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

**held on Tuesday 3 April 2018 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble (7.00pm-8.00pm) and co-opted member Joe Stewart (7.30pm-8.15pm).

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Val MacIver (Platform PR), Fiona Milligan, Nick Sage and Steve Sheldon (Infinergy 7.00pm-8.00pm), PC Craig Rose (7.00pm-7.10pm) and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Community Council member Bob Moir and co-opted member Moragh Wylie.

**The Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm 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. The Chairman then explained that under constitution point 7.3, four voting members of the Community Council must be present for the meeting to be quorate. As this meeting would **not be quorate** until Joe arrived, our Chairman suggested we start by taking updates from those in attendance.

**Police report** – PC Craig Rose noted that since the better weather arrived, speeding is becoming an issue once again. In the last month, seven cars have been caught speeding, one travelling at 102mph. The volume of tourist traffic partly due to NC500 is felt to be a contributing factor. A two-vehicle accident took place last Saturday lunchtime on the A835 trunk road north of Silverbridge. There have also been accidents near Dundonnell and Wick in recent weeks resulting in deaths. Standard of driving, inexperience and speed are all factors in such serious accidents. PC Rose went on to say that since the call handling service was moved to Dundee, both he and his colleagues have found the service to be much improved. Colleagues are still dispatched by the call centre and as each Officer is GPS tracked, the nearest Officer will be sent to an incident. Press reports inform us that a man has been reported in connection with 39 crimes and offences at 31 different locations across the Highlands. Police Scotland said the 43-year-old from the County Durham area had been reported to the procurator fiscal. The incidents involved numerous thefts, including housebreakings, thefts of vehicles and vandalism to properties over a "large geographical area" in Ross-shire and Sutherland last summer. PC Rose doesn’t think any incidents took place in our area. There are usually less instances of stealing during the summer months. PC Rose was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.10pm.

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk) Fiona Milligan informed the meeting that today’s open day which was advertised in newspapers on Friday 23 March and Friday 30 March and by a newsletter sent to every house in our area was attended by 13 people, two of whom were from out with our area. No major issues raised from those who did attend however, one person did mention the noise that sometimes comes from the Beauly-Mossford powerline. Nick Sage will pass this onto SSE and will let us know their reply. The planning application will be sent to The Highland Council instead of a Section 36 application to the Scottish Government following legal advice. The application may be submitted this summer, with the windfarm up and running possibly by 2021. Our Chairman asked what measures were being taken to ensure this project doesn’t add to any future flash flooding? Nick Sage confirmed that underground cable routes are being carefully considered. Fiona and Nick will keep us informed of updates over the coming months and were thanked for attending.

**EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that the site is running well. Bids for forestry fencing and tree planting works will be awarded shortly. Val MacIver was thanked for her updates. It was noted that a number of hillwalkers use the access tracks to access the hills.  There were several cars parked at Glascarnoch Dam and at the bottom of the windfarm access road on Sunday 25 March 2018.

The Chairman then moved onto **matters arising** since our last ordinary meeting in order to inform those present what updates we had.

**SSE Western Isles Interconnector** – Following some press reports ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-43371716](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-43371716)) we asked SSE for an update as we have not heard anything about this project in around five years. Daryn Lucas, Lead Project Manager writes *…”The Western Isles Connection route still runs from Beauly over Garve Hill using the Beauly-Mossford overhead line route and then goes directly under the road and rail line before turning towards Garve and running under The Avenue, round the back of the village towards the A835 where the route joins the road corridor to Dundonnell. Supply chain – we will be receiving “Best and Final Offers” from our two remaining tendering contractors on 11 May 2018 and should then be in a position to appoint a preferred contractor by July 2018. Ofgem – we are planning to submit the project Needs Case to Ofgem in July 2018 with a view to gaining conditional approval prior to the anticipated spring 2019 Planning consents – we will be submitting our Marine License application and our planning application for Beauly in May 2018. You may have also seen some topographical survey works going on along the A835 – this was undertaken to confirm the adopted area of the road available to work in and identify any areas that we need to negotiate with landowners on for additional space”.* We thank Daryn for the detailed update provided. This update has already been uploaded to our website.

**The Garve & District Development Company** – their Chairman, Ed Tarr, who was unable to attend tonight has verbally informed our Chairman that the Company have now appointed a Development Officer and a Company Secretary. We thank Ed for the update.

**Highland Council updates – The Avenue -** Photos of the leaning and damaged trees were taken and reported both directly to Highland Council officials and via The Highland Council website’s reporting system (FS70459231). This update has already been uploaded to our website.

Following the accident on Sunday 25 February 2018, the **fence** between the A835 trunk road and railway east of Garve was replaced last Thursday. Various **potholes** in the area have been repaired in recent weeks.

**Fence at the football pitch** – The Secretary visited the site a few days after our last ordinary meeting where she discovered a six-inch nail sticking out of the fence. Photos were taken and the damage reported both directly to Highland Council officials and via The Highland Council website’s reporting system (FS69994483). A further repair has now taken place. This update has already been uploaded to our website.

Co-opted member Joe Stewart joined the meeting at 7.30pm. As we were **now quorate**, our Chairman suggested we now attend to any business that Community Council members needed to make formal decisions on before Caroline Gamble leaves the meeting at 8.00pm.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2018 in Garve Village Hall were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Kenny Maclean. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village notice board, on our website, via email or on request to the Secretary.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – We have received four consultations. The first is from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS). *“Your service … Your voice”* sets out SFRS’s vision, explains why the SFRS needs to transform and asks a number of questions about how transformation should be achieved. The consultation ends on Monday 14 May 2018. View the document at [www.firescotland.gov.uk/transformation/public-consultation.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/transformation/public-consultation.aspx) Community Council members had no comments to make.

The second consultation is from The Scottish Parliament’s Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee. They are looking into the impact of bank closures. The main inspiration behind the Committee's work is that the number of bank branches across Scotland has reduced by a third between 2010 and 2017. The Committee wants to hear from as many people as possible (members of a community councils, business owners or from individuals). More information is available at - <http://parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107957.aspx> The deadline for comments is Friday 13 April 2018. Community Council members had no comments to make as none of the Dingwall banks are marked for closure at this time.

Highland & Islands Enterprise are also carrying out a bank closure consultation - [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Access\_to\_Banking\_Residents](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Access_to_Banking_Residents) Community Council members had no comments to make.

The Highland Council’s Election Office have now concluded the first part of the preliminary review of Polling Places - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting/718/review_of_polling_places> Each local authority must by law carry out a review every four years to make sure it provides facilities for voting and that polling places are accessible to all electors, including voters with a disability. This proposed scheme will be open for consultation until Monday 10 December 2018. This scheme and any feedback will then form part of the statutory review and final approval of the plans will be sought from Highland Councillor’s between December 2018 and March 2019.  The new scheme will come in to force for any elections after March 2019. The paperwork shows the Achnasheen Polling Place will remain as Achnasheen Village Hall serving 53 electorates and the Garve Polling Place will be Garve Village Hall serving 215 electorates. Community Council members had no comments to make.

All Highland Council consultations are available at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal> All Scottish Government consultations are available at <https://consult.gov.scot/consultation_finder>

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - One previous planning application has been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 18/00337/FUL was for the erection of totem pole advertisement, replacement canopy, installation of two new fuel tanks, floodlights, upgrading of forecourt and access and siting of control unit building at Achnasheen Filling Station. Planning permission has been granted with two conditions. 1 - The external lighting shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approved Lighting Plan (drawing no. 171041-08) in order to ensure that any lighting installed within the application site does not spill beyond the intended target area. 2 - The totem pole hereby approved shall be 3.5m in height in the interests of visual amenity.

One new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 18/00956/FUL is the proposed upgrading of the SEPA gauging station at Garve. Deadline for comments to the case officer by this Friday. As both The Secretary and Caroline Gamble had to declare an interest, we were not in a position to consider the application.

The Chairman then returned to **matters arising** since the last ordinary meeting.

The Environmental Health Officer at The Highland Council has **arranged uplift of the dumped chest freezer** beside Loch Chullin with the landowner. The chest freezer was uplifted within the last two weeks.

**A832 Grudie - Achnasheen verge reinstatement works** – we note it was April 2016 we first asked when would the verges be reinstated following the undergrounding of a cable.  Two years on they are only half way there. Our February 2018 minutes state *…”we are advised that the contractor and the Highland Council are waiting for the weather to improve before carrying out the remaining work.”* It was good to see a site meeting taking place recently, a sign the weather has indeed improved!

**Achnasheen Village information shelter** – The contract to construct and install the shelter structure was out to tender but will be re-tendered as only one contractor came back and their quote was over budget. The aim is for as much of the structure to be fabricated off site as possible, with a view to reducing the on-site disruption, and for the shelter to be installed later this year. The shelter will then be fitted with the information panels and community notice cabinets. Work is also ongoing with The Highland Council’s City Wireless Project Manager in an effort to install a free open wi-fi service through the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal project. Our Chairman has also put The Highland Council in touch with the local broadband group. There is no budget for other shelters in other locations in this community such as Gorstan as was suggested previously. Regarding a meeting, this may happen when first proofs for the panels and a contractor has been appointed. It should be noted that the £80,000 budget has been rolled forward to 2018/2019 financial year. A suggestion of mobile phone chargers being installed in the shelters as part of this project has been passed on but it is doubtful this can be done from a maintenance point of view. This update has already been uploaded to our website.

**Electric vehicle charging point** – it appears that funding is no longer available for this project. This update has already been uploaded to our website. Cllr Cockburn will again look into this matter.

**Achnasheen Primary School** – Cllr Derek Macleod mentioned at the Torridon & Kinlochewe Community Council meeting held on Wednesday 14 March 2018 that he believed the School building had been sold or was about to be sold. This was news to us, to the Ward Manager and Cllr Cockburn who does not believe the School building has been sold or is about to be sold. The dreadful condition of the school building which was first mothballed in 2004 and formally closed in 2010 was noted.

In other news, the **swimming pool in the Dingwall Leisure Centre** will be closed for two weeks from Monday 16 April 2018 for repairs. The **A834** will be closed at Strathpeffer from 8.00am on Tuesday 10 April 2018 until 5.00pm the following day to allow Scottish Water to work on their sewer. Details of this closure have already appeared in newspapers and via <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/investment-and-communities/your-community/strathpeffer-sewer-renewal> Some households have also received a note through their letterboxes. The **C1087 Bealach Na Ba Road** may not temporary close overnight in June/July following a public meeting held in Applecross last Thursday. **New street lights** are currently being fitted in Station Road, Garve.

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

**Dog Fouling** - It is an offence not to clean up immediately after your dog in any open space where the public have access. It can lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 which increases if it is not paid. If you have information regarding irresponsible dog owners, please let The Highland Council know. In particular, they would need times, locations, and a description of the owner and type of dog. Photos also help. Report any issues straight away via [www.highland.gov.uk/info/1330/street\_care\_and\_cleaning/473/dog\_fouling](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1330/street_care_and_cleaning/473/dog_fouling) or by calling 01349 886606. This update has already been uploaded to our website.

**Garve Railway Station Footbridge** – In a letter from Network Rail sent on 7 January 2015, the Footbridge may be refurbished and painted in 2018/2019. We have sent a copy of the letter back to Network Rail along with photos of the Footbridge as it currently is (Ref 180322-000041). Their reply dated Thursday 29 March 2018 states … *”This footbridge has been deferred until 2022/2023; this decision is based on the condition of the structure and having to carry out work on other structures with a higher priority”*.

**Wester Ross Biosphere SHARP project** – Laura Hamlet, Project Officer has provided us with the following update … “*We have decided to focus on Heritage Routes as our theme and so we will be hosting the first in a suite of workshops and focus groups on the 18 April at Kinlochewe Village Hall to map out what routes (sea or land) exist, or used to be in use that might be suitable for new ecotourism initiatives. As a first step this workshop will focus on the opportunities and then in future meetings we will explore the details, challenges and issues surrounding our choices and select the best opportunities to take forward. I’m looking for input from historians, archaeologists, landowners and managers, cartographers, keen walkers, wildlife enthusiasts, tourism groups, rangers, fishing industry, crofters and visitors themselves. We will be hosting a bigger project launch event in May – we will present what we learnt on the 18 April and some of the ways that we might be able to drive forward new initiatives (funding streams, knowledge exchange visits etc.)”*. We thank Laura for the update. As ever, more details are available on their website - [www.westerrossbiosphere.com](http://www.westerrossbiosphere.com/)

**2018 Joint Community Council meeting** – is due to take place next month.

As agreed at the last ordinary meeting, **to save on printing costs**, important emails would now be digitally stored on a memory stick rather than printed. This would also save on storage space in spare bedrooms!

**Treasurers report** – In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman with help from the Secretary declared the following figures. Treasurers account was £248.03 minus £20.00 Hall hire for March meeting and minus £400 Secretary fee = £-171.97. This will be balanced from the Community Fund (reserve) which was £538.64. Auditor’s fee will also be deducted from this fund. Newsletter (fliers) remains at £698.54. Accounts will shortly be sent to our Auditor.

We are grateful for the support shown to the Community Council since it came to light our administration grant is to be cut by around 50%. The Secretary has spent £81.00 on items for six hampers which were available at the Garve Hotel. £200.50 has been raised already by the raffling of these hampers and there are four hampers still to be raffled. The Secretary’s expenses are yet to be deducted. We also thank Bob for his £20 donation towards the hampers and to the Garve Hotel for their help and support.

Fiona Milligan, Nick Sage and Steve Sheldon (Infinergy) left the meeting at 8.00pm and were thanked for attending.

Community Council member Caroline Gamble also left the meeting at 8.00pm and was thanked for attending. This meant the remainder of the meeting **was not quorate** so no formal decisions could be taken.

**Correspondences** - by Email - Rab Middlemiss, Local Senior Officer – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (Highland) – *“Your service … Your voice”* consultation; Clifford Smith, Environmental Health Officer, The Highland Council – dumped chest freezer uplift; Daryn Lucas, Lead Project Manager, SSE – Western Isles Interconnector update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 9 March 2018; Lynn Sharp, Project Officer, Improvement Service – Scottish Parliament inquiry into bank closures (received via HC Policy); Anna Evans, Director, Indigo House Group – HIE bank closure survey; ePlanning – new planning applications at 16 March 2018; The Highland Council’s Elections Team - Review of The Highland Council's Polling Places and Districts (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 23 March 2018; Wendy Morton, Community Relations Executive, Network Rail Scotland – Garve Railway Station Footbridge; Laura Hamlet, Project Officer, Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism (SHAPE) – update; Dorota Peszkowska, Event Administrator, Public Policy Events - Citizens Rights Project; ePlanning – new planning applications at 30 March 2018.

Correspondences received by post – Alan Mackie, Head of Sales, ElanCity – radar speed signs.

We have also received draft minutes from Coigach, Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon, Lochcarron and Gairloch Community Councils and approved minutes from Aultbea Community Council.

**AOB from Community Council members** – co-opted member Joe Stewart asked about the damaged road surface below Lochview, east of Garve on the A835 trunk road. Our understanding is that this section is due to be resurfaced shortly. It was noted that the weather and the road surface temperature are factors before such works can be done.

**AOB from members of the public** – no issues raised by those present.

**Dates of future meetings**

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.

Further meetings TBC at the AGM.

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 - [www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4456/scheme\_of\_establishment\_for\_community\_councils](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4456/scheme_of_establishment_for_community_councils)

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

**Post meeting note.** This email was sent by Martin Macphee at Eneco at 6.27pm on Tuesday 3 April 2018 and was not received until after our meeting … *“Apologies, I will not be attending tonight. Only news from me is that two main components have failed at Lochluichart, one as reported in T106 and the other just newly detected in T206. It is not clear as yet if these repair works will be collaborated or not”*.

**Outstanding road repairs in our Community Council area …**

*School Road in Achnasheen is full of potholes (FS60324080 reported October 2017).*

*Flooding in Achnasheen Village centre – the centre of the village always appears to have water laying around on the grass, in car parks etc. Extra drainage may be required.*

*Damage to crash barrier next to boathouse on Loch Chullin (FS69994399 reported 10 March 2018).*

*Damage to crash barrier opposite Grudie Cottage (FS69994339 reported 10 March 2018).*

*Road edge near Grudie Cottage (A832) and Lochluichart Church layby still need potholes filled with tar (FS70617150 re-reported 18 March 2018).*

*Damage to crash barrier to the west of Lochluichart Church (FS69992497 reported 10 March 2018).*

*Damage to crash barrier to the west of Burnside Cottage (FS69992364 reported 10 March 2018).*

*Side road at Gorstan is full of potholes (FS11911374 reported 17 January 2017, FS60318870 reported October 2017 and FS68966075 reported 26 February 2018 noting the water flow across the road) – this and the “big hole” in the layby near Gorstan Junction still await repairs.*

*Speed limit sign light out at Junction of Stirling Drive and Station Road, Garve (Reported November 2017 - FS62027724).*

*We have received reports of damaged drain covers in Stirling Drive, Garve. This has been reported (FS66213050 reported 19 January 2018 and a photo attached to the report).*

*Pothole in Matheson Road (FS68964132 reported 26 February 2018).*

*Speed limit sign light out beside Strathgarve Primary School (FS67640501 reported 8 February 2018).*

*The road surface is breaking up at the start of The Avenue (FS68964983 reported 26 February 2018).*

*Trees on The Avenue may need attention (FS70459231 reported March 2018).*

*The lack of runoff’s and drains was noted between Strathgarve and Wades Bridge.*

Some of the Hampers that were available over Easter at the Garve Hotel. Many thanks to all at the Garve Hotel for their help and support …



[www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict)

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