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

**held on Tuesday 1 August 2017 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Caroline Gamble (from 7.15pm) and co-opted members Joe Stewart and Moragh Wylie.

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Cllr Kate Stephen, Val MacIver (Platform PR), PC Craig Rose, Pam Courcha (Contin Community Council) and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Community Council member Bob Moir, Grant Folley & Graham West (EDF), Fiona Milligan (Infinergy) and Norma Ross (Contin Community Council).

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm** and welcomed everyone. He reminded members of the public that they are very welcome to attend Community Council meetings and take part in the discussions under his guidance.

**Declarations of Interest -** Eliza Leslie Melville and Moragh Wylie both declared an interest in the Infinergy project. Community Council members confirmed that they had read the draft minutes and consultations due to be discussed tonight before the start of this meeting.

**Chairman’s comments -** All G&DCC agendas, draft minutes and dates of future meetings are available on the Community Council website [www.community-council.org.uk/GarveandDistrict](http://www.community-council.org.uk/GarveandDistrict) or by contacting the Secretary on [garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com](mailto:garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com) or at Broadoaks, Grudie Bridge, IV23 2QB. They are also available on the Achnasheen Village notice board or via the Community Council emailing list. Additional copies of the draft minutes are available in Garve Post Office and at these meetings so members of the community can take them away with them. The Community Council website receives around 150 hits per month. The website is updated every ten days or so. We now have 83 people on the emailing list.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 4 July 2017 in Achnasheen Village Hall were proposed by Moragh Wylie and seconded by Kenny Maclean.

Caroline Gamble joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

**Police report** – PC Craig Rose has written to say the Ward & local policing priorities are now as follows … protecting people, reducing anti-social behaviour, reduce violence, tackle substance misuse, making roads safer and tackling serious organised crime. In the month on June 2017, several road traffic offences took place on the A832 around Achanalt. Five speeders and two other road traffic offences were attended to. PC Rose informed tonight’s meeting that in the month of July 2017, seven more road traffic offences took place including five speeding incidents, one with no MOT and one for careless driving – in this case a fixed penalty notice was issued. The temptation of the open roads in the area were noted also, were the roads/infrastructure coping with NC500 traffic volumes? PC Rose also noted traffic lights on the A835 trunk road in the Inchbae area were reported for not being signed properly. The issue was promptly dealt with. Credit to the Highland Council’s Roads & Transport department who recently had to fix traffic lights late on a Friday afternoon after the traffic lights staying on red all the time on the A890 south of Achnasheen. Our Chairman got stuck in the resulting queue! The Secretary asked about an arrest at Rogie Falls. The male individual was not local and did not resist arrest after he had been pinned to the ground. Some Community Council members have noted Coaches trying to reverse into Rogie Falls car park which presents a hazard to other road users. Both Cllr’s Cockburn and Stephen will discuss the issue with BEAR, Police Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. Perhaps a bigger bell mouth junction is required? Pam Courcha (Contin Community Council) raised the issue of speeding and volume of traffic through Contin. Contin Community Council hope recently purchased speed signs will help with this issue which they hope will be installed by the Autumn. There is also concern in Contin regarding the Schoolchildren getting off the School bus safely. PC Rose will liaise with both the Primary and Secondary Schools. Both Caroline Gamble and Joe Stewart raised the issue of speeding down into Little Garve. PC Rose will visit the area from time to time when on patrol. It was noted that some motorbikes were on the island on the Gorstan Junction recently. It is believed one of the motorbikes had broken down. Press reports inform us that an individual travelling at 130mph on a motorbike has been fined £700 and banned from driving for nine months following an incident on the A890 at Ledgowan. The individual admitted driving carelessly while travelling as one of six motorbikes in a convoy. Police on patrol were drawn by the *“sheer noise”* from the six motorbikes. Further press reports inform us that an individual travelling at 105mph on the A832 near Achanalt was recently fined £600 and their licence was endorsed with six penalty points after admitting to a charge of careless driving. We thank PC Rose for taking the time to join us and for his detailed reports.

**Matters arising** – As reported at our ordinary meeting on Monday 12 June 2017, Cllr Kate Stephen continues to try and have **a slower speed limit through Lochluichart**. Friends of Lochluichart Community are experiencing problems pulling out of the layby at the Church. Sue Tarr, Secretary of the Friends group has sent Cllr Stephen some very good photographs illustrating the problems. Cllr Stephen will try and have “concealed entrance” and “school bus stopping” signs installed. The police are aware of the issue as are the other three Councillor’s for this Ward, the Ward Manager and the Highland Council’s head of Roads & Transport. We have suggested a Church sign would be helpful, pointing out where the Church actually is. Cllr Cockburn confirmed that the Church would have to pay for this, Contin Church had to pay for theirs. It was suggested that Cllr Stephen should talk to the School bus driver and the local Estate who both have experienced problems. Cllr Stephen would like to be contacted directly by local residents to hear of people's experiences. All properties in Grudie/Fannich/Lochluichart have been informed of Cllr Stephen’s request for information. Three residents have already written to Cllr Stephen. Cllr Stephen feels there is a “*strong case*” for a 50mph limit between the Lochluichart signs but acknowledges it won’t be easy or quick to have a speed limit put in place. Concerns about speeding were noted in last year’s Community Needs Survey (page five) where over 60% of respondents from the Lochluichart area agreed that a lack of speed restriction was a concern. It was suggested that verge cutting should be redone, this time cutting back trees on safety grounds regardless of whose land the trees are on. This would also improve the sight lines. Would double white lines be a solution? Cllr Cockburn felt drivers would slow down more if the limit was reduced to 40mph. PC Rose would support looking at a 40mph limit on safety grounds but suggested a formal police review of the section of road take place first. PC Rose will liaise with both Cllr’s Cockburn and Stephen on this issue. Community Council members would welcome sight of the report once available.

**EDF** – In the absence of Graham West, Val MacIver read out his report … *“It was great to meet up again at the opening event – we all looked great in the photo! The site has been running well with just one turbine off due to blade repairs and the amount of time for the work and curing. It’s either raining, windy or both. The ecology team are providing good news from the site with all things being done, from our winged friends through to bog restoration works that are currently ongoing and a fencing contractor has been selected and will commence soon as part of our requirements to install a new fence before planting works commence. The Education & Training fund is now operational and the initial awards are due to be made in the coming weeks. In relation to the Garve area fund, we have finally managed to arrange a meeting with Eneco to discuss both required amendments to the LCT in order to allow processing of the EDF monies for the Garve area and the opportunities to work together in relation of the Contin and Marybank shares of the fund. Grant Folley is to meet with Emma Smith (Eneco partner engagement specialist) on 10 August. Emma has recently taken over responsibility for the community side of the Lochluichart windfarm from Michelle Giblin. It is understood that Emma is due to travel to the Garve area w/c 14 August. It is hoped that agreement can be reached with Eneco regarding the next steps to allow EDF monies to be paid through the LCT. An update in this regard will be sent to the Community Council following our meeting with Eneco.”* We thank Val MacIver and Graham West for the updates.

Tom Black has informed us that minutes of the **Education & Training Fund** panel meetings can be sent to the Community Council. The minutes will also be made available on the Foundation Scotland website - [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoillie](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoillie) Iain Catto informed us that they will also circulate to the Community Councils in the area a list of the awards made by the Panel.  That will come out after the awardees have been informed first.  We thank both Tom and Iain for their updates.

**EDF/Eneco/Infinergy pay for a Development Officer?** LCT discussed employing a Development Officer at their Director’s meetings on 28 May 2014 and 4 June 2015 but due to the 4% cap on LCT running costs, it was felt a Development Officer was unaffordable. Fiona Milligan (Infinergy) has written and suggested contacting HIE where funding may be available through their community support program. The aim of LEADER funding is to build knowledge, skills and capacity in a local rural community and help build local development objectives. LEADER funding can also help with “match” funding from other sources. Fiona has also passed on details of an actual Development Officer. Details will be passed onto the new Development Company Board once they have been elected.

PC Craig Rose left the meeting at 7.45pm and was thanked for attending.

**Infinergy** – Eliza Leslie Melville and Moragh Wylie both declared an interest in the Infinergy project and left the room at 7.45pm. There is no further news since our last ordinary meeting but Fiona Milligan will let us know when confirmed dates for the community open days are known. Infinergy still plan to send newsletters to every house in the area advertising the community open days and are still looking at building six to eight turbines. Eliza Leslie Melville and Moragh Wylie then returned to the meeting at 7.47pm.

**SSE** - We asked when would the **verge reinstatement works** between Grudie and Kinlochewe restart and be completed. Discussions between the relevant parties are ongoing. The Chairman is being kept informed. The **rubbish** blown from Grudie Power Station has now been tidied up.

**Highland Council updates** – The suggestions of **a higher fence** between the football pitch and the road/houses in Matheson Road, Garve has been passed onto the Highland Council. The Highland Council will look at the possibility of a higher fence but this will be considerably more expensive than carrying out repairs to the existing fence. There is also increasing traffic volumes using Matheson Road due to developments in Strathgarve including the building of the new Playpark. Holes in the existing Football pitch were also noted – are these a Health & Safety issue? Cllr Cockburn suggested getting the fence fixed first.

The request for “slow” markings on the road on **the approach to the Gorstan Junction** was noted and acted upon in recent weeks by the Highland Council.

**Garve bus shelter** still awaits the second glass panel to be replaced. Cllr Kate Stephen understands this will be fitted shortly, hopefully before the Schools return from their summer holidays.

In the Community Needs Survey last September, there was some support for **a bus service into Dingwall and Inverness arriving before 9.00am**.  The Highland Council have confirmed that the Dingwall Academy School bus is also a public bus service which would have passengers in Dingwall for around 8.40am and Inverness for around 9.00am. There is also a train service arriving into Dingwall at 8.16am and Inverness at 8.50am. All current bus contracts will run until 31 December 2021. Timetables are available at [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk) or [www.decoaches.co.uk/timetables](http://www.decoaches.co.uk/timetables) (S10 service). “Hail & Stop” is still available on Westerbus services at Inchbae and Gorstan (01445 712255).

**Verge grass cutting** between Gorstan and Achnasheen has taken place over the last few weeks which we welcome after all the problems with Ragwort over the last few years however, as discussed earlier tonight, further cutting back may be required. Cllr Stephen will request a further cut. She confirmed all grass cutting is now in-house at the Highland Council.

The roads were again **swept in Achnasheen** on Friday 14 July 2017. This is the second time this year.

Sometime on Friday 21 / Saturday 22 July 2017, a number of items were **fly tipped** outside the Scottish Water building in Little Garve.  The Highland Council tidied up the rubbish a few days later, we send June, Katrina and the team our thanks. Some of the Community Council members have noted the state of the grounds surrounding the building, it appears just to have been abandoned by Scottish Water. Is there anything Scottish Water could do to discourage fly tipping in or near their building? We have asked for Scottish Water’s comments on this issue. Cllr Stephen has found the following website useful regarding water quality - <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/you-and-your-home/water-quality/waterqualitysearch> It was also noted that you may need a form when taking items to the Recycle centre. Forms are available at Ross House, Dingwall or [www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/6410/household\_waste\_declaration\_form](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/6410/household_waste_declaration_form)

The Highland Council notes that residents should report issues directly to them by calling the Highland Council’s Call Centre on 01349 886606, by visiting Ross House, Dingwall or via [www.highland.gov.uk/report](http://www.highland.gov.uk/report) In all cases, you will be given a reference number. The Highland Council also appreciate photos showing the actual problem.

**BEAR Scotland update** - BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, will be carrying out essential road maintenance works on two sections of the A835 Trunk Road east of Loch Glascarnoch. The works are programmed for overnight from Saturday 2 September 2017 to Sunday 3 September 2017, between 8.00pm and 7.00am. Due to the restricted road widths within this section, BEAR Scotland has no option but to close the road in order to ensure the safety of the workforce and members of the travelling public. The A835 will therefore be closed overnight in both directions east of Loch Glascarnoch. During this time, traffic will be stacked at either end of the closure and local access will be permitted when safe to do so to accommodate the demand. Access through the works site for emergency services will be maintained at all times. This update has already been passed onto those on the Community Council emailing list, is on our website and has appeared in several local newspapers over the last few weeks.

**The Garve & District Development Company** – The Company became a registered Company, limited by guarantee on Tuesday 9 May 2017 (565505).  There are now 49 ordinary members and one associate member. That’s an increase of 17 members since our last Community Council meeting in Garve (nearly 52%). Four members came forward to be on the Company Board so elections are now underway.  An informal public meeting was held on Wednesday 12 July in Garve Village Hall.  Notes on that meeting have already been sent to all Development Company members. Questions raised at the informal public meeting have been passed on to the relevant people which has resulted in the following … Other local group representatives on the Board – no interest expressed. Company Director job description – not available from Ross-Shire Voluntary Action as each role is individual to the Company. The following link may be a helpful guide – [www.oscr.org.uk/charities/managing-your-charity/trustee-duties](http://www.oscr.org.uk/charities/managing-your-charity/trustee-duties) The Company is not a registered charity but could be if the Board felt it necessary. A Development Officer’s salary would be dependent on the actual role and responsibilities. ACAS (**Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service**) would be able to help as they provide information, advice, training, conciliation and other services for both employers and employees. [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk) All these updates have already been passed onto Development Company members. A question was recently asked – what is the difference between a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Trust? This was covered when the LCT was originally set up. The Community Council minutes from 5 July 2011 explain the difference fully but essentially a Company Limited by Guarantee is more open and democratic. It also means the members have limited liability. The member of public who asked the question has been given a copy of our minutes from July 2011. The Community Council’s involvement in the Company will end once the Board has been elected but we will still liaise with the Company as and when required just as we do with the LCT and other groups in our area. Community Council members hoped the inaugural meeting of the Company goes well.

**Community Ceilidh** - Garve & District Community Council are again holding a Community Ceilidh for everybody (all ages) in the Community in Garve Village Hall on Saturday 19 August 2017 from 8.00pm until 11.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30pm. Music will once again be provided by “The Captain Stupendous Ceilidh Band”, back by popular demand! Soup and hotdogs will be available from around 9.00pm and those attending are welcome to BYOB and plastic glasses. FREE tickets will need to be obtained on a first come first served basis from any Community Council member **by next Monday 7 August 2017.** We decided at our ordinary meeting on 4 April 2017 to have a capacity of 60 so that there was room for dancing! Requests for tickets have already been received, 47/60 tickets have already been issued. A raffle (£1 per strip) will be drawn at the end of the night raising funds for Lucky2BHere who supply Defibrillators and give life support training. Donations for the raffle would be welcome and which can be handed in on the night. A flier advertising this event has been delivered to every house in the area. All fliers also appear on the “CC News” page of the Community Council website. Community Council members were asked for donations of bottles for the Community Council stall to be handed in to the Secretary’s house. It was agreed that left over bottles can go into the raffle at the end of the night. Payment for band and Caterer is in hand. Caroline would check what time the band would be arriving for a sound check. The Chairman would put up our Bunting and Balloons! Catering numbers to be confirmed after next Monday. We are grateful to KJ Mackenzie (Garve) Ltd who donated £25.

**Relocation of Lochluichart Postbox** – we have requested an update as nothing appears to be happening. Jake Diamont writes … *“I have contacted the local Collections Manager who has advised me that the site visit and CAT scan of the proposed installation site have now been completed.  The findings have been shared with our commercial property and real estate consultants who will progress the final consents.  Should no problems be raised with the sign offs, we are hopeful that we will be able to issue an instruction to proceed with the installation in the near future. I am unable to provide an exact installation date and I sincerely apologise for the disappointment this will cause.”* We thank Jake for the update.

**Treasurers report** – The Treasurer confirmed that the bank balance on Friday 14 July 2017 was £3,745.94. The Community Council admin grant from the Highland Council for 2017/18 is £879.74 minus £84.70 insurance = £795.04. July Hall hire was £20, £5.94 was for catering at the AGM. No invoice from John Grant, Joe to chase up. Catering and fliers for Development Company was £29.48. £24 deduced from Newsletter fund for fliers. Ceilidh fund was £774.50 minus £400 band and minus £19.99 fliers = £354.51. The remaining amount will cover Hall hire, catering etc … £25 donation from KJ Mackenzie (Garve) Ltd will be added to the Community fund. Audited accounts for the last financial period (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017) are available on the Community Council website, at Garve Post Office and at these meetings.

**Correspondences -** by Email - ePlanning – new planning applications at 30 June 2017; Tom Black and Iain Catto, Foundation Scotland – EDF Education & Training fund updates; Caris Pittendreigh, Graduate Film & Tourism Officer at the Highland Council – Tour de Coast “Daymarks” project; PC Craig Rose – police report; Laura MacAllister, Highland Council – roads update; Ken Hossack, BEAR Scotland – A835 Overnight road maintenance works (received via Robbie Bain); ePlanning – new planning applications at 11 July 2017; Keith Boa, SSE – updates; Emma MacCallum, Secretary Lochcarron Community Council – Draft July 2017 Community Council minutes; Val Cameron, Ross-Shire Voluntary Action – update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 14 July 2017; Molly Beresford, Dales Surveying on behalf of EE - pre-consultation document for a proposed telecommunications mast; Fiona Milligan, Infinergy - update for the Development Company; Jake Diamont, Royal Mail - Postbox relocation update; Sue Tarr, Secretary, Friends of Lochluichart Community & Cllr Kate Stephen – Traffic on the A832 through Lochluichart; ePlanning – new planning applications at 21 July 2017; Highland Council Policy – Draft Highland Outcome Improvement Plan; John Mackay, The Highland Council Community Services – Fence in Matheson Road; ePlanning – new planning applications at 28 July 2017.

Correspondences received by post – Katrina Mackenzie, KJ Mackenzie (Garve) Ltd - £25 donation towards the Ceilidh.

We also received nine membership forms for the Development Company by post and one Member Director form by post. Another Member Director form was received by email.

**AOB from Community Council members** – The Secretary wished to congratulate the Dingwall Academy Rock Challenge team who won the Scottish dance finals. LCT had awarded them £1,000 at their Director’s meeting held on Monday 21 November 2016.

Caroline Gamble noted works have begun on the Playpark in Strathgarve. It is further down from Wades Bridge than she first thought. The Playpark carpark has been built in recent weeks.

The Chairman noted that there is a handrail on the Footbridge in Garve Railway Station but not on the Footbridge in Achnasheen Railway Station. He reported this firstly to Scotrail who replied by saying *"we would like you to note that all railway infrastructure is the responsibility of Network Rail"* which he thought would be the case.  He then reported it to Network Rail where he understands the Stations Team has still to make a response. The Chairman will continue to chase this matter.

While going through old Community Council papers, the Chairman found papers relating to the Garve War Memorial from 2009. £140.86 was handed over to the Friends of Garve War Memorial from Community Council funds once they had set themselves up in March 2015. It was agreed such paperwork should be handed over too.

**AOB from members of the Public** – Cllr Cockburn noted the work done on the paths network around Silverbridge and Wades Bridge which he welcomed.

Pam Courcha (Contin Community Council) was pleased she attended this meeting, she found it helpful and appreciated the friendly feel to proceedings. The Chairman thanked her for her comments and hoped both her and Norma Ross would be able to join us another time. He felt it was important that Community Councils compared notes and that Community Council members were kept informed between meetings. Other Community Council representatives have attended our meetings over the years and found it useful.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – one consultation has been received from the Highland Council – Draft Highland Outcome Improvement Plan. The plan is a requirement of the Community Empowerment Act and brings together public agencies, third sector organisations and key community groups to work collaboratively with the people of the Highlands. The plan covers community investment, employability, digital connectivity and equality issues. The plan has one, three, five and ten year goals. Community Council members had no comments.

A second consultation is currently available on the Highland Council website regarding the Highland Council’s Draft Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022. This consultation has not been sent to the Community Council. The draft forty-four-page draft strategy covers the increase supply of homes in Highland, support people to live independently for as long as possible in their own homes, prevent and respond to homelessness and improve the condition of housing. Community Council members had no comments on this strategy but Caroline Gamble did note that “kit homes” are being installed in Dalmore, near Alness. They are modular houses built in a factory in Invergordon. The houses are open plan and wheelchair friendly. NHS Highland are involved in the Telecare available in such properties. Cllr Cockburn added that these houses are full of technology. Eight have been built and there is room for up to 32 on the site at Dalmore. Cllr Stephen believed some funding came from the City & Region deal and they have been nominated for a Saltire award. The Chairman will pass on details to the new Development Company Board as it may be of interest to them as 86% of respondents to last year’s Community Needs Survey felt the Community should care for its elderly residents (see page six of the report which is still available on our website).

<http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/News/Pages/TransformationalHighlandhousingprojectwinstopinnovationaward.aspx>

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**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - There are no new building warrants currently being shown on the Highland Council website for our area. Planning application 16/04599/FUL was for the installation of telecommunications equipment, 635 metres south east of the Aultguish Inn. The application was viewed by Community Council members at our December 2016 ordinary meeting. The planning application has now been withdrawn by the applicant. On Thursday 20 July 2017, we received a pre-consultation document for a proposed telecommunications mast in the same area. There were no new planning applications or licensing issues to consider this evening.

**Dates of future meetings**

*(Ordinary meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month unless stated otherwise)*

Tuesday 5 September 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall – apologies noted from Eliza Leslie Melville

Tuesday 3 October 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 5 December 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

*Tuesday 9 January 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall*

Tuesday 6 February 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 6 March 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 3 April 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 1 May 2018, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 5 June 2018, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall. Old minute books will be available to view.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend Community Council meetings and take part in the discussions under the guidance of the Chairman. A copy of the Constitution that every Community Council in the Highlands has to work to is available on the Highland Council website.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

As reported at last month’s ordinary meeting, the EDF Corriemoillie Windfarm officially opened on Wednesday 28 June 2017. Some of the Liaison group members were able to attend …



*Back row (l-r) Graham West (EDF), Jean Hollingdale, Kenny Maclean, Ed Tarr and Andy Russell (EDF)*

*Front row (l-r) Jennifer Haslam, Isabel Grant (Marybank CC) and Val MacIver (Platform PR)*