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

**held on 6 September 2016 in Achnasheen Village Hall**

**CC members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble and Bob Moir. **Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR), Andy Russell (EDF), Amanda Bryan (Aigas Associates), Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and 4 members of the public.

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

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (CC Treasurer) and PC Craig Rose.

**Declarations of Interest:** none.

**Chairman’s Comments:** Community Council members send their congratulations to former Community Councillor Ruari Matheson who became a grandfather again yesterday. The baby boy born to Roslyn and Jamie weighted 7lb 6oz. The Chairman was unable to attend the EDF site visit and liaison meeting on 30 August. The next services at Kinlochluichart Church are at 11.30am on 11 September and 2 October. 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. Additional copies are available in Garve PO so that members of the community can take them away with them.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on the 2 August 2016 were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Kenny Maclean.

**Matters arising - Community Needs Survey** – Since the last Community Council meeting, Amanda Bryan from Aigas Associates has confirmed that 124 from 294 responses were received.  This includes responses from the under 18’s.  This gives a turnout figure of 42%.  Some of these responses were received after the deadline but will be included in her final report.  The Chairman asked Amanda how the turnout could be increased without comprising the results already gathered.  Amanda started by explaining that turnout of around a third is good in a non-member survey such as this but that figure does depend on the size of the population.  Amanda felt that at 42% of a community of our population size, our results would be statically accurate of what the wider community’s views would be.  Amanda went on to say she felt our suggestion at the last Community Council meeting of targeting certain less responsive areas could squint the results as there are different demographics within the area.  There had been a suggestion to telephone everyone in the Community Council area but not everyone’s telephone number is publicly available and even if several people took part over the phone, it was felt that it wouldn’t make much difference to the overall results as it is already clear what people want for their community.  A point was also raised that to try and increase turnout could leave the Community Council open to the accusation that it wasn’t willing to accept the results already gathered.  It was agreed that to increase turnout would be more difficult than first thought and that we should accept the results that have been received.  It was also agreed that Amanda should write up her final report once any further feedback had been received from Community Council members on her draft report.  Amanda would also produce a two page summery that Community Council members would deliver to every house in the Community Council area.  The full report including comprehensive analysiswould be made available on the Community Council website and to other groups in the area.  Amanda would also hold a public meeting so that members of the public could hear a presentation of the results and could ask questions to Amanda directly.

Amanda was thanked for her time and help in this matter and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**EDF Update** – Discussions with Police Scotland regarding turbine transportation are ongoing. Departure times from Invergordon have moved from 5.30am to 6am on Police Scotland advise due to the darker mornings. There are no further plans to have components delivered on Saturdays. The Secretary reported four cars had been let through between trucks near Garve Hotel at 11am on 18 August. EDF noted this. There were no problems with turbine movements while roadworks took place at the Gorstan Junction. The wind on site had been a factor in recent weeks in regard to the construction of the turbines and unloading components from the trucks, however, despite this, 6 turbines have now been fully constructed with a further 6 under construction. The site visit on 30 August was attended by around a dozen people and visitors witnessed a base being installed, visited the control building and viewed bridge and road works on site. Those who attended the site visit commented how tidy the site was and a vote of thanks was expressed to EDF and RJ Macleod. Cables on site and wooden snow poles are being installed this week with cable joint works also ongoing. Reinstatement work at the first borrow pit has begun. Work in and around the Corriemoillie Substation is progressing well including the installation of meters. Those present felt the regular updates by text and email were very useful and welcomed, especially those that are sent at 11.45pm! A second site visit is planned. Grant Folley will discuss Community Benefit at the next liaison meeting, then at a Community Council meeting. It was agreed that Jennifer Haslam will now be the Community Council representative on the liaison group. Both Andy and Val were thanked for their detailed updates.

**SSE Update** – Work on the underground cable between Grudie and Achnasheen is ongoing. Caroline noted that a power interruption on 25 August was due to have taken place from 8.30am – 6.00pm but it was around 7.00pm before the power came back on. The power interruption on 4 September from 11.30pm to midnight seemed to go to plan better. SSE have apologised for the extended interruption.

**Community Newsletter** – A steering group meeting took place on 16 August. The note on that meeting will be attached to these minutes. The next steering group meeting will take place on Wednesday 21 September at 7.00pm in Lochluichart Community Hall – all welcome!

**Silverbridge/Rogie Falls toilets** – There now appears to be a question over who owns the toilet building at Rogie Falls. If it isn’t Highland Council, then perhaps the funding can be spent on Silverbridge toilets instead. Highland Council are to make further enquires and Cllr Cockburn will keep the Community Council informed.

**Over 60’s** **trip** – Quotes for bus hire were requested from Spa Coaches, D&E Coaches, Maynes Coaches and Scotbus. Quotes have been received and Community Council members will consider further possible venues before the next Community Council meeting. Perhaps a trip to the Cinema, Eden Court or Dingwall Players? Perhaps a meal at The Croft Restaurant? If any resident has turned 60 and would like to be added to the over 60’s invite list, please email gdcc@fsmail.net

**HC/BEAR updates** – Cllr Greene wrote on 12 August to inform the Community Council that Gorstan Junction would be resurfaced, including approaches on Highland Council roads. An anti-skid surface would be installed. Signage would be renewed on all approaches where required giving much clearer warning of the junction. Foliage on approaches would be cleared back. However, a Stop sign at the Gorstan Junction was not the prescribed alert while Give Way was. Resurfacing work would be subject to traffic control measures. It was noted that most of this work including some white lining had now been completed. Cllr Cockburn was thanked for arranging the side road bushes to be cut back and the trees trimmed back opposite Garve Village Hall. Community Council members asked for updates regarding the 20mph road markings on the roads around Garve Village. Cllr Cockburn confirmed this request has been passed on as had the damaged fence and kerbs stones in Matheson Road. Cllr Cockburn agreed to raise with BEAR our concerns about the 40mph road markings west of Garve Village. Cllr Cockburn confirmed the street lights on Station Road in Garve and in Contin were on all day due to a fault with the new lights. BEAR are working on a solution. The Secretary made the Community Council members aware of two accidents, one on the evening of 18 August when a car travelling on the wrong side of the road caused an accident at Hazelbrae corner. An accident involving badly parked cars in Garve Village on 13 August at 1pm was also noted. Concern was expressed about how traffic is parking and a suggestion was made that the repainting of the white lines in the car park may help. Cllr Cockburn noted the suggestion.

Cllr Cockburn was thanked for attending the meeting and left at 8.15pm.

**Defibrillators** – We have now received information from Carol Smith, Secretary of the LCT and an electric supply is required to each defibrillator to keep them at a set temperature and for the alarm to work. The alarm works in two ways, it alerts those in the area that either the Defibrillator has been stolen or that someone is ill and those who can help can come to the rescue. At the last LCT Directors meeting held on 19 August, Directors agreed it is up to the Community Council to decide where best to place these Defibrillators in the Community. It was agreed that the first step for the Community Council is to ascertain if Garve Village Hall, Achnasheen Village Hall, Lochluichart Church and Aultguish Inn were willing to have these Defibrillators outside their buildings. The Secretary will write to the relevant people. It may be possible to apply to the LCT for funding before their 30 September deadline but it was felt that responses from each property would be required first.

**Adoption of Garve bus shelters** – The old brown bus shelter in Garve was replaced on 16 August. The Community Council has not received any correspondence on this issue so it is presumed the matter is now between HC and Eneco who wished to adopt both bus shelters in the first place. The Secretary will write to Eneco for an update and to enquire when Eneco hope to replace the broken glass in the yellow shelter.

**Broadband** – no further news.

**Old CC files** – The Chairman has collected all 6 boxes holding the archive from Sue. He suggested Community Council members come to his house one evening to decide what to keep. Perhaps old files could be sent to the Highland Archive? Date TBC.

**Joint CC meeting** – Some Community Council’s would like a joint meeting before the winter. The Chairman is liaising with Highland Council over possible dates, hopefully a meeting can take place before the clocks go back at the end of October. All dependant on Cllr’s availability.

**Co-option** - The Community Council has 2 vacancies. The Community Council 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.

**Police report** - PC Craig Rose has written to the Community Council to inform us that 2 persons have been reported for dangerous driving at Achanalt due to excessive speed.  4 persons charged with speeding in general at Achanalt. 3 reported Road Traffic collisions at Gorstan Junction.  All minor non injury involving tourists. In recent days the Chairman has leant of a speeding incident on the A890 a few miles south of Achnasheen where a car was reportedly caught travelling at 150mph. The Chairman is making enquires to establish the exact story.

**Treasurers report** – The Chairman has spoken to the Treasurer on the telephone since the last Community Council meeting and can declare the following figures -Over 60’s fund, no change £696.77. Bench fund, no change £200.00. Community fund £1,850.70 minus £60.34 cups and engravings for the produce show = £1,790.36. CC admin, no change, £798.21 however, the Secretary has expenses to take out of this figure in due course for ink. Community Needs Survey, no change £4,600.00. Community Newsletter - £991.07. 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. Minute Sec. allowance – Sue has waived her allowance owed to her for the period 1 April – 31 July. The CC Treasurer will speak to the Treasurer of the Lochluichart Community Hall regarding our use of their premises over the last few months. The Produce Show is this Saturday. Thanks to Lochluichart Estate and others for their donations for the raffle and to Jean Bailey for making the roadside signs.

**Correspondences** -By Email – HC – planning for week ending 5 August; Carol Smith – Community Newsletter suggestion; 10 emails from Jenny MacPherson – EDF turbine transport updates; D&E Coaches – bus quotes; Maynes Coaches – bus quotes; Scotbus – bus quotes; 2 emails from Claire Blackwell – Community Justice and Highland Homelessness events; HC – planning for week ending 12 August; Cllr Richard Greene – Roadwork updates; 4 emails from Amanda Bryan – community survey; Robbie Bain – SSE letter; Vivian Roden – Community planning; HC – Community Justice event cancelled; 2 emails from Tom Black – Foundation Scotland report; HC – planning for week ending 19 August; For The Right Reasons – printers; Carol Smith – Defibrillators; John Fenwick – Community Needs Survey; Jenny MacPherson – EDF liaison group meeting (30 August); HC – planning for week ending 26 August; HC – planning for week ending 2 September; Lynne Shearer – Community Newsletter suggestions, PC Craig Rose – Police report; HC Policy – Digital training. Four items were received by Post – Moira Harris – AGNV cheque; Sue Tarr – thank you card, Forest Enterprise Scotland - Land Management Plan Consultation and a gardening catalogue.

**AOB from CC members** -Bob Moir discovered a broken branch hanging off a tree in Stirling Drive which was blocking the pavement and part of the road on 12 August. The Chairman passed this on to Highland Council and it was noted the branch had been removed the next day. Bob also noted the learning tower was still leaning. It is presumed works are ongoing. Caroline Gamble wondered if the footbridge at Garve Railway Station was to be repainted/repaired. It was noted that the last update talked about a repaint in 2019. The Secretary will ask for a further update from Network Rail and ask whether the bridge is a listed structure. The Secretary noted we had not received an update regarding the Postbox at Lochluichart which she first raised in January 2016. It was agreed the Secretary should write to Royal Mail for an update. The Secretary also brought to our attention that the wheelie bin in the Grudie layby had disappeared with its rubbish still inside. The Secretary will email June Ross to request an empty bin be placed in the layby. The Chairman reminded Community Council members that Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 13 November. The Treasurer will be asked to arrange a Wreath from the Community Council.

**AOB from members of the Public** – a member of pubic asked about grass cuttings. It was suggested that if she had any concerns to put the cuttings in a black bag and put them in her green bin or perhaps ask neighbours if they have compost bins. Another member of public brought to our attention that there was some concern by a neighbour of hers that there may be changes to the local bus services. The member of public didn’t know which services or companies could be affected or when possible changes would take place. The Community Council is not aware of any changes but will make enquires with the Highland Council. The member of public also asked about home energy surveys. She was advised to speak to representatives of the Garve & District Energy steering group who could advise her better. They are a completely separate group to the Garve & District Community Council.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and Consultations** – The Community Council has received a letter from Forest Enterprise Scotland regarding their Land Management Plan Consultation. The consultation can only be viewed online so the Chairman will send the link to Community Council members to view the consultation before the issue is discussed at the next Community Council meeting on 4 October. BT – payphone kiosk removal notices have appeared in Garve, Achanalt and Aultguish telephone boxes dated 15 August. The telephone boxes are to be removed because *“… phone box has had very little use over a significant period of time.”* The Community Council was not informed about this proposal. The deadline for comments is 26 September via the Highland Council’s planning department. It was agreed that the Community Council will write to say these telephone boxes must be retained on the grounds of remoteness, public safety both for local residents and tourists/hillwalkers and due to the poor mobile phone signal in the area. It was also felt that these telephone boxes are not vandalised so can’t be costing BT very much in upkeep.

**Building warrants, Planning issues and licensing issues** – The Community Council has received notice of 2 planning applications, 16/03252/FUL is the erection of a 6 metre telecommunications mast at the Corriemoillie Windfarm. 16/03831/FUL is the re-routing of a path at Silverbridge. Community Council members had no comments to make on either application.

**Dates of future meetings**

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

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

*Notes of the Community Newsletter Steering Group meeting held on 16 August 2016 in Lochluichart Community Hall*

*Present: Kenny Maclean, Jennifer Haslam, Jean Bailey, Alan Illingworth and Pam Morrison.*

*Apologies: Bob Moir and Carolyn Illingworth.*

*Kenny opened the meeting at 7pm and started by asking what did those present think about a Community Newsletter. The general feeling was that something would be better than nothing, but what did the people in the community want or expect? If the newsletter did indeed stop, it may never start again. It was felt by those present that we must try and keep it going in some form.*

*Alan Illingworth explained he had worked in publishing and was willing to share his knowledge with the group. He explained about page layout (3 columns as opposed to 2 columns per page), font size, paper edge cutting, A4/A5 etc … Alan went on to explain he could work a publisher computer program, but didn’t feel he was a chair or editor.*

*Kenny asked what should a Community Newsletter contain? Suggestions from around the table included train times, bus times, local directory of business’s, library times, CC minutes, LCT minutes, Hall Hire details as well as regular contributions from people in the community and the school. Perhaps crosswords and poetry would be a welcome addition and a different picture of a location within the community on each front page. Copyright was raised but Alan explained that a credit to the original source gets around this problem.*

*Currently it cost around £200 per issue and discussion then focused on costs from this point on. Jean suggested an application to LCT to fund a newsletter may be possible. Would A5 rather than A4 cost less to print? Kenny to make enquiries. Would adverts be necessary? No adverts would mean less admin.*

*Alan explained that a drop box model had been adopted before, where contributors emailed their work to a central email, which was then accessed by those who put the issue together. It was felt proof reading is vital, but mistakes can be made. A monthly publication would be nice but is it possible? Alan suggested we start gathering articles now so that we have a stock pile to fall back on once we are up and running.*

*The Newsletter is currently printed in Inverness. Jean offered to collect from the printers, but maybe there is a carrier passing we could use. Costs to be looked into.*

*Kenny felt we should ensure we are getting one copy free to each house in our own community first. Selling additional copies in shops is something we could look at once we were up and running. Kenny to audit to ensure we are not printing more copies than necessary.*

*Pam suggested a flier to every house asking for people’s idea, thoughts and suggestions. The ideas could be sent to the CC email. Jennifer suggested a suggestion box at the Produce Show in Garve on 10 September. Jennifer to print fliers.*

*Data protection rules were explained to those non CC members present.*

*It was acknowledged that this steering group may become the working group in due course.*

*Kenny suggested the group get together again in a month’s time. Hopefully by then, we would have some suggestions from the community to consider. Date TBC. More volunteers from the community would be welcome to attend.*

*Kenny thanked everyone for coming and for sharing their thoughts and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.*