**Minutes of the Garve & District Community Council meeting**

**held on 2 August 2016 in Garve Village Hall**

**CC members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble and Sue Tarr. **Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR), Andy Russell (EDF), Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and 3 members of the public.

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

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (CC Treasurer), Bob Moir (CC member), Keith Boa (SSE) and Robbie Bain (HC Ward Manager).

**Declarations of Interest:** none.

**Chairman’s Comments:** The Chairman congratulated John and Jeanette Fenwick on their Saltire Society housing award. He was unable to attend the open day organised by the Friends of Lochluichart Church on 9 July or the NHS futures meeting on 15 July. He attended the Eneco/co-operative drop in on 6 July, 22 people have signed up to the Co-operative tariff, none to the Eneco tariff. Some people are finding a saving of over 20% compared to their current tariff however, there is no E 10 tariff available at the moment. The Co-operative hope to attend a CC meeting at some point. Eneco have cancelled their plans for a windfarm tour later this month.

The Chairman attended the Garve Energy steering group’s presentation on 12 July. The group has some new members joining the group and more home surveys have been arranged. The group found the feedback forms that were filled in at their meeting useful. Church update - the next services are on 14 August, 28 August and 11 September. Sharon Wright has been in touch to say the legal paperwork for the playpark is now with FCS. It was delayed due to sick leave. Caroline Gamble noticed some forestry fence posts were uprooted and presumed they had been used on a campfire about a month ago. The Chairman will pass this onto Sharon and FCS. The Chairman requested that any issues raised with the CC are brought to our attention with dates and times of the incidents please.

All G&DCC agendas, minutes and dates of future meetings are available on the CC website [www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict) or by contacting the Secretary on gdcc@fsmail.net or at Broadoaks, Grudie Bridge, By Garve IV23 2QB.

They are also available on the Achnasheen Village notice board and via the G&DCC emailing list. The Secretary suggested she would put additional copies into Garve PO so members of the community could take copies away with them.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on 5 July 2016 were proposed by Jennifer Haslam and seconded by Kenny Maclean.

**Matters arising** - **AGNV** – Bob and Kenny met with Steve and Moira on 13 July (see attached report). £1,500 has been given away by the Management Committee since 31 March which they have reported in their last issue (£750 to Befrienders Highland, £550 to Highland Hospice Helping Hands and £200 to Highland Hospice Brick by Brick appeal). This would leave the CC a starting point of around £900. The Chairman suggested a steering group be set up to discuss the way forward. CC members, those who had already offered the CC help on this matter and residents of the community would be welcome to come along to share their thoughts. Date/time TBC.

**Community Needs Survey** - Concern has been raised, by some, that an attempt should be made to increase the response rate. Amanda Bryan from Aigas Associates has written to the CC saying that they have accepted additional surveys that they received after the deadline. A total of 123 out of 284 surveys issued have now been completed. Amanda went on to report that this is around the 40% response rate, that gives a +/- 7% accuracy that the responses received would reflect the wider communities' views. Caroline Gamble, who was unable to attend the last CC meeting, thought the CC had already agreed a plan to increase turnout. A member of the public was concerned a low response rate would be questioned in the future. Following discussion, it was agreed by three votes to one abstention that the CC would request Aigas Associates to carry out additional work to increase the response rate. The CC had allowed 5-6 days in the budget for this additional cost if this work was required. It was suggested that Aigas Associates concentrate on the areas with the lowest response rate. It is hoped a final report would be ready by the time of the next CC meeting on the 6 September.

**EDF update** – There have been several problems reported with the electronic signs on the A835 and A832 warning motorists about wide loads. These issues have been passed onto Platform PR and EDF who have acted quickly to resolve them and have now appointed a new contractor to supply signage. The signs have also been moved from Grudie to east of Achnasheen and from Rogie Falls to Moy Bridge. Text updates are available to give drivers advanced notice of when wide loads are due. Andy Russell made the point that a “convoy” could consist of two or three Lorries. Weekly updates are provided to EDF liaison members and Kenny passes his copy of the update onto all CC members however, planned timings are subject to change as Police Scotland have the final say. At the end of last week, wide loads started leaving Invergordon at 5.30am rather than 9.15am and this has resulted in the journey time being cut by around 2 hours. Feedback on the earlier times is helpful and is indeed welcomed by EDF. It was noted the morning train to Inverness passes over the Garve level crossing around 7.55am, about the same time the wide loads are expected through Garve. EDF noted this. EDF are aware of roadworks due to start on 22 August on the trunk road and are already liaising with BEAR and Police Scotland. On site, a large and medium sized crane are now on site to erect the towers and the first of 17 turbines was completed last night. The second tower is half built today. Val MacIver showed CC members pictures taken on site of these towers. The big crane takes two days to be dismantled and moved to the base of the next tower. Work at the Corriemoillie substation continues, all cables on site have been laid and the cable from the site to the substation is now being installed through the ducting down the hillside at 800 metre lengths. Local contractors are working alongside RJ Macleod; work force numbers vary but can be 50-60 on a typical day. The damaged trees west of Garve are in the process of being tidied up and liaison between BEAR, RJ Macleod, the landowner and EDF is ongoing. Replacement trees will be planted in due course. Val MacIver and Andy Russell were thanked for their detailed updates.

**SSE update** - traffic lights were removed from the A832 east of Achnasheen on 14 July however, the traffic lights were reinstalled a few days ago as cable installation works are ongoing. Keith Boa has asked the contractor to increase signage on the roadside as he has received comments that this could improve safety. Joint bays will shortly be connected and then reinstatement of the grass verges can commence. Caroline Gamble mentioned she had received a letter from SSE informing her that there will be some power interruptions in the Little Garve area, dates TBC.

**Silverbridge/Rogie Falls toilets** – The Chairman and Secretary went up to Silverbridge this evening before the meeting to see how things were. The lights have now been switched off, the windows have been closed and additional padlocks have been put on all the doors. Our fears that the back of the building would be used as a toilet have unfortunately come true. The mess has been photographed and will be sent to HC for comment. The roadside signs are still advertising toilets – Cllr Cockburn gave the Chairman verbal permission to use black tape to cover the word “toilets” and that he would inform HC accordingly. The Chairman will attend to this over the next few days. Cllr Cockburn went on to say this matter will be discussed at the next Ward business meeting. It was suggested signs should be put up at Silverbridge toilets stating where the next available public toilets actually are. Rogie Falls toilets appear to be open again.

**HC updates** – The Jetpatcher has been seen in the area. Sight lines at Gorstan Junction were cleared before an accident which took place on 12 July. Marshalling concerns following a cycle race have been passed onto Police Scotland. We are awaiting their response as to what the safety requirements actually are. The Secretary noticed yellow markings on the road at Gorstan junction on 20 July. This may have been in regard to a conversation the Chairman had with Cllr Green in Dingwall on 6 July where he was told that an anti-slip surface, rumble strips, replacing faded signs and extra drainage were all under consideration by HC for Gorstan junction. No mention of making the junction a stop junction rather than give way junction. The road markings maybe to do with BEAR roadworks due to take place at various junctions on the trunk road from 22 August. 20MPH road markings in Garve, bushes opposite Garve Village Hall, broken wooden fence and broken kerb stones in Matheson Road have all been reported. White lines in the car park outside Garve Village Hall as well as parking concerns on the junction and the extra bin requests have also all been reported to HC.

**BEAR updates** – 40MPH road markings on the road at the west end of Garve have been reported as have the new LED streetlights being on all day. Loose wires on the fence between the railway and the A835 trunk road have been reported both to Network Rail and BEAR. Network Rail did a repair on 22 July with further work due to have taken place the following week. The collapsed culvert at Tarvie was in the process of being repaired on 20 July.

**Garve level crossing fault** – Network Rail have confirmed the fault was due to a lightning strike which then caused power issues for a time.

**New bench** – it was decided to wait until the spring before pursuing.

**Defibrillators** – We are awaiting information from Carol Smith, Secretary of the LCT before taking this project forward. CC members noted that at the LCT Director’s meeting of 22 June, it was suggested 4 Defibrillators be purchased and located at Aultguish, Garve, Lochluichart and Achnasheen.

**Adoption of Garve bus shelters** – The CC and Eneco are awaiting a response from HC regarding issues raised at our last CC meeting.

**Leaning tower of Garve** - Thanks to Bob for pictures. It appears all is in hand.

**Fence at Loch Chullin** – CC members viewed pictures of the new fence which was recently completed.

**Broadband** – CC members noted the report from HC outlining the latest position and the new steering group set up in Achnasheen. They are looking at 3 options, a fibre/exchange-based solution, a wireless solution or a satellite solution. More details are available in the last issue of the AGNV and the group would welcome feedback.

**Ross-Shire Community Transport Scheme** – This group are hoping to extend their area of operation into our CC area however, VOLUNTEER drivers are required.  Full training will be given; commitment is flexible.  The scheme operates 7 days a week from 9am - 5pm.  If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please call 01349 862431 or email rva@rossvolact.org.uk Posters with more details have been supplied to Garve Village Hall, Garve PO, Achnasheen notice board and the CC website.

**Joint CC meeting of Ward 6 CC’s** – 5 out of 17 active CC’s in Ward 6 contacted our Chairman expressing a wish for such a meeting to take place. It was suggested that perhaps this should be left until the spring. The Chairman will liaise with Lochcarron CC and report back.

**Over 60’s** – Various locations for a bus trip were suggested including Cawdor Castle, Brodie Castle, Eden Court, Culloden Battlefield, Attadale Gardens and Inverewe Gardens. The Chairman will get quotes for buses and report back. Perhaps the bus companies may have some suggestions of places to go and see?

**Co-option**. The Chairman explained that under 7.1 of the CC Constitution, our co-opted members must not exceed a third of the total possible membership of the CC therefore, we have 2 vacancies.  The CC members consider it to be very important to have as broad a representation of our community as possible, as we cover a wide variety of community issues and to do this well, we need members from all corners of our large area, young or old.  We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month, either in Garve or Achnasheen and would welcome all nominations.  If you are aged 16 or over, reside in the Community Council area and are on the electoral roll and would like to be considered for co-option to the Community Council, please email gdcc@fsmail.net with your name and contact details.  Your nomination will be considered by Community Council members at their next ordinary meeting.

Cllr Cockburn left the meeting at 8.30pm and was thanked for attending.

**Police report** – no report received this month but the Chairman noted a press report about a Motorbike caught at Achanalt after clocking 118mph. The driver has been banned from driving for a year, fined £750 and will have to sit an extended test before getting their licence back. We also noted Police patrols were seen in the CC area on 10 and 16 July, both unmarked cars. Caroline Gamble informed us that cars have been driving at speed down into Little Garve. Police have been made aware by local residents.

**Treasurers report** – in the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman with help from the Secretary declared the following figures -Over 60’s fund, no change £696.77. Bench fund, no change £200.00. Community fund, no change £1,850.70. CC admin was £836.51 – 38.30ink = £798.21. Community Needs Survey, no change £4,600.00. A full report will be available on the Treasurer’s return. Audited accounts for the last financial period (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) are available on the CC website and at the CC meetings.

**Produce show on Saturday 10 September** – The Garve Village Hall is now booked so CC members can get set up the night before. Thanks to Chris and Ann MacRae for their help. Susan Erasmus has declined to be our judge. Dorrie and Ed Tarr have agreed to be our judges for the day and we send them our thanks. Raffle prizes would be welcome, a representative from EDF will present prizes, the CC whisky board will once again be in the Hall and we send our thanks to the “old bottach” who used to live down by the Railway Station for donating the bottle. There will also be a table in the Hall selling teas/coffee/baking and plants. The Hall will be open for entries to be placed from 8.30am until 10am with the Hall reopening to the public from 12noon until 2pm to view the produce - all welcome!

**Correspondences -** By Email – 3 emails from Jenna Allen – Pre-consultation on proposed telecommunication masts; HC – planning for week ending 8 July; Moira Harris – AGNV notes; BEAR Scotland – A835 fencing & 40mph zone acknowledgment; 4 emails from Network Rail – fencing & level crossing concerns; Susan Erasmus – produce show; Emma McCallum – Draft Lochcarron CC minutes; 2 emails from Katie Mackenzie – EDF updates; Alan Illingworth – AGNV; HC – planning for week ending 15 July; HC – Broadband briefing note; Bruce Taylor – Ledgowan planting update; 3 emails from Jane Cumming – suggestions for the over 60’s; HC – SSE fund; HC – Heritage awards; Amanda Bryan – survey response update; 4 emails from Jenny MacPherson – EDF update; HC – planning for week ending 22 July; HC – CC focus group on youth justice; Sharon Wright – playpark update; BEAR – resurfacing works on A835 w/c 22 August; Michelle Giblin – Wind farm tour and event cancelled; HC – planning for week ending 29 July; Sue Tarr – resignation, Keith Boa – SSE cabling update.

Two items were received by post – posters from Ross-Shire Community Transport Scheme and a flier for playpark safety fencing.

**AOB from CC members –** Caroline Gamble noted there are to be further rail strikes on Sunday 7 August, Monday 8 August, Thursday 11 August, Saturday 13 August and Sunday 14 August. More details are available on the Scotrail website - [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk)

**AOB from members of the Public** - No issues raised by those present.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** -Bruce Taylor at Scottish Woodlands has contacted the CC regarding further consultation on the proposed Ledgowan tree planting and also enclosed some species maps - CC members had no comments.

5159 - Pre-Consultation on Proposed Telecommunication Mast Site at the car park near Aultguish. This is in regard to preferred sites rather than what the mast may look like. It was noted those details would be in a future planning application - CC members had no comments.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues -** One new planning application has been received from HC, 16/02997/FUL – installation of windows and doors at Station House, Achanalt. HC has already granted planning permission as the proposals fall within permitted development rules. CC members noted the position.

**Dates of future meetings**

Tuesday 6 September 2016, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 4 October 2016, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 1 November 2016, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 6 December 2016, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 10 January 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 February 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 March 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 4 April 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 2 May 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 6 June 2017, AGM followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

It was with sadness that CC members learnt in the last few days that Sue Tarr, one of our longer serving members had decided to stand down. For around 10 years Sue has worked tirelessly not just for the CC but the wider Community in various ways and the Chairman paid tribute to her and thanked her for all her help and assistance over the years. It was hoped that, in time, Sue would look back on her time on the CC fondly. All present gave Sue a round of applause to show their appreciation of her work.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

*REPORT ON CC/AGNV MEETING*

*On the evening of Wednesday 13 July 2016, Bob Moir and Kenny Maclean from the G&DCC met up with Steve Jones and Moira Harris for about an hour to discuss the AGNV.  The report supplied to the CC on Sunday 10 July 2016 by Moira had been written by Steve and Moira.  It was generally felt by all present that the report covered the main points which had been raised in earlier emails between the CC and Moira.*

*It was noted £50 paid to the Distributor was a contribution towards their petrol over the year, rather than per mile.*

*The Management Committee has given away around £1,500 between 31 March 2016 and their AGM on 28 April 2016 to local good causes.  This explains the difference in their audited accounts dated 31 March 2016 and the figures quoted in emails to the CC.*

*The Management Committee wants to give back to the CC a similar figure to which it had received from the CC in January 2011 (that figure was £1,364.63) minus the cost of printing their final issue.  The final figure payable to the CC from AGNV will be around £900 as the final issue will cost slightly more to print than usual as it runs to 48 pages.   The final issue is currently with the printers and should be delivered to households and shops by the end of next week.  Steve hopes to transfer AGNV funds to the CC by 30 September 2016 at the very latest.  This allows time for sales of the final issue to come in.*

*The Domain for the AGNV website costs around £10 per year and was recently paid.*

*Steve and Moira are happy to pass over all contact details for advertisers, distributors, shops and subscribers.  It was noted the CC signed up to data protection rules on 1 January 2016.*

*Both Steve and Moira recommended the printers "For the right reasons" in Merkinch, Inverness as they had never let them down.  The printers prefer to receive files in PDF format.*

*Kenny asked Steve and Moira if they had any questions for the CC.  Steve and Moira had no questions for the CC.*