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

**held on 7 February 2017 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Bob Moir and Caroline Gamble.

**Also present:** Grant Folley (EDF), Val MacIver (Platform PR) and 9 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), co-opted member Joe Stewart and Fiona Milligan (Infinergy).

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm** and welcomed everyone and then went on to explain that the ordinary Community Council meeting due to have taken place on 10 January 2017 did not take place as it was not quorate. This was the first time this situation has arisen in several years. It had been hoped the meeting could be rescheduled for later in the month but this proved difficult. In the end, it was agreed via email to cancel the meeting. Updates from the January meeting would be presented at this meeting.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.Community Council members confirmed that they had read all draft minutes and consultations due to be discussed tonight before the start of this meeting.

**Chairman’s Comments:** As this is the first meeting of the year, the Chairman wished Community Council members and the Community a belated Happy New Year.

Congratulations are sent to Cllr Biz Campbell who recently remarried.

Members of the public were asked to note that only issues raised in person or in writing sent directly to the Secretary which includes the individual’s contact details would be discussed at Community Council meetings. Issues raised on someone else’s behalf by a member of the public would not be heard. Anonymous letters will, depending on their content, still be referred to the police as previously agreed.

All G&DCC agendas, 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. They are also available on the Achnasheen Village notice board and via the Community Council emailing list. Additional copies of the minutes are available in Garve Post Office so members of the community can take them away with them. The Community Council website receives around 150 hits per month and we have 60 people on the emailing list.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on 6 December 2016 were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Kenny Maclean.

**Co-option** – Since the last ordinary meeting, two names have come forward for consideration – Toni Macartney from Garve and Moragh Wylie from Lochluichart. Voting took place by secret ballot and Moragh Wylie was unanimously co-opted by members. Moragh who was present as a member of public was then invited by the Chairman to join the other Community Council members at the table and was formally welcomed.

**Setting up a Development Company** – We received the draft articles template from Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) on 14 December 2016. This template was drawn up by their Solicitors Burnell Paull LLP. Between 14-25 December, the Chairman updated the document to suit our community’s needs based on the Community Needs Survey results. Community Council members then studied the document over the New Year. Although we won't be registering the Development Company as a charity, the Chairman wanted to make sure the articles would be as OSCR ready as possible. The objectives in the proposed articles are from the supporting documents we received from DTAS. A flier was delivered to every house advertising the public consultation on or around 15 January 2017 and the Chairman thanked Community Council members who delivered the fliers in snowy conditions to make sure the Community had as much time as possible to consider the proposed articles. Copies of the proposed articles were made available on the Community Council website and hard copies from Garve Post Office or the Secretary.

The Chairman then took the meeting through the proposed articles section by section. The following points were raised …

Proposed article 4 (2) & (5) – similar? Felt best to leave in. Can be changed later if necessary.

Proposed article 7 (b) – can “Healthcare facilities” be included – Yes.

Proposed article 7 (g) - can liaise with “other community groups, health authorities & organisations” be added? – Yes.

Proposed article 9 – can profits be paid out? – Unlikely but legal advice will be taken.

Proposed article 18 – allow associate members? – Yes.

Proposed article 19 – allow junior members? – Yes.

Proposed article 28 – increase minimum number of ordinary members from 32? – general feeling of those present was that 32 was practical.

Proposed article 49 – increase quorum at general meetings from 10? – general feeling of those present was that 10 was practical.

Proposed article 59 – proxy voting? Update article to clarify that a person attending a general meeting cannot represent more than two other members.

Proposed article 67 – change minimum number of Directors from 4? – No, not practical these days.

Proposed article 71 – there was general agreement that two Directors would retire each year with none having served more than 3 years. They could stand for election again if they wished. The Chairman will rewrite this article using the templates provided.

Proposed article 81 – what is the difference between “conflict situation” and “conflict of interest”? It was felt that legally there is a difference and that the terms are explained at the start of the document.

Proposed article 101 – From a more practical point of view, change to 3 from 2.

Proposed article 104 – “Draft minutes will be published within 14 days and sent to all members” to be added to the text.

Proposed article 111 – Ordinary members WILL have a right to inspect documents.

The Chairman hoped elections to the new board could take place before the end of March once the company has been registered but acknowledged we would just have to see how it goes. The Development Company would be able to turn ideas into projects or just support projects as they had the ability to employ a Development Officer. The two founding Directors (Caroline & Kenny) would stand down from the Development Company once the board had been elected unless they were elected to the board. Kenny confirmed he would not be seeking election to the Development Company board, Community Council is enough to be going on with. The new Development Company will be completely separate to the Community Council and any other body once the board has been elected. The Chairman was touched by the number of people who gave him “thumbs up” while the feedback process detailed above was being discussed however, a member of the public was disappointed that this meeting was not advertised outside the Hall. The Chairman explained that an agenda was supplied via email but that in future a hard copy would be supplied instead. They were asked to note that the noticeboard outside the Hall did not belong to the Community Council and as explained earlier, fliers had been delivered to every house in the Community Council area about the consultation and this meeting. Caroline Gamble added that we cannot force anybody to attend, it is their choice.

The Chairman then called a 10-minute recess (8.20pm-8.30pm) during which 4 members of the public left the meeting.

**Matters arising** – **Broadband** – The Highlands & Islands Enterprise website [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk) is still stating that options are being explored for the Aultguish and Achnasheen exchanges. The Garve exchange should now have fibre broadband but we have asked for confirmation on this. Nick Scroggie at HIE replied and stated … *”I am afraid that there is no update for Achnasheen or Aultguish, unfortunately neither of them are included in the current programme for 2017. There has been a delay with the positioning of the Garve fibre cabinet, however it looks like this has been resolved with work commencing shortly. All going well, current estimates are that work is expected to be complete by the end of March with customers able to order in April.”* Community Council members were pleased to note the new green cabinet outside the Village Hall when they arrived for this meeting. Work is indeed progressing! The broadband working group, a completely separate group to the Community Council, held a public presentation last night after the LCT members meeting. A summary of their work is available in the library section of the Community Council website. The group are of the understanding that a green cabinet may come to Achnasheen in 2018. In the meantime, the group plan to make an application to the LCT in March to help fund satellite broadband and wireless quotes.

**Stromeferry Bypass** – although this road is out with our Community Council area, we take an interest as the road affects both local residents and tourists alike. Work is ongoing on the more detailed appraisal to examine the remaining options which will include further meetings with Transport Scotland to present and agree the limits of the options. It is anticipated that the work required to refine the options, undertake the assessments and prepare the appraisal will be completed by the spring.

**Proposed Lochluichart Windfarm extension two** – we received the following update from Nick Sage at Infinergy on 4 January 2017 …. *Infinergy held a pre-application meeting with The Highland Council on 23 November 2016. This was a constructive and open meeting, during which the Highland Council, SNH, SEPA and other consultees provided valuable feedback to Infinergy about how to progress. Since this meeting took place, there has been contact with Local Energy Consents (LEC) unit of the Scottish Government, who would be determining the Section 36 planning application. This has resulted in a delay in the plans to formally submit the Scoping Report, as the LEC unit wanted to ensure that a robust process was being followed.*

The Chairman received comments from two members of the community regarding the proposed site and whether trees will be planted between the proposed turbines and the main road to reduce the visual impact from the road. Nick has responded as follows … *This site was chosen as offering potential for an extension as the land is ideally suited for wind farm development (good wind resource, access already in place, few major environmental constraints, feasible to construct) and any potential extension could be designed as a natural extension of the Lochluichart/Extension scheme. Land immediately west to the proposed site is not suitable (Meall nan Caorach, Beinn Liath Bheag) as it is too steep to construct on. This land is also more elevated in comparison to the proposed site, so turbines would be more visible to the surrounding areas. On the question of planting trees, this idea is commonly raised in relation to screening wind farm developments from view. To my knowledge, this is something which has never been attempted on a large scale. It may, in exceptional circumstances, offer a solution to screening the view from an individual property, but on a large scale it not a practical solution.* It was noted that trees would take time to grow tall enough to hide the turbines and may not even grow there in the first place. We thank Nick Sage for his updates.

The Chairman asked Fiona Milligan for an update on the community of Dufftown. The Secretary and the Chairman visited Dufftown on the 15 May 2013 to discuss community benefit. Fiona writes … *They have just gone through a tendering process to find a suitable body to undertake a community development planning exercise, as you have done fairly recently.  We did invite Aigas Associates to tender, but they were just too busy to submit a proposal.  The next step is to get some funding from the CARES fund to help pay for it all.* We wish the community of Dufftown and the surrounding area well.

**EDF** – In the last few days, we have received a report from Andy Russell containing an update regarding on site activities, the community fund and the Education & Training fund. The report is attached to these minutes. Grant Folley provided further comment. On site, construction finished on 23 January 2017. Some grid connection tests are ongoing along with some minor drain clearance works. No deliveries expected to the site. Gate house has been removed and RJ Macleod’s have also left the site. Forestry works are ongoing expected to be completed by 2018. A mixture of commercial, broadleaf and native species will be planted across the site. Suitable fencing will be erected in due course to protect the new trees. Environmental considerations have also been taken into account.

With regard to the main community benefit fund, Grant has seen sight of the draft report into the review of the LCT. There are some recommendations to consider before EDF talk to LCT. EDF would not be looking to appoint a Director onto the LCT unless the Eneco Director remains. Memorandum of understanding would also have to be agreed. The review will be published once EDF have spoken to the LCT. It is thought community benefit from EDF would be paid out every six months

Claire Green has sent a report regarding the first meeting of the Education & Training fund. That report will also be attached to the end of tonight’s minutes. Since the first meeting took place and following our own discussions on this matter at our last ordinary meeting, several of our concerns appear to have been addressed according to the notes and proposed fund framework which we only received on 25 January 2017 such as including travelling costs in the funding package. The fund will only be open to those living in the area of benefit. Training and re-training for all ages groups as well as short courses are all now included in the fund framework. It is acknowledged that £50,000 is not a lot of money for training and therefore the money will have to be more targeted. A second meeting regarding the fund took place last week which the Secretary attended. She felt it was a better meeting than the first, less people were in attendance. The Secretary received a phone call from Tom Black at Foundation Scotland and Claire Green at EDF in early January which she found useful. Sue Tarr attended the meeting last week as the EDF liaison group representative and thought the meeting went quite well. Different parts of the draft fund framework were worked through and suggestions made. She thought the fund framework document was well balanced and had been put together well. Grant confirmed the fund was one fund across the six areas of benefit and one of the topics for the next meeting would be how panellists are elected. The fund framework will eventually come back to the Community Council for comment and would be subject to review every 3 years. The Chairman asked that more time is given to study documents before the next meeting takes place, 5 days is just too short. Grant agreed that 14 days would be better. Grant also stated that May 2017 would be the start of publicising and advertising the Education & Training fund. The final EDF Liaison group meeting will take place in the next few months, date TBC. Grant and Val were thanked for their detailed updates.

**HC/BEAR** – A sign placed in Rogie Falls toilets would suggest the Highland Council have now acknowledged our point that water can be used for toilets but not for drinking if the appropriate signage is put in place. Cllr Richard Green had hoped to see the Silverbridge toilets re-open by the end of January. They have been closed since 25 May 2016 however he writes …” *I am afraid that the problems with the Silverbridge toilets continue and following a meeting with the Amenities Manager on 19 January, it is clear hopes of an early resolution are doubtful.”* We thank Cllr Green for the update.

Garve bus shelters – the Highland Council has suggested the proposed new Development Company would be better placed to take this forward. Community Council members agreed that we get different stories every month. The Chairman will push for definitive answers!

Discussions around extending the speed zone west of Garve have concluded and Transport Scotland have again stated that the speed zone will not be extended to include the Gorstan Junction. They have also refused to look at a shorter stretch of road to analyse. The full report is available at <http://www.transport.gov.scot/road/safety/Speed-limit-review/a835-a893-tore-ullapool-trunk-road> and a summary is attached at the end of these minutes.

The Chairman attended the second and final meeting regarding information shelters on the afternoon of the 16 December 2016. After discussions and a vote of 3-2, a design has now been chosen as the overall winner.  A picture of the winning design is attached. The Highland Council hope to build the information shelters in the three locations (Achnasheen, Lochcarron and Braemore) in time for this year’s tourist season.  The shelters will be unmanned. It was suggested a similar shelter in Garve or near Garve would be advantageous if a suitable site could be found. It was suggested at the meeting on 16 December that Wi-Fi should be made available in the shelters but who pays the Wi-Fi bill? The Community of Brora has been involved in a Wi-Fi project for their community. The Chairman has received details and has passed the information onto those at the Highland Council who are involved in the information shelter project. The Wi-Fi system in Brora costs around £4,000 per year to run.

The Chairman learnt in recent days that the Highland Council website is displaying the wrong contact information for Gairloch Community Council. It appears the Highland Council doesn’t know the difference between Gairloch and Garve! He understands the issue on the website will be corrected.

Before Christmas, the bin in Grudie layby disappeared, presumed stolen. Rubbish including an old bike and an old tent including metal poles were dumped in the layby. A new bin has been placed in the layby and the rubbish taken away. A thank you has been sent to June Ross, Katrina Taylor and her team.

The Chairman received a telephone call from a Highland Council roads engineer on 20 January 2017 confirming details regarding a damaged crash barrier at Grudie and damage to the side of the road which was reported in September 2016. He confirmed some of the damage to the road had been caused by works vehicles working on the upgrade work at Grudie Power Station and that the Highland Council and SSE were dealing with this between themselves. The crash barrier was a separate incident and will be attended too in due course.

Robbie Bain, Ward Manager contacted the Chairman at the end of January to tell him the Commission on Highland Democracy are keen to talk to as many Community Council’s as possible, so are asking if there are any joint Community Council meetings planned.  The Chairman suggested that it might be possible to get everyone together in early March and that perhaps a meeting in the Lochalsh area would also be of help to Community Council’s in Skye. Discussions are ongoing. We are still awaiting notes from the last joint Community Council meeting.

It has been noted in the community that the flooding just to the west of Garve Village on the A835 trunk road appears to have been getting worse again in recent weeks.  Water is now flowing down the embankment below the railway line and then flows down the road to a dip outside Garve Village Hall.  Water is also gathering below the old Free Church on the corner.  This is leading to some seriously large puddles to say the least! We note that flooding signs have been erected and workmen are seen on site cleaning out the gullies which is appreciated. We have written to BEAR/Network Rail/Cllr Green and have included photos and a video of the problem. We have learnt that Alastair Somerville is no longer the Area Manager at BEAR for this area. We thank him for passing our email onto his successor. We have received a reply from Cllr Richard Green which reads as follows … “*At our meeting with BEAR I raised the issue of the water permeating through the railway underpinnings and flowing on to the A835 road. As well as the “pond” down opposite the Hall, there is considerable mud and rubble being carried on to the carriageway. I asked that discussions are again taken up with the railway in regard to this as we have had two previous road closures in that area, so something more permanent requires to be done.”* We thank Cllr Green for his update.

**Wester Ross Biosphere** – The interim committee are currently advertising for a project officer on a twelve-month contract. Their responsibilities will include implementing the Biosphere’s ten-year plan. More details of the position and the Biosphere itself are available on their website [www.westerrossbiosphere.com](http://www.westerrossbiosphere.com) Their first annual general meeting is due to take place next month.

**Removal of Phone boxe**s – In the autumn it was proposed by BT to remove the Garve, Aultguish and Achanalt phone boxes due to lack of use. We objected at the time. We have not heard any more on this matter since. Cllr Cockburn has not heard anything either so will make enquiries.

**Benches** – the benches were delivered to the Chairman’s house flat packed on 18 January 2017. John Grant from Garbat has indicated he is willing to help install the benches in the various locations and has already collected the benches from the Chairman’s house and has started assembling them. The Highland Council and Forestry Commission Scotland have been made aware of our plans and have not raised any objections. Two picnic benches will be installed in Achnasheen Village centre, one bench will replace the broken bench between Stirling Drive and Matheson Road and the other two benches will be placed at the old cemetery and up towards Wades Bridge.

**Community Ceilidh** – this was held on Saturday 10 December 2016 in Garve Village Hall. 49 tickets were given away. Thanks to Strathgarve Primary Parent Council for decorating the Village Hall and the tables were left out from the previous evening which was of great help to us. Also, thanks to the Garve Village Hall Committee for all their help and to Uisdean Menzies who oversaw our catering requirements. The outside of the Village Hall looked fantastic with all the coloured lights! A special thank you must go to all those who attended and who donated prizes for the raffle. £132 was raised on the raffle for Macmillan nurses. The Chairman thought we had raised around £150 but forgot to allow for the float! The Macmillan nurse’s website tells us that £25 could pay for a Macmillan nurse for an hour, helping people affected by cancer receive essential medical, practical and emotional support. £196 could pay for a Macmillan grant that helps a person living with cancer heat their home. The cost of putting on the Ceilidh came to nearly £750. Several people have already asked when is the next Ceilidh? Perhaps summertime.

**Defibrillators** – our application for funding was sent to the LCT on the 14 December 2016 by Royal Mail recorded delivery along with supporting documents. Our application for £13,020 to install five Defibrillators in Achnasheen, Lochluichart, Garve, Inchbae and Aultguish was successful scoring an average of 65% with the LCT Directors. An order for Defibrillators has now been placed and we’ve put our supplier in contact with our electrician. Those who will be accommodating the Defibrillators have been kept informed. During our discussions on this item at the last ordinary meeting, it was noted there is no sign indicating where Lochluichart Church actually is. This has been noted by the Highland Council. Our supplier has suggested a flier advertising the training sessions be sent out now so that we know the number of people wishing to attend the training sessions. They suggest a maximum of twenty-four persons per training session. The training sessions lasts some two hours and would take place in the evenings. The “emergency life support” training session includes recognising if someone is having a stroke or a heart attack, how to help someone who is choking, recovery position training, basic life support training as well as how to work the Defibrillators. Community Council members agreed to send out the fliers now.

In a LCT related matter, the feedback form for the funding received for the Community Needs Survey has been completed by the Chairman.

Today we learnt from Forest Enterprise Scotland that the **Grudie woodland** is to be put up for sale. Interested eligible community groups have until 7 March 2017 to register an interest. If no such group comes forward, the woodland will be offered for sale on the open market.

**Police report** – no report received but press reports tell us that Trading Standards are warning about a spate of different scam emails being received at the moment which claim to be from Royal Mail. “One of these emails appears particularly convincing by using the Royal Mail logo, but then goes on to say that Royal Mail can claim compensation because nobody was at home when they tried to make the delivery,” says David Marsh, Trading Standards Team Leader.  “We are also aware of phone calls from people claiming to be from Royal Mail, saying that they need your National Insurance number and a utilities bill before they can deliver your parcel”.  You can report such scams at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/) or by phone on 0300 123 2040, or by contacting Trading Standards.

The Telephone Preference Service is a UK register of domestic telephone numbers whose users have indicated that they do not wish to receive sales and marketing telephone calls. Registration is free of charge. The service is paid for by the direct marketing industry. [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or 0345 070 0707. Several people present felt the service was not working for them as they keep receiving dodgy phone calls. It was suggested they check they are still registered.

**Treasurers report -** In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman with help from the Secretary declared the following figures, Community Ceilidh fund was £296.77 minus catering £273 and minus Hall hire of £44 and minus £26.88 for raffle tickets, table cloths, crisps and sweets = £-47.11. This will be balanced by transferring funds from the Community fund. Bench fund was £200.00 minus £200.00-part payment for benches = £0.00. Community fund was £1,884.39 minus £47.11 to balance Community Ceilidh fund and minus £783.00-part payment for benches = £1,054.28. Community Council admin was £543.18 minus Hall hire for December 2016 meeting £24.00 and minus £35.00 data protection renewal and minus £60.00 chairman’s travelling expenses for the last two years and minus £2.37 postage = £421.81. Community Newsletter was £966.07 minus cost of fliers for Ceilidh £42.98 and minus cost of fliers for the Development Company consultation £47.98 = £875.11. Defibrillator fund was £0.00 plus funding from LCT = £13,020.00. Total in bank = £15,371.20. Audited accounts for the last financial period (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) are available on the Community Council website and at the Community Council meetings.

We currently have access to the old AGNV email account, blog, google drive and Dropbox. This costs £10 per year and will be due for renewal shortly. Community Council members agreed to close these accounts are they are not needed.

2017 Produce show – the Secretary has no plans to have a show this year as things stand. This may change.

**Correspondences** by Email – John Beaton, Inclusion Scotland - Newsletter; Highland Council – planning for week ending 9 December 2016; John Young, Common Weal South Lanarkshire – local authority investment in arms; Highland Council policy – polling station review; Rory Dutton, DTAS – model articles of association; **Data protection registration – confirming receipt of our direct debit instruction; Quentin Banting – Draft Lochcarron Community Council December 2016 minutes; Scottish Government – Barriers to community engagement in the planning system consultation; Claire Green, EDF – Corriemollie Windfarm Education & Training fund update;** Highland Council – planning for week ending 16 December 2016; Tom Black, Foundation Scotland – EDF Corriemoillie Windfarm Education & Training fund update; **Data protection registration – confirmation of renewal;** Highland Council – planning for week ending 23 December 2016; two emails from Nick Sage, Infinergy – Proposed Lochluichart Windfarm extension two updates; Claire Blackwell, Highland Third Sector Interface – Local outcome improvement plan consultation; Highland Council policy – polling station review update; Cllr Deirdre Mackay – Wi-Fi information; Mhairi Wylie, Highland Third Sector Interface – National Action notification; Moragh Wylie – co-option; Anne Sutherland – Wi-Fi information; Highland Council policy – Consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning system; Robbie Bain – Co-option; Cllr Margaret Davidson – Democracy update; Carol Smith, LCT – Defibrillators funding application successful; Transport Scotland – speed limit review; Cllr Richard Green – updates, Highland Council – changes to planning lists (now sent covering the whole Highland Council area direct from Highland Council Headquarters in Inverness); ePlanning – planning at 20 January 2017; Tom Black, Foundation Scotland – EDF Corriemoillie Windfarm Education & Training fund update; Highland Council policy – budget simulator challenge; Carol Smith, LCT – Feedback form request for funding allocated for the Community Needs Survey; Andrew Puls, Highland Council – Proposed planning guidance for listed buildings; ePlanning - planning at 27 January 2017; Nick Scroggie, HIE – broadband update; Jenny MacPherson - EDF updates; Devplans – Inverness city centre development brief consultation; Highland Council Policy – Community Councils of Scotland website, newsletter and feedback consultation; Steve Jones – Feedback on proposed articles for the Development Company (received after the closing deadline); ePlanning – planning at 3 February 2017; Ronnie Lee, Forest Enterprise Scotland – proposed sale of Grudie woodland; Jackie West – Broadband working group update.

Correspondences received by post - Eneco – Christmas card, Macmillan nurses acknowledging receipt of donation of £132 from the raffle at the Community Ceilidh, invoice from Gairloch Farm & Garden stores for benches and a cheque from the LCT for Defibrillators.

**AOB from CC members –** Bob Moir was approached by a member of the public about paper and elastic bands littering the pavement outside the Garve Post Office and around the letterbox. Aren’t elastic bands a hazard to wildlife? The Chairman will pass on the concerns to the Postmistress but felt it would have been more of a curtesy if the member of the public had approached the Postmistress first. Bob also noted damaged fencing along the railway line to the east of Garve Village. The Secretary will inform Network Rail.

Caroline Gamble highlighted that the Community Car Scheme is a community transport scheme which is operated through Ross-shire Voluntary Action.  It is a car sharing scheme with volunteer drivers using their own cars to take clients to and from a destination of their choice. Volunteer drivers would be needed from this area before the scheme could be extended to include Garve & District. More information is available on 01349 862431 or [www.rossvolact.org.uk](http://www.rossvolact.org.uk) **Caroline also wondered if we could do something for the Over 60’s as the dinners have now stopped? It was noted that it was poor attendance that stopped the dinners and the Community Needs Survey supported more community events for all age groups but Community Council members would give the topic some thought.**

**The Secretary raised concerns about the amount of rubbish blown from the works site at Grudie Power Station. Road signs and bags blocking drains and spot lights on top of the portacabins shining onto the main road at nights causing dazzlement for drivers. Val MacIver will pass contact details onto the Chairman of who at SSE to raise this with.**

**AOB from members of the Public** - The Chairman reminded those present that only issues raised in person would be discussed during this item. A member of public asked if the emergency services would be told about the Defibrillators. It was confirmed that all emergency services including the mountain rescue teams would be advised of the Defibrillators once they were in place.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** - At our last ordinary meeting, we noted a forestry consultation for tree planting on the Ledgowan Estate. Since the meeting, Community Council members have had time to study the documents in detail and had no comments to make.

We have a total of eight new consultations this evening. Scottish Government consultation relating to community engagement in the planning process. This consultation was part of the follow-up of the independent review of the Scottish planning system.The consultation period was very, very short (15-23 December 2016) and the survey was only available online. Community Council members were informed by email and made no comments.

Highland Council – Polling Station review. The Returning Officer embarked on a Polling Station review with the intention of utilising Schools throughout Highland wherever possible. To support this, the Director of Care and Learning will schedule a staff “in service training day” in all Highland schools on the day of poll for all fixed term elections where the dates are well-known in advance. This includes elections to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the Highland Council. The consultation run from 12 December 2016 until 6 January 2017. Community Council members were informed by email and made no comments. Robbie Bain as Ward Manager made the following comment during the consultation …*Concerns that the Ullapool Primary School will not provide the same easy access as currently provided by the Village Hall and could be seen as a retrograde move. Similar concerns would exist for the use of the Primary Schools at Achiltibuie, Aultbea, Poolewe, Kinlochewe, Shieldaig, Applecross, Lochcarron, Garve, Strathconon and Marybank. In many cases, the Village Halls have seen much more investment in accessibility than the Primary schools and are just better suited to public use.* Accessibility issues are to be checked by the Returning Officer before a final decision is made on this issue. It is Cllr Cockburn’s understanding that if the Strathgarve Primary School building is deemed suitable, the polling station will move. There are no plans to change the Achnasheen polling station from the Village Hall.

The Community Planning Partnership are progressing the development of the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan for Highland.  This document will replace the existing Single Outcome Agreement and is a strategic plan for the multi-agency partnership to deliver in the next one, three and ten years.  
To help, community groups and volunteers were asked to complete the initial questions available online. Community Council members had no comments.

Scottish Government launched an online consultation on the plans for the future of the Scottish planning system. In 2015 Ministers commissioned an independent panel to undertake a review of the planning system. Since then the Scottish Government has been working with a wide range of stakeholders, including community representatives, public and private sectors, to explore potential changes to the planning system. This consultation builds on the work of the Independent Panel, the Scottish Government and stakeholders. It presents proposals for change and provides an opportunity for people to help shape the future of the planning system in Scotland. Community councils have a statutory right to be consulted on applications for planning permission. Following completion of the consultation period, analysis of the responses will be undertaken and published within 12 weeks of the consultation closing. The analysis will help inform the drafting and production of a draft Planning Bill which is to be introduced to Parliament in Year 2 of the Parliamentary Programme. More information, including how to get involved in the consultation, can be found at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/> The consultation will close on 4 April 2017. Community Council members had no comments.

Highland Council - Proposed Planning Guidance for Listed Buildings and Unlisted Buildings in Conservation Areas. As of 30 January 2017, the Highland Council have released new planning guidance for windows and doors in listed buildings and conservation areas for public consultation. The consultation period will run for six weeks, the deadline for comments is 23.59 on 13 March 2017. The document is only available via [consult.highland.gov.uk](http://consult.highland.gov.uk/) The intention is to adopt the finalised document as non-statutory supplementary guidance. For information and following discussions at our last ordinary meeting, there are several listed buildings and structures in the area.

B – Listed C - Listed

Kinlochluichart Church and Burial Ground Kinlochluichart Old Manse and Steading

Ledgowan Bridge Lochroisque Old Lodge

Glascarnoch Dam Vaich Dam

  Achanalt Power Station and Dam

Community Council members had no comments.

The Highland Council is holding a consultation on the new draft Inverness City Centre Development Brief during a six-week consultation from 3 February 2017. This land use planning document will assist in attracting investment and shaping the future of the city centre by promoting opportunities to regenerate, develop and enhance the built environment. The document is available on [consult.highland.gov.uk](http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal) Comments on the Development Brief must be submitted through the website by Monday 20 March 2017. Community Council members had no comments.

The Community Councils of Scotland website which is managed by the Improvement Service and supported with funding from Scottish Government, was redesigned and relaunched in January 2016. They wanted to create an improved website for community councilors and for people interested in community council work to find up-to-date information and advice.  A year on, they are seeking views on people’s experiences and opinions of the website through a short online survey. The survey is completely anonymous and conducted by the Community Council Project at the Improvement Service. Community Council members had no comments.

Press reports have informed us that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are currently conducting a consultation regarding areas of wild land. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/landscape-policy-and-guidance/wild-land/> In order to support Scottish Planning Policy, and now that wild land areas (WLAs) have been identified and their qualities defined, SNH felt a review was due. The new draft guidance sets out a methodology and general principles for assessing the impact of development proposed on WLAs. Responses should be received by SNH by 7 April 2017. Three areas come within our Community Council area. Area 26 included the Ledgowan Forest, area 28 includes the Fannich’s and area 29 includes Strathvaich and the Garbat Forest. Community Council members had no comments.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - There is one new building warrant currently being shown on the Highland Council website for our area. 16/02504/DOM2 is for a house in Gorstan. This building warrant refers to planning application 16/00003/FUL which was considered by Community Council members at our ordinary meeting held on 1 March 2016.

Three previous planning applications have been determined by the Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 16/03149/PNO is for an agricultural building to be built in Gorstan. Permission has been granted by the Highland Council Case Officer with no conditions. The application regarding access to the building is still to be determined. 16/04230/FUL is for a house at Silverbridge. Permission granted by the Highland Council Case Officer with three conditions, 1. No development shall commence until an appraisal to demonstrate sufficient water supply can supply the development has been submitted. 2. Visibility splays at the access onto the A835 shall be installed. 3. No obstruction to right of way (path to Little Wyvis) either before, during or after construction. 16/05065/FUL is an application for changes at Achanalt House. Permission granted by the Highland Council Case Officer with two conditions, 1. The external finish of the new porch and garage shall match that of the original building. 2. No development shall commence until a photographic record has been made and submitted to the planning authority for approval.

There are no new planning applications or licensing issues to consider this evening.

**Dates of future meetings**

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

Tuesday 4 July 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 1 August 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 5 September 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 3 October 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 5 December 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Members of the public are very welcome to attend Community Council meetings and listen in to our discussions.

The chairman suggested that if we suddenly find ourselves not quorate again, he would declare a public meeting and give general updates to those in attendance. Notes from the public meeting can then be circulated in the same way as draft minutes. This would help keep the community informed until such time as a quorate meeting can be held. It would also mean less paperwork stuck on his desk! Community Council members agreed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

*Note from Claire Green, EDF … The initial Steering Group meeting to discuss the Corriemoillie Training & Education Fund had taken place.  The purpose of the meeting was to bring together some businesses and organisations who might be helpful in providing training in the future or could advise us on where gaps exist in skills and education at the moment.  I thought it might be useful to let you know more about the key principles of the Steering Committee, the basis of the Fund and next steps:*

*         The fund will only support those living in the Area of Benefit (Community Council areas of Garve & District; Contin; Marybank; Scatwell & Strathconnon; Strathpeffer; and Loch Broom)*

*         Foundation Scotland is supporting EDF in developing the fund arrangement (alongside the wider Community Benefit Fund)*

*         A Steering Committee has been formed with the purpose of supporting the initial stages of the Fund’s development, by informing and reviewing the strategy, decision making structure, materials and buy-in*

*         The Steering Committee currently comprises the following:*

*o   One representative from each of the five communities*

*o   Businesses representing key sectors: (construction, environmental, agriculture etc…)*

*o   Education and training providers*

*o   Public sector organisations*

*         At the initial Steering Committee on 5th December, the aim was to introduce the group to the Terms of Reference and to one another; to identify gaps in Steering Committee representation and to understand the gaps in terms of the training and education agenda with particular attention paid to the following areas:*

*o   Renewables and energy industry*

*o   Health & Safety, Construction, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)*

*o   Supporting industries which will benefit job retention in the area (e.g. tourism, transport, economic development, forestry, rural development etc.)*

*         The Steering Committee was well attended and some useful information was gained as a start. Foundation Scotland is now tasked with compiling the initial feedback and organising the next meeting early in the New Year*

*         It was agreed that future meetings would take place in Strathpeffer.*

Note from Andy Russell, EDF received 2 February …

**EDF Energy Renewables**

**Corriemoillie Wind Farm – Progress Update January 2017**

**General Site**

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At the end of January, a handover process took place between EDF‐ER Construction and Asset Management.

Accordingly, RJMcLeod and the other contractors have now demobilised and all staff, plant/labour and site

accommodation has been removed and the site fully secured. Access to the site is now under the control of

the EDF Asset Manager (Graham West).

**Wind Turbines**

All seventeen turbines have now been through their individual trial run periods. Following the initial grid code

compliance tests (requirement of National Grid), an agreement was reached to lift the temporary “maximum

three turbine restriction” and, barring routine issues, all turbines are available to generate power for the grid.

Winter storm systems “Barbara” and “Conor” over the festive period had an impact when some turbines failed

to restart however monitoring staff were quick to identify these issues and service teams were mobilised to

site following the passing of the storms to re‐start and make adjustments as necessary.

Grid code compliance testing has continued and discussions are being held with National Grid to review

results. Further testing and discussion of results with National Grid will continue into February.

**Forestry**

In November 2016, chipping and haulage to the biomass plant at Invergordon took place and cleared materials

that had been stockpiled over the autumn. The chipper has since left site however the whole tree “forwarding”

and roadside stockpiling work continues within the wind farm site. The chipper will return to site over the next

month if conditions allow haulage to the biomass plant.

**Planning**

EDF ER formally submitted a compensatory tree planting plan to The Highland Council (THC) on 25th

September in order to discharge Planning Condition 19. The total indicative restocking area has now been

calculated at just over 140 hectares based on a detailed report produced by RDS Forestry. A draft report has

previously been reviewed by THC, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and the Scottish Environment

Protection Agency (SEPA) and comments have been incorporated into the submitted plan.

Meetings held on site in November with the Council and the Forestry Commission to view the retained

Forestry on site and the quality of the woodland on the adjacent land to the north allowed an agreement to be

reached over the extent and type of planting required in order to purify the relevant planning condition. The

agreed scheme includes 136Ha of planting on the wind farm site (restocking) and 5Ha of new planting on land

directly to the south of the wind farm boundary. The proposed forest will include areas of commercial planting

alongside broadleaf/native planting. The planting scheme has been designed to provide commercial forestry

opportunities on the best areas of the site (limited), alongside enhancing the aims of the Habitat Management

Plan is improving bio‐diversity on site (specific aims to improve habitats for Water Vole, Black Grouse, Red

Throated Diver + Pine Martin). EDF ER now awaits a formal notification from the local authority.

Subject to formal sign‐off it is expected that fencing works will commence this spring, with re‐planting

commencing later in 2017. The relevant planning condition requires all Forestry work to be fully implemented

by the end of 2019.

**Community Fund**

Area Funds

The Foundation Scotland review of the LCT is now completed and subject to an internal EDF‐ER review will be

circulated to firstly the LCT directors, and thereafter the wider Garve Community. Subject to the findings of the

report and consideration of any recommendations the next stage would be for a Memorandum of

Understanding to be agreed between all parties that will provide legal certainty of how the fund will be

managed, and to commit all future developer contributions.

Discussions have progressed independently with Contin, Marybank, Strathpeffer and Loch Broom regarding

arrangements for the disbursement of the relevant share of the fund to those areas.

Education and Training Fund

A second workshop took place on 30th January at Strathpeffer Community Centre led by Foundation Scotland

to further develop the Corriemoillie Training & Education Fund parameters. At the first workshop in December,

Members were asked to discuss the proposed priority sectors/ industries for investment as identified in the

fund overview, and to make comments on their ranking/ any omissions. The group were then asked to identify

key gaps in funding for education and training for employability in the key sectors. A minute of the findings

from the first workshop and responses from EDF‐ER / Foundation Scotland was approved at the second

workshop. The findings were incorporated into the first draft of the Fund Framework and used as the basis of

discussions at the second workshop.

At the second workshop, the fund outcomes were discussed, which included:

 More individuals’ resident within the Area of Benefit are equipped with the range of skills and

confidence required to enter into and retain employment in the key sectors the Fund supports;

 Micro/ small businesses are able to create new job opportunities or retain existing jobs that may

benefit individuals’ resident in the Area of Benefit, and;

 Micro small businesses that employ individuals from the Area of Benefit have the necessary skills and

confidence to grow and sustain their operations in order to secure their long‐term future.

Also discussed were the proposed fund strands, including which costs should be eligible for funding. Strands

included:

 Bursaries for individuals

 Apprenticeships – costs for employees

 Activities that link individuals with employers

 Annual training event (Steering Group members suggested this be replaced with a mentorship and/or

awards programme).

The findings from the workshop will be further incorporated into the Fund Framework and circulated to the

Steering Committee for comment. The next Steering Committee will focus on timescales, the application

process and the establishment of the Panel. The aim remains to launch the Fund in May 2017.

## *Summary of Transport Scotland speed limit review*

## *Section 5 – Achility to Garve*

*Given the character, mean speed and accident rates, the assessment concludes that the 60mph speed limit is appropriate.  
Road type: Rural single carriageway  
Review proposal: No change (Speed Limit 60 mph)  
Junctions/access: sporadic private access  
Length: 11.03 km  
Alignment category: A3  
3-year accident rate: 8 accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres  
Mean speed: 51 mph  
Other road users: There is low NMU use though the section*

## *Section 6 – Garve*

*Due to the carriageway layout, the lack of continuous residential frontage or on street parking, this section drivers may not perceive this as a 30mph zone. This section of rural single carriageway is 1.44 km in length and the level of development present in warrants special consideration. This section is formed by two straights connected to a medium radius double bend with a series of tight radius bends at the western end. A railway level crossing lies in the middle of the double bend. Road type: Rural single carriageway/ Village  
Review proposal: No change (Speed Limit 40 mph)  
Alignment category: SC  
Length: 1.444 km  
Other road users: moderate NMU use though the section  
Properties directly fronting accessing road: 6  
Density of housing per 100m: 0.4  
Number of Junctions/accesses: 2  
Parking and waiting restrictions: n/a  
Key buildings fronting road: Yes*

*Section 7 – Garve to Inchbae*

*Given the character, mean speed and accident rates, the assessment concludes that the 60mph speed limit is appropriate.  
Road type: Rural single carriageway  
Review proposal: No change (Speed Limit 60 mph)  
Junctions/access: sporadic private access  
Length: 7.728 km  
Alignment category: A2  
3-year accident rate: 9 accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres  
Mean speed: 60 mph  
Other road users: n/a*

## *Section 8 – Inchbae to A832 Braemore*

*Given the character, mean speed and accident rates, the assessment concludes that the 60mph speed limit is appropriate.  
Road type: Rural single carriageway  
Review proposal: No change (Speed Limit 60 mph)  
Junctions/access: sporadic private access  
Length: 22.197 km  
Alignment category: A2  
3-year accident rate: 51 accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres  
Mean speed: 59 mph  
Other road users: n/a*

Winning design of the new information shelter due to be built in Achnasheen

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