

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting
held 3rd Sept 2013 in Achnasheen Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie; Mairi MacNaughton (SEPA); Martin MacPhee (Eneco); Mark Turvey (Natural Power); 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Eliza Leslie Melville, Jean Urquhart MSP, William Gilfillan, Cllr Cockburn, Fiona Milligan, Dennis Kearney.

Declarations of Interest: None.

SEPA Floodline Service - Mairi MacNaughton from the Dingwall office gave an outline of what Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) does and the Floodline service; there are two Floodline areas in the G&DCC area and households in the Achanalt area have recently received letters about Floodline. There are Flood Maps for Garve and Strathbran; new ones will be coming out in January of next year. Floodline aims to give an early warning when there is risk of flood. Flood Alerts are general warnings based on weather forecasts of heavy rain. Flood Warnings are specific to local rivers and when flooding is imminent. Flood information is available on Floodline 0845 988 1188, and more information on flooding and how to prepare is on the SEPA website www.sepa.org.uk

The Strathbran Flood Warning area is mainly agricultural but the railway and road could also be affected by floods. The Garve Flood Warning area covers Gorstan and Garve and gives the "one in two hundred year" flood outline. Anyone in this area can sign up to Flood warnings and they will receive a phone call when there is a danger of flooding. Some households in Garve are signed up for alerts and warnings; SEPA would like to encourage more to sign up. This can be done online or by phone or by filling in the form on the leaflets supplied. Any specific questions can be emailed to Mairi on mairimacnaughton@sepa.org.uk. Warnings are based on information received from gauging stations on the rivers which measure a rise in water level, rain gauges in the hills, weather forecasts. Alerts aim to give 24 hour advance warning then Warnings give immediate danger of floods. These advance warnings means that people may have time to move their photos and important documents e.g. insurance to a place of safety; move the car; these things should have priority over the furniture. Information on what to do if you get flooded is on the SEPA website or www.scottishfloodforum.org with tips like putting a sandbag in the toilet to prevent sewage backing up.

There was a query about where to get sandbags, as a house in Station Road had been flooded last year. Sandbags are not provided by SEPA but by Highland Council.

Chairman's comments: The Chairman attended the Lochcarron Community Council meeting which was mainly concerned with the proposed Kishorn development; and the Marybank, Scotwell & Strathconon CC meeting which was inquorate, and the NHS Skye, Lochalsh & Wester Ross Public Partnership Forum in Achnasheen. He will be chairing this forum in the future. It is an opportunity for people to ask questions about local health care issues. There has been an overspend in the out of hours GP cover. He was unable to attend the Mid Ross District Partnership and the Torridon & Kinlochewe CC meeting. Parent Council update - Mrs Ritchie of Strathpeffer Primary is acting head of Strathgarve until Oct. Parents' opinions on the "cluster school" system and how it has benefitted Strathgarve are mixed. The Nursery Teacher post is also vacant. The Parent Council is interested in the Flower Show idea. They are holding a fashion show at M&Co on 1st Oct and have a fundraising car boot sale this Sunday.

The Church Sale of Work will be on 2nd Nov; there will be a joint Communion and Christmas Service at Kinlochluichart Church on 22nd Dec.

All G&DCC minutes and agendas are available at www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict; Garve PO; Garve and Achnasheen Village notice boards; in

the AGNV and on the AGNV website; direct from the Secretary on gdcc@fsmail.net or tel/fax 01997 414201; and at every G&DCC meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held 6th Aug 2013: Kenny MacLean noted that the Ward Forum date should have read September not August. Amended minute proposed by Jennifer Haslam and seconded by Alex Mackenzie.

Matters Arising:

Plastic Glasses - HC has decided not to enforce the serving of alcohol in plastic glasses.

Eneco Update - Kenny Maclean explained that following complaints in the press about hold ups caused by the transport of turbine components, a member of the CC had been counting the number of vehicles in the tailbacks each day. These varied from 8 to 183; another person had counted over 200. There have been occasions when traffic from the Achnasheen road have been unable to get out of the junction. There was a report of a couple who missed their hospital appointment as a result. One convoy was very late leaving Invergordon and the Ferry buses were held up. It was felt that the times of the convoys had not been publicised enough and should be included in radio traffic reports on Moray Firth and BBC; use could be made of the electronic notice boards. It was also felt that the police presence varied with the motorbikes working better and that there should be traffic control on the Gorstan junction to let people out onto the A835. Martin MacPhee acknowledged there had been problems and was concerned about people who had missed appointments or the ferry. Eneco would like to know about these incidents. From now on there would be one transport daily of 3 lorries leaving Invergordon at 9am and arriving at Glascarnoch approx 12.30pm - the aim would be for a standard schedule. The deliveries will continue for 7 weeks which includes a break of one week. The components for 11 turbines are already on site. Construction has started on the first turbine - this was held up for a few days due to the wind being too dangerous for the crane to operate. The civil engineering is expected to be finished mid Oct. G&DCC to receive a weekly picture update of progress on the site - members agreed this would be interesting. Dennis Kearney will no longer be attending G&DCC meetings but has enjoyed them.

Deer Fence at Grudie - gaps under the fence and bundles of old wire not yet removed and the gate is still locked. Jennifer Haslam requested that a SSE representative meet her to walk along the fence so they can see the situation. Secretary to contact SSE.

Potholes at Church - these have been filled in.

Invitation to Chief Superintendent Innes - no reply.

Road sign at Blackwater Bend - has been fixed. Also the loose kerb stone in the lay-by at KCR has been marked presumably for repair.

Bench in Garve village - the HC policy is to remove benches which are not fit for purpose. This seat is well-used.

Gorstan Junction - no improvement in standing water at the BT box. The sightlines at Gorstan Junction need clearing - the shrubbery needs cutting back and the grass verges have not been cut this year from Gorstan to Achnasheen. There is a "dead end" sign at Gorstan that has been obscured by bracken.

Liter Consultation - following G&DCC response to the consultation a questionnaire has been received. Chairman and Secretary to fill it in.

Senior Citizens' Dinner - members agreed the menu and that Garve Hotel was the most suitable venue this year. Secretary to confirm the booking for 2nd Dec, 6 for 6.30pm.

CC constitution - following consultation the HC have made amendments to all CC constitutions. Kenny MacLean proposed that G&DCC adopt the new constitution as laid before us by the Highland Council; Bob Moir seconded and all were in favour. The new constitution was signed by Kenny MacLean, Alex Mackenzie and Bob Moir on behalf of G&DCC.

Police Report - none received this month.

Treasurer's Report:			
Total balance brought forward	3036.58		
Senior Citizens Fund	1244.37		
Less Garve Hall meeting	-5.00	1239.37	
War Memorial no change	140.86	140.86	
Treasurers Account	1651.35		
Less Garve Hall Aug 2013 meeting	-14.00		
Less Tesco Printer ink	-42.00	1595.35	
Carried Forward		<u>£2,975.58</u>	

Other financial matters: Remembrance Service Wreaths - 3 wreaths are laid; one is supplied by HC for a Councillor to lay and two are bought by G&DCC of which one is laid by a community councillor and one is laid by a member of the community. Agreed to consult Uisdean Menzies. Secretary to write a letter.

The Parent Council have requested a donation towards their Panto trip. Members felt G&DCC could not afford a contribution.

Correspondence: By Email, Gov Policy - Planning Scotland's Seas Consultation 2013; Gov Policy - Marine Scotland, Consultation 2013; HC Amended CC Constitution; Joanne Cameron - Skateboard Park require formal letter of support; HC Quality Awards Nomination Form - agreed to nominate Margaret Ross for her longstanding support to Strathgarve Primary School; HC CC Policy; Highland Third Sector Conference; Robbie Bain - Ward Forum Poster; Lochcarron CC mins; Ferintosh CC - info on their decision to object to Fairburn Wind Farm Ext. By Post, NHS Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Ross Memorial Review - invitation to participate in a group - Chairman to make contact.

AOB:

Bob Moir reported that the drain beside the telephone exchange in Garve was overflowing whenever there was heavy rain and needed clearing. Sec to contact Bear.

Jean Hollingdale said a member of public had complained about lack of signs for Garve Station car park, and that cars were parking in residents' parking bays instead of at the Station. Previously Network Rail had informed G&DCC that there was no public access to the station yard; when the Chairman contacted them recently he was told that the station yard is the designated car park. Sec to request better signs at Railway Station to alleviate parking problems elsewhere in the village.

Consultation: - Planning Scotland's Seas - no comments.

Planning: There is one new planning application - 1 span 33kV overhead power line at Luib. No comments.

Dates of future meetings:

Tues 1st Oct 2013 at 7pm in Garve Village Hall

Tues 5th Nov 2013 at 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 3rd Dec 2013 at 7pm in Garve Village Hall

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

Don't forget to