

~~Draft~~ Minutes of Garve & District Community Council meeting
held 4th Feb 2014 in Garve Village Hall

Present: Kenny MacLean (Chairman), Jean Hollingdale (Secretary), Jean Bailey (Treasurer), Jennifer Haslam, Sue Tarr (Minute Sec), Bob Moir, Alex Mackenzie, Cllr Ian Cockburn.

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

Apologies: Eliza Leslie Melville, Fiona Milligan.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Chairman's Comments: Condolences to the family of Reg Bedwell who has passed away.

The Chairman was unable to attend the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross NHS Redesign of Services meeting. He attended the Wester Ross Public Partnership Forum. He was unable to attend the Ross Memorial Site Redesign meeting. Members felt it was important to retain as many services as possible at Ross Memorial. The Church of Scotland is holding a Soup Lunch this Saturday in Strathpeffer Church Hall 12-2pm. William Gilfillan is moving from HC Corporate Manager to Community Services, the new dept which includes roads.

The Parent Council AGM is tomorrow evening.

All G&DCC minutes and agendas are available at Garve PO, on Garve and Achnasheen Village notice boards, online at www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict, in the AGNV and on the AGNV website, direct from the Secretary on gdcc@fsmail.net, tel/fax 01997 414201 and at every G&DCC meeting.

Approval of the minutes of meeting held 7th Jan 2014: G&DCC received a communication from Karen Grant, Parent Council, noting that the new teacher's name was Mrs Laird, not Lambert as stated in previous minutes. G&DCC apologise for the mistake.

Amended minutes proposed by Jennifer Haslam and seconded by Alex Mackenzie.

Matters Arising:

The drain at Gorstan and loose kerbstone at Garve Hall have both been repaired. Some offlets at Grudie and elsewhere on the Achnasheen road have been cleared but not the ones causing water to run down the road at Grudie. Cllr Cockburn thought that drainage work was being done according to priority within HC area; will look into the situation.

Kessock Bridge - work starts on 8th Feb for 20 weeks. Some streets in Inverness remain closed until May for flood defence works.

Eneco update - all turbines except one are up and doing test runs. One blade got damaged during bad weather. The official opening will be in early May 2014.

Killin Railway Fence - the repairs have been put back by 3 months as traffic lights are needed to carry out the work.

Killin Level Crossing - the bushes have been cut back, improving visibility.

Garve Railway Footbridge - work not started yet as works are still going on at Achnasheen Bridge, which is taking longer than expected. There has been night work on the railway at Achnasheen and elsewhere.

Garve Level Crossing - members felt that the overnight road closure at Garve Level Crossing hadn't been publicised enough. Residents in Garve had received letters on 9th Jan but there was no other warning to road users until the morning of the closure. Cllr Cockburn noted that HC, Bear and the emergency services were unaware of the closure. G&DCC to send a letter to Network Rail complaining about lack of notice.

Garve residents have also been notified of a partial road closure on 25th & 26th Feb to install the new barriers.

Bingo Night on 15th Feb - arrangements are in place. Raffle prizes are welcome.

Flower Show - progressing well, four sponsors in place.

Police Report - none. The missing local man has been found in Strathpeffer. There is another missing person alert in the Inverness area.

Treasurer's Report:

Total balance b/f	2394.58	
Senior Citizen's Fund	683.37	
Less Bingo Prizes	21.34	662.03
Bench Fund - no change	50.00	50.00
War Memorial - no change	140.86	140.86
Treasurers Acc. - no change	1520.35	1520.35

Carried Forward

£2373.24

G&DCC has received a letter from the bank offering internet banking. The Treasurer felt it would be useful to give accurate statements for each meeting, but would not intend to make payments online. All agreed.

Correspondence: By Email, Bravo Scozia Ride 7th June - a tough but stylish vintage bicycle ride from Strathpeffer via Garve and Croick to Ullapool mostly off-road, plus the Little Bravo from Strathpeffer to Little Garve and back. Highland Third Sector Interface update; SSE Sustainable Development Fund; Sustainable Development Fund - money available; Scottish Woodlands - Lochluichart Long Term Forest Plan; Proposed National Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy; Strathpeffer CC mins; SEPA - Flood Warning Service.

By Post, Carn Gorm Consultation notification; John Muir Trust - leaflets advertising "A celebration of Scottish Watersheds"; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Plan for Highlands & Islands 2014-2017; SAC - Renewable Energy for Communities.

AOB - Bob Moir noted that the fence at the school car park had been knocked over. HC are aware.

Alex Mackenzie said that the "P" sign at the checkrail corner at Blackwater had turned around. Cllr Cockburn to follow up.

Sue Tarr brought up the possibility of a community broadband scheme using windfarm money. It appears that Garve and Achnasheen are due for fibre optic rollout in the latter half of 2016, so it is unlikely anything could be done before then but it might be possible to build on this to give all households improved broadband. Cllr Cockburn is going to forward details of an organisation which helps communities to do this and is currently helping Marybank / Strathconon.

Jennifer Haslam said that there are two places where the crash barriers have been damaged and require repair - one at Grudie Bridge which has been waiting for repair for a long time and one at Lochluichart Lodge. Cllr Cockburn to follow up.

Consultations:

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Draft Highland plan 2014-2017 - no comments.

Lochluichart Estate Long Term Forest Plan - no comments.

Planning:

Two planning applications have been determined. Additional wooden poles at Strathbran, granted; additional wooden pole at Corriemoillie, granted.

There are two new planning applications.

Land 4km NE of Garve, Carn Gorm Wind Farm - formation of 42mW wind farm, including erection of 14 wind turbines on 70m towers (height to tip 115m)(rotor diameter 90m), erection of control building and sub-station, erection of anemometer mast, formation of hardstandings, borrow pits, access tracks, temporary construction compound and site entrance/ turning facility.

Cllr Cockburn wished to make a number of points. Strathpeffer CC has agreed to submit an objection to the windfarm, and Cllr Cockburn is also going to object on two points -

1. Visibility of the windfarm affecting the Ben Wyvis massif. 2. The noise report was not adequate and did not address the fact that Strathgarve Primary School is a sensitive site due to children's ears being more susceptible to damage from infrasound (low frequency sound).

Members felt that parents would be concerned if there were possible risks and should ask for more information on frequencies emitted and in relation to the school. One member felt that Cllr Cockburn was against the wind farm and that the noise report would be assessed according to the guidelines.

Bob Moir proposed that G&DCC submit a comment to the planning dept highlighting concerns that there was not enough information about how the noise would affect the school; Sue Tarr seconded. Members voted 6 for and 1 against; G&DCC to submit comment.

Land Off A835, 560M SE Of Aultguish Inn Garve, Erection of 12m high lattice tower with 2 antenna, 2 transmission dishes and equipment cabins enclosed within compound and formation of access track - members had no comments.

Date of next meeting:

Tues 4th March 2014 7pm at Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 1st Apr 2014 7pm in Garve Village Hall

Tues 6th May 2014 7pm in Achnasheen Village Hall

Tues 3rd June 2014 7pm AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting in Garve Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.