newsletter. She requested a stand at the Summer Fair where she could be available to answer questions about LEO – members agreed. There have been some issues which she is sorting out; one was that not all households had received the newsletter. Although the Extension has passed from Infinergy to Eneco, Fiona will continue in her role with the LEO scheme. Scottish Govt is very

interested in the format and is keen to see it work. If you have any enquiries please contact Fiona Milligan, Infinergy, Tel: 01463 732514, Mobile: 07825744712 Email: f.milligan@infinergy.co.uk. The office is moving into Inverness centre in 3 weeks.

SSE Beaulay – Mossford power line update – over line work will continue around Corriemoillie. Towers 4-9 (Corriemoillie heading east) will be constructed over next few months and there is some forestry work to be done in the same area.

Jones Bros update – work started on the Windfarm Extension last week. Siemens expect to start bringing turbine components in July / Aug. The landslip at Tarvie will be a problem if it has not been repaired by then. TranServ / Bear have not responded so Jones Bros are taking it up with Transport Scotland. Jennifer Haslam felt it was taking far too long to fix the road; G&DCC members agreed. Sec to contact Scottish Govt Transport Minister about the situation.

Jubilee Tree – Garve Village Hall Trustees have given their permission to put up a plaque in the hall. John Hood has made the slate plaque at a cost of £103.68, which includes a generous discount on the usual price. Sec to write a letter of thanks. Bob Moir to liaise with Murdo Mackenzie about putting up the plaque in the hall. The small plaque for the tree is with Donnie Gunn and will be available soon. Sue Tarr to liaise with Lisa Marchi, SSE, to arrange a time for a ceremony at the tree. There is still a fence to be installed round the tree, which SSE had agreed to do.

Kenny MacLean proposed that the remaining £20.84 be transferred from the Jubilee Fund into the Senior Citizens Fund; seconded by Jennifer Haslam and all agreed.

WRA update – the AGM is to be in May but date yet to be confirmed.

Hydro schemes Community Benefit – with Robbie Bain, on-going.

Two Lochs Radio – they wish to build a mast at Achnasheen to increase broadcasting coverage in this area; there are various hurdles to overcome and we will be kept updated on progress. They broadcast for a few hours each day; it reverts to programmes from Manchester in between times.

SSE Power Cuts – the work has been completed at Achanalt; there is to be an interruption in the Gorstan area this week.

Grudie Picnic Area – Jennifer Haslam reported that the work done here was very good and it was looking nice. She was concerned that a tree had been cut down and branches left. Bob Moir to contact Peter Mackay.

Police Report – In relation to Road Traffic matters, seven persons have been charged for speeding, one person charged for drink driving and without insurance, and one person charged for using a mobile phone while driving. Dingwall Police Station is to change its opening hours from 24hrs a day to 8am-8pm every day.

Kenny MacLean commented that a car had left the road at Glascarnoch; also residents of Achnasheen were concerned about speeding traffic. Sec to contact PC Beverly to request speed checks at Achnasheen.

Treasurer's Report:

Total brought forward,	2664.95
Senior Citizens – no change,	827.18
War Memorial – no change,	140.86
Diamond Jubilee Fund –124.52 less J. Hood plaque 103.68,	20.84
Treasurer's Account – 1572.39 less hire of Garve Hall 42.00 & ink 41.50	1488.89
Balance carried forward -	£2477.77

As it is coming up to the end of the financial year, members were asked to agree the secretarial fees and appoint the auditor for the coming year. Eliza Leslie Melville proposed that Ann MacRae continue as auditor, seconded by Jennifer Haslam and all agreed. Bob Moir proposed that the Secretary and Minute Secretary fees be increased from £200 each to £250 each, seconded by Jean Bailey and all agreed.

Summer Fair on 15th June 10am – 4pm in Garve Village Hall – donations are welcome for the tombola and thanks for those already received.

The bank forms requesting information have been filled in and returned. The HC grant is expected to be about £970 this year, which is lower than last year.

Correspondence: By Email, E-On – info on Corriemoillie Windfarm Access; Forestry Commission – Design Plan for Longart and Garbat Forest; Action Plan Scotland on Human Rights; NHS – Conference on Health Inequalities in Highland 30th April 2013; Play Seminar 4th March 2013; Lochluichart Estate – Long Term Forest Plan Scoping Report; Garve Village Hall – confirmation for Jubilee Tree Plaque in Hall; E-On – update on Corriemoillie Windfarm; PI Renewables – Carn Gorm Windfarm Proposal; SSE – update on Beaulay – Mossford power line and Corriemoillie Sub station;

Robbie Bain – Carn Gorm Windfarm area CC boundaries; PC John Beverly – Police Report; Lochcarron CC mins.

By Post, Fields in Trust – Playing Fields Protected Sites; SSE – Business Plan Consultation; SSE – Invite to Inverness Depot.

AOB (Members) – Eliza Leslie Melville - has E-On been in contact about construction of Windfarm roads? E-On has been in discussion with Jones Bros but nothing has been confirmed.

Jennifer Haslam - the HC clearance along the roadside at Gorstan has left piles of wood chips in the ditch. Apparently they have been cleared in the last couple of days.

SSE has not yet done the Deer Fence at Grudie Power Station –the deer on the road are a danger to traffic. Sec to contact Lisa Marchi.

School bus turning at the Church - having spoken to the driver it was highlighted that some overhanging branches made it difficult for large vehicles to get turned without clipping the verge. Eliza Leslie Melville to deal with.

Bob Moir - the traffic lights at Tarvie had failed one evening. They had been restored quickly though. Members also noted that people are throwing rubbish out of their car windows while waiting at the traffic lights.

Kenny MacLean - Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon CC have got a website up and running and have offered to exchange promotion of community fundraising events etc. Members agreed it would be a good idea.

Post Office information - Achnasheen currently has an outreach Post Office service in Achnasheen Village hall every Tues 2-4pm and Garve Post office is open on Wed and Thurs 3.30-5.30pm.

Highland Council Bulky Uplift service can now be booked online. There is a charge of £15. More details on HC website. Jennifer Haslam wished to congratulate the driver of the Wed service who lifts bags from the laybys and keeps the bins repaired.

The Chairman has received a request for empty jam-jars, please contact him if you have any spare.

AOB (Public) Pam Morrison has been in contact with Charles Kennedy's office about the motorbike noise issue, but nothing further yet.

Reports & Consultations:

FCS Review of Longart and Garbat forest design – members felt that the forest paths were very popular for people walking and that they were a local asset to the community. It would be good to link the paths up. Sec to respond.

Scottish Govt Consultation Community Justice Women Offenders – no comments.

SSE Business Plan Consultation – no comments.

Planning – Kenny MacLean noted that two building warrants had been applied for.

One planning application has been determined – 100kW hydro scheme at Strathbran, permission granted.

Licensing – none.

Dates of future meetings:

Tues 2nd April 2013 7pm Garve Village Hall

Tues 7th May 7pm Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 4th June AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting 7pm Garve Village Hall

Tues 2nd July 2013 7pm Achnasheen Village Hall

Eliza Leslie Melville left the meeting.

Scoping Report: Lochluichart Estate Long Term Forest Plan – no comments.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.