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

**Held on Tuesday 3 October 2017 in Garve Village Hall**

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

**Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR), Fiona Milligan, Nick Sage & Steve Sheldon (Infinergy) and four members of the public.

**Apologies:** Co-opted members Joe Stewart & Moragh Wylie, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Norma Ross & Pam Courcha(Contin Community Council) and Annie Hingston, Monica Mackay & James Mackay (Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Council). Apologies were also given on behalf of Andy Russell, Grant Folley & Graham West (EDF) by Val MacIver.

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm** following the conclusion of the Infinergy community open day and welcomed everyone. He reminded members of the public that they were very welcome to attend Community Council meetings and take part in the discussions under his guidance.

**Declarations of Interest -** Eliza Leslie Melville 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** – Condolences to the Menzies family, Garve following Jeanette’s death a few weeks ago and to the Grant family, Inchbae following Sandy’s death last week. Congratulations to Chris Ann Stewart and John MacDonald from Garve on the birth of their Granddaughter.

Lochbroom Community Council was reformed following elections on Thursday 14 September 2017. The Community Council had been in abeyance for some time. Their first meeting is due to take place later this week. We wish them well.

All G&DCC agendas, draft minutes, dates of future meetings and fliers 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 via the Community Council emailing list. Just email us at garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com with your email address and we will add you to our emailing list.  Your email address will not be passed onto third parties. We now have 177 people on the emailing list plus all eighteen other active Community Councils in the Ward. 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. The Achnasheen Village notice board usually houses Community Council minutes but is currently out of action following storm damage. Repairs are in hand.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 in Achnasheen Village Hall were proposed by Bob Moir and seconded by Caroline Gamble.

**Matters arising – EDF** – Val MacIver updated the meeting that works following flood damage on site are ongoing with local contractors and local landowners. The site itself continues to generate electricity. The next round of funding from the EDF Education & Training fund is now open. The closing date for the next round of applications is **Monday** **6 November 2017**.  Decisions on applications will be taken by the awards panel in December. More details are available at - [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training). We have requested posters from Foundation Scotland to help advertise this fund which they have provided and have been placed in local notice boards and copies were available at this meeting. The Chairman has also passed on copies to other neighboring Community Councils. Sue Tarr, Chair of the awards panel encouraged people to apply. Val MacIver was thanked for her update.

**Infinergy** – Eliza Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project and left the room at 7.20pm. Fiona Milligan informed the meeting that they had a good turnout at today’s community open day. Another community open day will be held tomorrow in Achnasheen as advertised in the recent newsletter that was sent to every property in the area. There had been a steady flow of people all day and the general reaction was positive. Some people did have issues around the proposed height of the turbines at 133metres, turbine transport problems from Lochluichart one and the recent flash flooding. The team will now consider this feedback. Nick Sage explained that he would be looking at around next spring to lodge a Section 36 planning application with the Scottish Government, possibly determined by the autumn. There had been some changes since the scoping report that was published in April (17/01834/SCOP) – nine turbines, all to the north of Lochluichart one & two. There was a grid connection restriction but this has since been lifted. Nick hopes to attend another Community Council meeting before the end of the year with further updates and apologised for not attending more of our meetings. Each turbine would be able to generate around 3.6MW compared to the current 2.5MW. Fiona hopes to produce another newsletter and perhaps hold another community open day in the future, TBC. It was noted that turbine transport is under the guidance of Police Scotland and only they have the final say. Fiona Milligan, Nick Sage and Steve Sheldon were thanked for attending. Eliza Leslie Melville then returned to the meeting at 7.30pm.

Fiona Milligan, Nick Sage & Steve Sheldon left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**Highland Council updates –** The U3132 (Lochluichart Railway Station road) has been partly repaired with recycled material in recent weeks. It has been reported that further works are to take place. 20MPH road markings in Garve Village have been repainted. The Highland Council has confirmed that it will endeavour to carry out temporary repairs to the side road above Gorstan Junction as soon as is practically possible. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn also continues to chase this issue. Cllr Kate Stephen continues to chase an update regarding the Garve playpark fence in Matheson Road and the holes in the football pitch. It was noted that it took just over three years to fix the Garve bus shelter, how long will it take to fix the fence? The Jetpacker recently filled in some potholes in Matheson Road and around Achnasheen Village.

The Secretary noted rubbish dumped in the laybys at Grudie a few days after our last ordinary meeting. The rubbish was underlay for carpets and bedding along with a mattress. It has since been cleared up, a first-class service by the Highland Council bin team. Bob Moir noted the 30MPH sign near the School is missing. This issue has been reported directly to the Highland Council (Ref - FS58387155). Bob also noted two bin Lorries emptying bins in Garve on a Monday and wondered why. Katrina Taylor at the Highland Council tells us that one of the wagons is the Commercial Lorry that empties all the commercial customers and layby litter bins. The other lorry is a domestic lorry.  Technically, if the domestic lorry was on a green week they could empty all green bins but due to capacity issues, this is not possible. We thank Katrina for the clarification. Faulty streetlights in Stirling Drive, Garve were fixed a few days after our last ordinary meeting. A fault with the disabled toilet door in Achnasheen was quickly fixed by the Highland Council recently. Our thanks to all involved.

Trevor Fraser, Senior Technician at the Highland Council has invited the Community Council to submit three sections of road for their rolling roads maintenance program. The program is for larger sections of road, not individual potholes. It was agreed that in light of last year’s underspend by the Highland Council on the roads, we would ask for Little Garve-Silverbridge road, Strathgarve Farm road, The Avenue, School Road in Achnasheen, Gorstan side road and further works on the Lochluichart Station road (U3132) to be added to the program. Photos will also be sent.

**Speed limit at Lochluichart** – The new Chief Superintendent for Highland, George Macdonald has committed to prioritising safety and speeding on the NC500. Cllr Kate Stephen has contacted him about stretches of the NC500 that individuals or Community Councils have brought to her attention, the A832 at Lochluichart being one such stretch. Cllr’s Dr Ian Cockburn and Kate Stephen along with Community Council members have seen sight of a report into the reduction of the speed limit at Elphin. The report, which is available on the Highland Council website, recommends a reduction of the speed limit through local mitigation measures. This was supported by Elphin residents. It is hoped this has set a president that Lochluichart can follow. However, only two residents wrote to Cllr Kate Stephen on this matter after a flier had been emailed / hand delivered to every property in the Grudie/Fannich/Lochluichart area asking residents to share their views and experiences on this matter. Cllr’s Cockburn and Stephen will continue to look into this matter, are “smileys” the answer? PC Rose will be contacted. In some places, such as Carrbridge and Clachnaharry, residents have put 30MPH speed signs on the side of their bins.

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 the Highland Council website [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.

**First Aid course** – The course run by the British Red Cross can be opened to members of the public. The Community Council would pay the Hall hire. A flier has been emailed / hand delivered to every property in our area. The flier also appeared on our website and posters advertising the course had been placed in local noticeboards. Nineteen people wish to attend the course plus staff from two local businesses (total twenty-five people). The course will be held later this month and those attending have already been informed. A local business also asked about Defibrillator training. They have been pointed in the right direction. Contin Community Council is looking into installing a Defibrillator in their community and holding first aid courses. They too have been pointed in the right direction. A second Defibrillator was recently installed in Lochcarron.

**Relocation of Lochluichart Postbox** – Jake Diamont at Royal mail writes … “*The Highland Council have now provided consent.  Our commercial property and real estate consultants have confirmed the landowner and formal documentation has been sent. This is the final stage, as soon as we receive agreement from the landowner, we will then be able to commit to a date to begin the installation.”* We thank Jake for the update.

**The 2017 Ward Five Joint Community Council meeting** took place on Thursday 7 September 2017 in Lochcarron. Our Chairman and Bob Moir attended. Notes on the 2017 meeting are available in the library section of our website and at this meeting. The notes have already been supplied to the Ward Manager, all four Ward Councillors, and various departments within the Highland Council, Police Scotland, the local MSP and the local MP. All Community Councils in the Ward have also received a copy of the notes for their own records. Notes from previous Joint Community Council meetings are also available in the library section of our website.

Today, we received an email to say the **Garve Railway Station Carpark gate** will be repaired. The fence between the railway and the main road east of Garve was fixed on Thursday 7 September 2017.

**Police report** – No police report from PC Rose but press reports inform us that the police do advise against selling any old vehicles you may own to any persons that arrive at your door offering a quick cash sale.  The vehicles often never make it far from the place of purchase and the “owner” may find themselves responsible for the cost of removal from any public place.

**Treasurers report** – Treasurers account was £536.52 minus June and August Hall Hires (£48) and September Hall Hire (£20), minus £5.59 cards = £462.93. Community Fund was £678.04 minus Hall hire for the two Development Company meeting on 14 July and 9 August (£16) = £662.04. Development Company £250. This will be passed onto the new Company once they have opened a bank account. Ed Tarr has confirmed to our Chairman that they have applied for a bank account and it is progressing slowly. Newsletter £800.56 minus September flier £52.01 = £748.55. This recent cost includes diesel for our Chairman delivering his share of all six sets of fliers delivered so far this year. 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 – Alison MacNeill, Senior Corporate Communications Officer at the Highland Council – licence reminder for 5 November firework displays (sent via HC Policy); Bill Allan, Local Officer, Scottish Health Council – NHS Highland Non-executive members advert; Kirsty Jarvie, Education co-ordinator, British Red Cross – update; Lynn Sharp, Improvement Service – Scottish Government consultation of Low Emission Zones (sent via HC policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 8 September 2017; Murray McGrouther, BEAR Scotland – Culvert replacement works on the A835 near Ullapool (this email was passed onto contacts we have in the Ullapool/Achiltibuie area as well as to the Royal Mail); Jake Diamont, Royal Mail – update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 15 September 2017; Trevor Fraser, Senior Technician, the Highland Council – surfacing schemes invite; ePlanning – new planning applications at 22 September 2017; HC Policy – Preliminary review of polling districts and places; ePlanning – new planning applications at 29 September 2017; Network Rail – Garve Railway Station carpark gate update.

Correspondences received by post – Phyllis Manson - Thank you card.

We also received minutes from Gairloch Community Council, Lochcarron Community Council and Shieldaig Community Council. Nineteen people and two local businesses have signed up to go on the First Aid Course. All but two of these requests were by email.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Caroline Gamble informed us of the following ... The Highland Hospice helping hands is a volunteer befriending and support service run by the Highland Hospice throughout the Highlands. They are currently looking for more volunteers. More details are available on [www.highlandhospice.org/helpinghands](http://www.highlandhospice.org/helpinghands) or by calling 01463 423202.

Warm home discount scheme - you could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2017/2018. The money isn’t paid to you - it’s a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between October and March if you meet certain criteria - [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme) or 0345 603 9439.

SSE power cut priority scheme - we all rely on electricity for various things, but for some, a power cut can be particularly distressing and difficult. SSE offer extra help and support during a power cut for free - [www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices or 0800 294 3259](http://www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices%20or%200800%20294%203259).

You can have your property checked by the SFRS. More details are available at [www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx) or by calling 08000 731 999. The Chairman noted that postcards advertising this service were hand delivered to every house in our area by Community Council members in June. It was reported back to him that “very few” had taken up this free service.

Bob Moir wondered if we could have plaques put on the Benches and Picnic benches. Community Council members agreed that Bob could make some preliminary enquiries.

The Secretary noted very bad potholes are beginning to appear at Mossford “S” bends again. The issue will be highlighted to the Highland Council’s roads team before the winter sets in.

Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 12 November 2017. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has confirmed he will once again lay the Highland Council wreath. Community Council members agreed that Kenny will lay the Community Council wreath. Time of service TBC.

**AOB from members of the public** – A member of the public raised concerns about cyclists not dismounting before crossing the Garve level crossing and weaving back and fore unaware of traffic around them. PC Rose will be informed to look out for such instances on his patrols.

Ed Tarr, Chairman of the Garve & District Development Company provided the following update …”*We have been in contact with three other development groups which have all been enthusiastic about keeping in touch and have provided us with valuable information on setting up. One Development Officer has already attended a Directors meeting and given sound advice – both on what to do and what not to do. Another Development Officer is coming to our next Director’s meeting and has offered to answer any questions. An application in the region of £30,000 has been submitted to the LCT for our first year’s expenses including recruiting a Development Officer. We have four Elected Directors out of a maximum of eight, quorum is four. We have applicants for the four vacant posts and hope to be running a full board as soon as a members meeting can be arranged to vote on the applicants. In the meantime, applicants will be invited to attend meetings as observers so that they will be up to date. We are setting up a website to give access for the whole community to allow two-way contact. We are working with existing project groups to progress activities and get familiar with objectives. The setting up of a bank account is proving problematical and will not be available possibly for another four to five weeks.”* In answering questions from Community Council members, Ed confirmed a dedicated email account is getting set up and minutes will then be sent to members. Alan Illingworth is Treasurer and Steve Jones is Secretary. There have been three board meetings since the board was elected on Wednesday 9 August 2017 and it is hoped to have meetings every two weeks or so starting shortly once the Secretary returns from his holidays. Our Chairman thanked Ed for attending and for his detailed update.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – We have been made aware of three consultations. The first from the Scottish Government is regarding low emission zones. More details are available at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/transport-scotland/building-scotlands-low-emission-zones> The deadline for responses is Tuesday 28 November 2017. Community Council members had no comments.

Second consultation was mentioned at the Joint Community Council meeting held last month. We have not received formal notice of this consultation. This consultation seeks views of crofters and those with an interest, on the pathway of any potential new legislation to reform crofting law. <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/agriculture-and-rural-communities/crofting-consultation-2017> The deadline for responses is Monday 20 November 2017. Community Council members had no comments.

Third consultation is from the Highland Council - Preliminary review of polling districts and places. Each local authority is required to carry out such a review every four years, and the next compulsory review is not scheduled to take place until October 2018. However, the Highland Council has agreed to initiate a preliminary review ahead of next year’s statutory review.  The purpose being is to have a longer period of consultation to ascertain stakeholders’ view and opinions. Various stakeholders are being asked for their input at this time including all Community Councils in the Highlands. [www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections](http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections) The deadline for comments is Wednesday 31 January 2018. The Chairman noted there are no plans to make changes in our area at this time but that the electorate has fallen from around 300 to 268 (215 Garve, 53 Achnasheen). Staff at Strathgarve Primary School have indicated to our Chairman that the school role has increased from seven to nine and will increase again to eleven shortly. Community Council members had no comments on the consultation.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - Two previous planning applications have been determined by the Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. At our December 2016 ordinary meeting, we considered 16/04785/FUL, the formation of access; land 150metres South East of The Corran, Gorstan. The Highland Council has now granted permission with one condition regarding sightlines. At last month’s ordinary meeting we considered 17/03791/PNO, erection of a 10metre high telecoms tower, land 635metre South East of the Aultguish Inn. The Highland Council has now granted permission with no conditions. Copies of all planning reports are available on the Highland Council website.

**Dates of future meetings**

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

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall – apologies from Bob Moir noted.

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 8.40pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….