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

**held on Tuesday 4 July 2017 in Achnasheen Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Caroline Gamble and co-opted member Moragh Wylie. (Co-opted member Joe Stewart joined the meeting at 8.00pm).

**Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR), Fiona Milligan (Infinergy) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Community Council member Bob Moir, Cllr Kate Stephen, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and Graham West (EDF).

**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 all 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 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 is now receiving nearly 200 hits per month. The website is updated every ten days or so. We now have 78 people on the emailing list.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Monday 12 June 2017 in Garve Village Hall were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Kenny Maclean.

**Matters arising** - **The EDF Corriemoillie Windfarm** was officially opened on Wednesday 28 June 2017 by EDF officials and the local schoolchildren who as always were very well behaved. Full credit to the caterers who made sure everyone was fed and were comfortable during the day’s activities which were very well organised.  The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were able to attend along with several members of the liaison group. About 70 people attended in total. A letter of thanks from the Community Council has already been sent to EDF and Platform PR. Several people suggested the views from the Marque made them wonder if the site could have public access more often with a Restaurant on site? We still await a copy of the Liaison group photo.

Val MacIver was able to confirm that **on site**, a motor was being replaced in one of the turbines. Three areas of snagging would be fixed within the next four to six weeks. Community Council members commentated that the site was looking very tidy last week and credit should be given to RJ Macleod and GG Mackenzie contractors. Val MacIver was thanked for her updates.

**The EDF Education & Training fund** – Tom Black has informed us that Sue Tarr and Sheree Grant are on the Community Panel. Sue was elected Chair of the panel at their first meeting on Monday 26 June 2017. Induction training for the panel members has taken place. The fund can help students of all ages gain a range of skills. Slides from Foundation Scotland have been passed onto Community Council members. The first round of applications closed on Monday 19 June 2017. The second round closes at the end of September. More details are available at [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoillie](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoillie) Community Council members agreed we would request minutes of these meetings as education and training from Community Benefit funds has been something this community wanted to see for a long time.

A copy of the Foundation Scotland report into the LCT is now available on the LCT website. We note recommendation 72 that suggests the LCT should perhaps be formally represented at Community Council meetings. Local constituted groups are already welcome to attend our meetings. The Chairman also liaises with local groups between meetings as and when necessary. Posters advertising the LCT Director Elections are available at this meeting.

**Infinergy -** Eliza Leslie Melville and Moragh Wylie both declared an interest in the Infinergy project and left the room at 7.15pm. Fiona Milligan then explained that Infinergy are now going to work with a turbine manufacturer while designing the proposed extension. They can assist with design to make sure what is on paper is actually possible on the ground. The public open days will now hopefully take place in the autumn and a full planning application may be ready to submit by the end of the year. Infinergy are still looking to build up to eight turbines and they still intend to send newsletters to all properties in the Community Council area advising them of the proposed extension and when the public open days will actually be held. Fiona Milligan was thanked for attending. Eliza Leslie Melville and Moragh Wylie then returned to the meeting at 7.20pm.

**Highland Council updates** – A discussion took place at the Annual General Meeting last month regarding **public participation** at Community Council meetings. Mr Robbie Bain, Ward Manager thought we tended to take a sensible approach on this matter by allowing the public to speak once Community Council members had been heard first. He went to write that if members of the public wished to have a say in the final decisions taking by the Community Council, they are free to stand for election. We thank Mr Bain for his update.

**Garve Bus shelter** – one of the two broken glass panels were replaced by Sunday 18 June 2017. We hope it doesn’t take another three to four years to replace the other glass panel!

The suggestion of **different coloured bins** in laybys has been noted. Bin Stands are checked when the bins are emptied.

The large pool at the **Gorstan Junction** by the BT cover and the suggestion of double yellow lines on the slip road of the Gorstan Junction has been passed onto BEAR by the Highland Council.

**The West Coast trail sign** at the Gorstan Junction will be inspected by the Highland Council’s road team but it was noted that signage must be a certain distance before a Junction.

**The potholes** in the layby at Lochluichart Church and in Matheson Road, Garve will be added to the road maintenance program.

**The broken fence** at the football pitch in Matheson Road, Garve is still not repaired.  This has been passed onto the Highland Council to add to the maintenance list.

**The 20mph road markings** in Garve Village and **white lines in the car park** outside Garve Village Hall are still to be re-painted.  The white line machine was in Achnasheen on Thursday 15 June 2017 painting white lines between Grudie and Achnasheen. The Highland Council will see if they can include the works in Garve while the machine is in the area. Val MacIver noted the machine is currently in Easter Ross.

**The missing 30mph sign** beside Strathgarve Primary School has been added to the maintenance list.

The Highland Council also confirmed that the **road down to Lochluichart Railway Station** is on the roads maintenance program for this financial year. **The side road** up to some houses above the Gorstan Junction and the **open drain and broken wooden fence** on this section of road are all on the maintenance list as is the **road up to the old School in Achnasheen** as it is getting pretty bad with potholes.

Press reports inform us that there has been an underspend of £856,571 in the last financial year on roads in Ross & Cromarty. The Chairman has a few suggestions where the money could be spent in our area!

We received a verbal report on Thursday 22 June 2017 that the **Grit bin at Mossford was full of rubbish**. This has been passed onto the Highland Council who emptied it a few days later. A litter bin may be placed in the layby. We were also informed **that Rogie Falls toilets are closed again**. Although these toilets are out with our area, we have been advised that there was a problem with the water intake pump meaning there was no water supply to the toilets. The plumber has now been and the facilities reopened a few days ago. People counters have been fitted to the outside doors. The member of public who brought these issues to our attention has already been updated.

The Highland Council’s Roads Operations Manager hopes to meet with the Community Council members in due course. We send our thanks to everyone at the Highland Council for their updates and advice on these matters. The Highland Council also notes that residents could have reported all these issues directly 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.

A member of the public noted the verge reinstatement works between Grudie and Kinlochewe appears to have stopped. Enquiries will be made with SSE and the member of the public will pass on the reference number they were given by the Highland Council to our Chairman.

**The Garve & District Development Company** – The Company became a registered Company, limited by guarantee on Tuesday 9 May 2017 (565505).  There are now 40 ordinary members and one associate member. All members have a copy of the articles of association and the Community Needs Survey full report.  The “Objectives” in the articles explains what the Company can do. Membership remains open. Members of the LCT can also be members of the Development Company if they wish. Membership forms are available on the Community Council website, at this meeting or from Garve Post Office.  Two members came forward to be on the Company Board.  The minimum number required is four so **the call for nominations has been extended until 12noon on Friday 21 July 2017.** In the meantime, an informal public meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 July at 7.00pm in Garve Village Hall to hear everybody's view on what they would like the Company to be able to do.  What projects should the Board deal with first? Several suggestions have already been received. The meeting will be open to everyone in the Community (members and non-members of the Company) in the hope it might encourage membership.  People will be able to write their suggestions on a flip chart. We would also like a representative from every local constituted group and local business to attend. A flier advertising this meeting has been delivered to every house in the area. All fliers also appear on the “CC News” page of the Community Council website. In the last few days we have learnt that both the draft minutes of the LCT board meeting held on Monday 24 April 2017 and the notes from the members meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2017 refer to the £250 funding for the Development Company as funds for establishing the Company.  This is not the case.  The £250 is meant to help the new board cover day to day costs once they have been elected. It is our understanding that if we had applied for establishing costs, this would have been rejected by the LCT board as those costs would have been retrospective at that time. The Chairman has already written to the LCT Secretary clarifying our position and requesting this be pointed out to the LCT Board and its members. Tom Black at Foundation Scotland has noted the work we are doing in setting up this Development Company and what the Company will be able to do. He feels it complements a lot of the recommendations in his report to the LCT.

**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. As the capacity for this event will be 60, FREE tickets will need to be obtained on a first come first served basis from any Community Council member **by Monday 7 August 2017.** No ticket will mean no entry on the night. Requests for tickets have already been received. Tickets are also available at this meeting. A raffle 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. There will also be a bottle stall raising funds for the Garve & District Community Council funds. 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.

**Relocation of Lochluichart Postbox** – no further news since our last ordinary meeting. We will chase this before our next ordinary meeting on Tuesday 1 August 2017 if nothing appears to be happening.

**Garve Village Hall** – Mr Murdo Mackenzie has informed us that they have plenty plans for the Village Hall and they would be happy to discuss any ideas members of the public might have. “We are all very approachable” he writes. We thank him for the update. We understand the Hall committee were due to meet this evening.

**SFRS** - FREE home fire safety visit posters have been put up in the Community and on the library section of the Community Council website. SFRS also provided postcards with details of the free home fire safety visit which have been delivered to every house in the Community Council area. Spare postcards are available from any Community Council member, at Garve Post Office or at this meeting. A member of the public welcomed our work on this issue, especially after recent events in London.

**Police report** – PC Craig Rose has been in touch to say for the month of May 2017, six speeders, one drunk driver and one driver with no insurance were all caught on the A832 in the Achanalt area. The road traffic accident involving two vehicles at the Gorstan Junction on Sunday 14 May 2017 has resulted in a driver being charged with careless driving. The caravan by Loch Chullin was left there following a non-suspicious caravan fire. The abandoned caravan at Achnashellach has been removed. Press reports inform us that a motorcyclist who was seen by Police travelling at around 130mph on the A890 at Ledgowan was recently fined £800 and banned from driving for fifteen months after the individual admitted driving carelessly at grossly excessive speed. The individual will also have to re-sit their driving test on expiry of their disqualification.

**Treasurers report** – The Treasurer confirmed that the bank balance on Tuesday 13 June 2017 was £2,996.87. The auditor fee was £120.00. £45.96 was claimed in ink in the last month, mainly due to fliers. The Community Council admin grant from the Highland Council for 2017/18 is £879.74 minus £84.70 insurance = £795.04. The Treasurer will chase John Grant for an invoice for building and installing the benches. Caroline noted the bench at Gorstan is getting used regularly. It was also agreed that Caroline and Jennifer must claim petrol money for flier deliveries. 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 - Emma MacCallum, Secretary Lochcarron Community Council – Draft June 2017 Community Council minutes; ePlanning – new planning applications at 9 June 2017; Joe Stewart – Community Council membership; Chris Hamilton – Community Newsletter; Murdo Mackenzie – Garve Village Hall plans; Robbie Bain, Ward Manager – Constitution rules; PC Craig Rose – Police report; Tracey Urry, the Highland Council’s Head of Roads – updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 16 June 2017; Tim Mullens, Keep Scotland Beautiful – climate challenge fund (sent via HC Policy) - passed email onto the local Energy group; Morag Anne Macleod, The Highland Council’s Gaelic Development Officer – Gaelic language plan consultation (sent via Robbie Bain’s Office); ePlanning – new planning applications at 23 June 2017; Tom Black, Foundation Scotland – EDF Education & Training information.

We also received three applications by email from people wishing to become members of the Development Company and four applications by post. All seven have supplied email addresses. Two forms were received by email for Member Director nominations.

Co-opted member Joe Stewart joined the meeting at 8.00pm.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Eliza Leslie Melville noted the “slow” road markings as you approach the Gorstan Junction have faded. We will pass this onto the Highland Council. It was also noted the police have been seen on patrol in the area. Eliza and other members noted what appears to be an abandoned car east of Lochluichart. It has been there for a few days. The Police will be informed if it is still there by the weekend.

The Secretary updated Community Council members that the Garve & Lochluichart SWI afternoon tea in Garve Village Hall last month went very well. 18 people attended to help the ladies celebrate 100 years of the institute. Photos of members past and present were on show. Caroline Gamble added that the baking was very good! BBC Alba recently showed the Bulb & Baking competition from Dingwall Academy.

The Chairman received a verbal report that a bush was growing in the Phonebox at Achanalt. Apparently, the bush was so overgrown you couldn’t get in to use the telephone. He has visited the Phonebox with his pruners and attended to the bush. He is pleased to confirm that there are no such problems in Achnasheen!

**AOB from members of the Public** – A member of the public suggested that perhaps this would be a good time to build a higher fence at the football pitch in Garve so that the football stops bouncing onto Matheson Road and into people’s gardens. Community Council members noted this has been suggested before but will pass the suggestion on again.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** - One Consultation from the Highland Council. The Highland Council are currently consulting on the third draft of their Gaelic Language Plan. Responses can only be sent to gaelic@highland.gov.uk There was a public consultation meeting held in Dingwall Academy on Monday 26 June 2017. This draft plan for the next five years will not replace the Gaelic Language Plan 2012 - 2016 but intends to build on it. There are six themes in the plan, all of which contribute to increasing the number of Gaelic speakers. <http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/10233/consultation_commences_on_the_highland_council_s_third_iteration_gaelic_language_plan> Community Council members had no comments on this consultation.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - There is one new building warrant currently being shown on the Highland Council website for our area. 17/01276/DOM4 is for the removal of a window and frame and replace with a new external door at Mossford, Lochluichart. There are 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 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, 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, reminded everyone of the informal public meeting taking place next week regarding the Development Company and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….