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

**held on Tuesday 4 December 2018 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble and co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris.

**Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR) and Nick Sage (Infinergy).

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Community Council member Bob Moir, co-opted member Joe Stewart and Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn,

**The Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone. Eliza Leslie Melville has now completed a total of 21 years’ service over a 23-year period on the Community Council – congratulations!

**Declarations of Interest** – none. Community Council members confirmed that they had read all documents due to be discussed tonight before the start of this meeting.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6 November 2018 in Garve Village Hall were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaels Harris. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, via email or on our website. The website still receives around 150 “hits” per month.

**Matters arising – EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that the site is running well. Val also thanked Community Council members for sending her best wishes. Val was thanked for her updates.

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk) Nick Sage from Infinergy apologised for not attending a meeting sooner but work on the project has continued behind the scenes. Infinergy hope to apply for planning permission for their nine turbines in January 2019. Paperwork will be able to be viewed on their website, on The Highland Council planning website and a hard copy will also be available in Garve Village Hall. The application will be determined by The Highland Council, not the Scottish Government. CD copies of the EIA will also be available from Infinergy. A newsletter will be sent to every property in the area nearer the time. Nick was thanked for his updates.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **Trees in The Avenue** – Nick Richards, Forestry Officer at The Highland Council writes … *“A tree survey and management plan was carried out by SSE back in March 2013, primarily to assess the impact of the Western Isle connection cable route. I am not aware of any more recent surveys. Given that 5 years have now passed, I would recommend that a further survey is undertaken. The Avenue is owned and managed by our Community Services and so I would need to be instructed by them before undertaking any survey”*. We thank Nick for his update and have asked Community Services for their views on the matter – no response received. Caroline and Sadie will walk The Avenue with a copy of the plan to see which “dangerous” trees are still in place.

**Bailey Bridge** – all bridges are visually inspected on a yearly basis.

The Secretary noted that the remaining **potholes on the “S” bends at Lochluichart** were repaired by the tarring squad on Wednesday 14 November 2018 after we requested the team return. 104 individual repairs have been completed between Gorstan Junction and Grudie Power Station. Laura MacAllister at The Highland Council has confirmed that the squad did not leave the site with the intention of leaving some of the potholes, the squad carried out the works on the road space that wasn’t occupied by a utility company. The intention was always to carry out permanent repairs on the “S” bends once the road space was unoccupied. Around **120 offlets** have also been cleaned out on this section of road which we also welcome. We are pleased our constant campaigning on this issue over the years has finally yielded results. A huge thank you to Iain Moncrieff, Laura MacAllister and others who have helped us.

The road surface 3-5 miles south of Achnasheen on the A890 **between Luib summit and Glencarron Lodge** is also in a bad state of repair.  We have again asked when will this section of road which is just inside our Community Council area be repaired. New potholes at Grudie and Lochluichart have been reported.

**A Caravan appears to have been dumped** in the Grudie layby since around Sunday 18 November 2018. Several photos of the Caravan and the surrounding mess have been passed onto The Highland Council -  FS97277748. The Highland Council have now placed a 7-day removal notice on the Caravan dated Friday 30 November 2018.

**Achnasheen Electric Vehicle charging point** – funding has now been secured by The Highland Council.  The charger forms part of those grant funded by Transport Scotland who stipulate that a charger is located in a publicly accessible location.  The rapid charger will infill a gap between Dingwall and Skye, provision will be further strengthened during the rest of 2018/19 by further installations in Wester Ross also funded by Transport Scotland. The Highland Council hope the rapid charger will be in place down in the Village Centre by the end of the year. Community Council members have suggested signs up on the main road indicating a charger is down in the Village Centre would be useful. Perhaps a charger could also be installed in Garve if funding allows. A map showing where all the electric vehicle charging points are is available at [www.zap-map.com/live](http://www.zap-map.com/live) Press reports inform us that charging points for electric cars are to be rolled out at hundreds of Tesco stores from next year. Tesco will work with Volkswagen to develop more than 2,400 electric vehicle (EV) charging points by 2020. A standard 7kW charger will be free, with a faster charge (50kW) available for a cost. Customers will be able to charge their cars while they shop. There are no details which Tesco stores with have electric vehicle chargers installed.

**Achnasheen Village Shelter** – Claire Bell from The Highland Council has been in touch to say that regarding the shelter repairs, the contractor has been working on the fittings at their workshop. Work started on the shelter itself last Thursday - ongoing. Claire and Helen Smith have been working on the information panels. As previously agreed, it is planned that the finished versions of the two panels will each be 1.2m - 1.4m height x 1.0m width, and will be located within the refurbished Achnasheen shelter along with new Village noticeboards. Community Council members have viewed the latest version of the information panels and have suggested a Highland cow and more promotion of NC500 and the Wester Ross Biosphere would be helpful. We have also suggested that another set of these information panels should be located in the Garve area, perhaps the layby in Gorstan where our bench and copper beach tree is would be suitable. A nice view there of Wades Bridge and Ben Wyvis. Perhaps the panels could be housed within a similar designed shelter to the one in Achnasheen?

**Dead tree in Achnasheen Village Centre** – Nick Richards, Forestry Officer at The Highland Council writes … “*I would recommend that the dead spruce in Achnasheen is felled as soon as possible and certainly before winter sets in. This is probably a matter for Community Services”*. We thank Nick for his update. The tree was cut down last Thursday. The stump reveals the tree was around 100 years old.

We also note the **broken street light** in the Arthur’s Terrace car park in Achnasheen was finally replaced on Monday 19 November 2018 after we reported it on Thursday 26 April 2018. The Highland Council were unable to replace like for like so a modern LED light has been fitted instead. Various streetlights **in and** **around Garve** have now also been repaired. We also note the **old canopy** at the old Achnasheen Filling Station was taken down last Tuesday. It was around 30 years old and had been falling into disrepair for some time. The old above ground diesel tank has been removed and tree cutting on site has begun. Work to **take down the classroom** of the old Achnasheen Primary School appears complete.

**A890 Stromeferry Bypass** – although this section of road is out with our area, we take an interest as it affects local residents and tourists alike. There was a Highland Council meeting on Thursday 8 November 2018 (attended by our Chairman and co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris). It was a lively meeting which resulted in the Councillor's agreeing to look at securing funding to get plans drawn up a new road.  Paying for a new road is another issue! Aileen Grant attended from Lochcarron Community Council plus two Lochcarron residents.  Councillors from Mallaig, Skye and Dingwall as well as Cllr’s Cockburn & Macleod spoke about their concerns over the Bypass. Current works on the rock face were completed on Friday 23 November 2018. Our Chairman understands that design work has started to get the next four most dangerous sections of rock face fixed. There will need to be early engagement with Network Rail to ensure the new signalling system and road/rail diversion is used again. If the tendering process goes well and Network Rail play ball, it is hoped to do the stabilising work on the rock faces as early as possible, Spring 2019 looks optimistic at this stage. In the meantime, Lochcarron Community Council would strongly encourage everyone to write individual letters to express their own views on the current situation and their views on a long-term solution to Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity [CabSecTIC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecTIC@gov.scot) Today’s press reports also carry an update on this story - [www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/inverness/1623321/scottish-government-response-to-highland-road-infrastructure-disappointing-says-council-leader/](http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/inverness/1623321/scottish-government-response-to-highland-road-infrastructure-disappointing-says-council-leader/)

At the same Highland Council meeting, **The Highland Council’s single use plastic strategy and action plan** was adopted. The action plan sets out The Highland Council’s response to the increasing amount of plastic waste in our environment by “getting our own house in order”, working with suppliers and contractors and raising awareness of the issues. Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris thought that the plan, the first of its kind in Scotland was good. It was also good to see that ALL Councillors at the meeting appeared to be on board with the plan. What items can go in blue bins is confusing – a list of what can be put in your blue bin is available on The Highland Council website - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/1063/rubbish\_-\_household\_waste/137/what\_you\_can\_put\_in\_your\_bins](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1063/rubbish_-_household_waste/137/what_you_can_put_in_your_bins) Sadie also thought Companies should do more to use recycled materials. Is the form a deterrent to using local recycling centres if you are in a van? Perhaps this is leading to some of the increased fly tipping in our area.

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.

**Streetlight faults** can be reported via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/110/street_lighting_and_traffic_signals> You will need to provide the reference number on the streetlight column.

The Highland Council’s **Winter Service Policy** for 2018/19 will be published on the Council’s website at [www.highland.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gritting)

**Potholes** can be reported directly via The Highland Council website - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/road_faults>

**Trunk Road flooding below Kirk House** – Ian Wilson at BEAR writes ... *“Our inspection team have visited the site, unfortunately they somehow had a dry day. From what they report there is very little trunk road drainage at this point, there appears to be only one gully and channel. I have asked that the channel and gully be cleaned out and hopefully this should help dissipate the majority of the water. We will then carry out investigations to determine if new gullies can be installed here to prevent any future issues”.*  We thank Ian for the update. The Secretary noted last week that workmen have been busy **cutting along Garve Railway Station car park** hedge and trees which she welcomed. Community Council members also noted the bank between Kirk House and Garve Hotel appeared wet again. This will be raised accordingly.

**Remembrance Sunday** – a service took place at the Garve War Memorial on Sunday 11 November 2018. It was a dry fresh day, our Chairman was joined by The Secretary, Community Council member Bob Moir, co-opted member Joe Stewart, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and around 60 members of the Community. It was good to see so many of the younger members of the community in attendance along with adults from across the area. Taking part in the Battle’s O’er tribute at 6.00am that same morning was co-opted member Joe Stewart and his son Glen.

**Future of Community Councils** – The Highland Council have had a *“positive response”* to feedback from Community Council members during its initial survey.  The feedback is being viewed by a Steering Group comprised of Area Committee Chairpersons and Community Council representatives. At the first meeting of the Steering Group, it was agreed that prior to finalising any proposals and starting the formal public consultation, it would be important to provide an opportunity for all Community Councils to come together and discuss the emerging proposals. A workshop took place on Saturday 24 November 2018. Nobody from this Community Council was able to attend due to work/other commitments and it was rather short notice but we have asked for an update on this issue and suggested another session one weekday evening may be helpful. Anne MacRae, Secretary of Torridon & Kinlochewe Community Council did manage to attend and thought it was a very good meeting and felt it was a genuine attempt to engage. About 50 Community Councils were represented including Torridon & Kinlochewe, Lochbroom and Loch Duich from Ward five.  The Highland Council may make this an annual event for Community Council members which could perhaps be tied in with training. Robbie Bain highlighted Ward Five Joint Community Council meetings. Some other Community Councils didn't seem to have as positive a relationship with The Highland Council. The Highland Council seem to have abandoned the idea of one Community Council per 2000 people following feedback which suggested most felt it was not practical. The Highland Council also seem to be acknowledging the implications of cutting budgets by 50% and the need for a baseline figure that would at least allow all Community Councils to operate properly. We thank Anne for her update and await further news on this matter.

The **2018 Community Christmas party** will take place on Saturday 22 December from 5.30pm in Garve Village Hall. Santa is due to arrive around 6.30pm. In the 2016 Community Needs Survey, there was support for a Christmas party for the whole community (children & adults) to bring everyone together – 26 votes. The annual switch on of the **Christmas lights in Garve** took place last Saturday evening. There was around 60-70 people there and real Christmas trees were also available to purchase! The Parent Council raised £230 at the event and we understand Contin Hall raised £100.

Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (North), **Scottish Water** writes … *“As we come into the colder weather, Scottish Water is advising customers in communities across Scotland to prepare their homes for winter.  Our winter advice encourages anyone with a home, holiday home or business premises to take action to heat, insulate and protect their properties. Customers can find information online about their pipework responsibilities by visiting* [*www.scottishwater.co.uk/responsibility*](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/responsibility)*”*. We thank Gavin for the update. Caroline Gamble **noted that the pipes** branching off the mains pipe in Little Garve keep bursting. It is believed the pipes are substandard and may not be buried deep enough. We will seek clarification from Gavin on this matter.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – No report received but social media reports … “*Across the Highlands & Islands, efforts continue to tackle drink driving, with five people - three women aged 54, 48 & 22 and two men both aged 48-years-old – all to be reported in connection with drink driving offences”*.

Highland Council Trading Standards have recently become aware of a new phishing e-mail (or text) scam.  Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit/debit card or bank account details by disguising as a trustworthy entity in an email or text.  In this new twist, scammers send an email (or text) to unsuspecting recipients posing as a well-known delivery parcel services.  The fake email (or text) may look genuine as it has the correct full details of the recipient, including name full name, full address, and correct mobile or other phone number.  Scam emails (or texts) are disguised as tracking messages or alerts from household named delivery businesses, but also include a link which may be used to either steal the recipients’ bank details and/or download malware or both when users click onto the link. The suspect emails (or texts) don't explain what the supposed parcel being delivered contains, which could entice users to click links or open attached files.

These represent a rise from 23 and 27 respectively in the same period in 2017.

A total of 493 drivers were detected in connection with speeding offences in April - a rise from 412 in the same period last year.

These offences coincided with a national road safety campaign run by Police Scotland between April 16-22 aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of excess speed, seatbelt offences and using a mobile phone.

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**Treasurers report** – According to the latest bank statement, the bank balance on Friday 9 November 2018 was £2,741.68. Treasurers account £158.37 minus November Hall hire £12, minus Data Protection fee renewal £35 on 1 January 2019 via Direct Debit = £111.37. Community (reserve) £1,838.01. Newsletter (flier) fund £695.50. Anyone who wishes to donate to our baskets can do so directly to our Secretary or at the reception of Garve Hotel. Hamper baskets would be particularly welcome.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – Nick Richards, Forestry Officer, The Highland Council – trees; Cllr Alasdair Christie, Depute Council Leader and Localism Lead, The Highland Council - Community Council Workshop; Susan Blease, Principal Solicitor, Regulatory Services, The Highland Council - Highland Licensing Board consultation on festive period policy; Ian Wilson, BEAR Scotland – A835 flooding below Kirk House; ePlanning – new planning applications at 9 November 2018; Cllr Alister MacKinnon, Budget Leader, The Highland Council - Your Voice, Your Council, Your Future - Council Budget Engagement (received via HC policy); Lynn Sharp, Project Officer, Improvement Service - Democracy Matters Regional Events (received via HC policy); Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (North), Scottish Water - Protect your pipes - be prepared in winter; Paul Arnold, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Information Commissioner's Office - Data Protection fee - Reminder to renewal; ePlanning – new planning applications at 16 November 2018; Laura MacAllister – A832 Lochluichart update; Claire Bell, Project Officer, The Highland Council – Achnasheen Shelter; ePlanning – new planning applications at 23 November 2018; Helen Smith, Rowan Tree Consulting – Achnasheen Shelter panels; Isla Cuthbert, Membership Secretary, Highland Senior Citizens Network – Newsletter; David G Campbell, Land Consultancy Services Ltd - North Ross Deer Management Group updated plan; ePlanning – new planning applications at 30 November 2018.

Correspondences received by post – none.

We have also received draft minutes from Contin, Lochbroom, Lochalsh, Shieldaig, Torridon & Kinlochewe and Lochcarron Community Councils and approved minutes from Coigach Community Council.

**AOB from Community Council members** – we learnt through social media that the **Minor Injury Unit** at Ross Memorial Hospital, Dingwall is CLOSED. NHS Highland has closed the MIU until at least Sunday 31 March 2019 due to winter pressures. The Health Centre in Dingwall is not a Minor Injuries Unit and as such patients with minor injuries should attend the MIU at Invergordon Hospital or A&E at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. This update has been posted on our website.

Jean Bailey has been in touch with our Chairman directly to say the **Garve Coffee & Book Club** meet this Saturday before taking a winter break until March 2019.

**2019 Community Ceilidh** – our Chairman asked Community Council members to start to think about what they would like to do next year as a funding application would need to be in to the LCT by 28 February 2019 to meet their new deadlines and to secure the booking of a band, catering, Hall hire etc … Possible dates might be Saturday 17/24 August 2019 **TBC**. Page six of the 2016 Community Needs Survey report does show support for vibrant social activities in the community.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received two consultations from The Highland Council. As reported at our last ordinary meeting, The Highland Council are conducting another **budget consultation.** Everyone is encouraged to take part - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11409/your_voice_your_council_your_future> Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted a live social media event took place recently. Discussions included public toilets and tourism tax.

Their second consultation are proposed changes to the Highland Licensing Board’s policy on granting extended opening hours at on sales premises during the festive period.  If adopted, this policy would restrict extensions of hours during the festive period to Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays (or Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Hogmanay and New Year’s Day if these fell on other days of the week).   This would become a supplementary policy statement and would have effect from festive period 2019/20 onwards. The consultation document explaining the proposed changes, and providing details of how to submit comments, can be accessed at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19915/consultation_on_proposed_festive_hours_policy_changes> The deadline for submitting comments is 15 December 2018. All comments received will be considered by the Licensing Board at its January meeting. Community Council members had no comments.

**Today**, we received a consultation from the North Ross Deer Management Group asking for feedback on what we would like to see in their updated plan. We will request a copy of their current plan before making (any) comments.

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** – there is one new building warrant on The Highland Council’s website. 18/02233/DOM2 is the proposed demolition of outbuildings and cottage behind Ledgowan Lodge in Achnasheen.

Our Chairman was recently asked who receives Neighbour Notification notices from the Planning Department. A notification is sent if the site boundary of the property applying for planning permission lies either adjacent to your property or within 20 metres of your property however, notifications will not be sent to owners of land where there are no premises.

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

All planning applications can be viewed at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning_-_applications_warrants_and_certificates/143/planning_permission/4>

**Dates of future meetings**

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

January 2019 – no meeting

Tuesday 5 February 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 5 March 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 2 April 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 May 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 4 June 2019, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

July 2019 – no meeting

Tuesday 6 August 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 1 October 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

It was agreed that as we are now having summer and winter breaks, any issue with a deadline will be emailed to Community Council members for their consideration. A special meeting can be called if necessary. As ever, updates between meetings will continue to be posted on our website.

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, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

Garve Christmas lights which were officially switched on at 6.00pm on Saturday 1 December 2018 …



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

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