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

**held on Tuesday 9 January 2018 in Garve Village Hall**

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

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Val MacIver (Platform PR), Tor Justad and Hazel Kerio (Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Community Council member Bob Moir and co-opted member Joe Stewart. Apologies were also given on behalf of Andy Russell, Grant Folley, Graham West & Laura Noone (EDF) by Val MacIver.

**The Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm 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** – None. Community Council members confirmed that they had read the draft minutes before the start of this meeting.

**Chairman’s comments** – The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Best wishes to Helen Murchison, Chair of Lochcarron Community Council following her operation.

Our Chairman attended the service celebrating Alasdair Macleod’s life in Applecross last week. Our Chairman estimated over 300 people attended. Several Communities were represented at the service.

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 on the Achnasheen Village notice board or via the Community Council emailing list. Just contact us with your email address and we will add you to our emailing list.  Your email address will not be passed onto third parties. Only Community Council documents can be sent via our email list. We have 186 contacts 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 is updated every ten days or so and received 1628 “hits” in 2017.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 5 December 2017 in Garve Village Hall were proposed by Moragh Wylie and seconded by Caroline Gamble.

**The Strathpeffer Skiff -** Tor Justad addressed the Community Council members to provide information about this project. Posters were recently put up in our community. The Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club was formally constituted in September 2017 following a public meeting held in May and has fifteen members and a nine-person committee, including Hazel Kerio from Lochluichart. Tor lives in Strathpeffer and has been elected Chair of the new Club. The Project will involve building a 22-foot wooden St. Ayles Skiff - of which there are over 100 around the coast of Scotland - and then row it recreationally and competitively at a variety of locations. These Skiffs are light and easy to move and are designed to be built by volunteers with ordinary DIY skills. Advice is also available from individuals or other Clubs. Rowing can be done by anyone between the ages of 11 and 90 + without any previous experience although upper body strength does help! The Club has obtained some initial funding from EDF and plan to start building the Skiff this month in a Barn on the Brahan Estate and hope to formally launch the Skiff this summer. The Skiff comes flat packed but a jigsaw is needed to cut the pieces out. It is then put together. The Club has looked at Fouils as a possible launch point but would also be interested in some of the inland lochs in our area provided there was a suitable launch point and permission was granted. They are keen to involve people from a wide area and wish this to include residents of Garve & District. The Club are happy to meet other groups in an effort to help increase membership. Additional funds are raised by membership fees, donations, crowdfunding, social media and by applying to bodies such as the LCT (£1,393). A trailer, launching trailer, insurance etc … will also need to be financed. Local schools will also be involved in logo design, colour scheme etc … It was suggested that as they may be launching from Fouils, then perhaps contact with Kiltearn Community Council should be made. Anyone interested in joining the Club can contact Tor directly on 07710 392666 or strathpeffercrc@gmail.com Tor and Hazel were thanked for attending.

**Matters arising - EDF** - Val MacIver read out the report provided by Laura Noone, Asset Manager at EDF … *“First we wish the attendee’s all the very best of health and happiness for 2018. On site, all turbines have been running well but we have been challenged over the last month with snow and ice closing access to the site for the safety of the team working there. We have completed approximately 25% of the deer fencing around the windfarm site ready for planting later this year. In December, Highland Conservation planted 60 trees (20 birch and 10 each of Scots Pine, Willow, Rowan and Alder) outside the fenced area with a variety of different protection and fertilisation methods to see which are more successful for the conditions on site. We have begun the tender process for the Forestry works and expect to receive submissions next month.*

*Regarding the Community Fund, legal review of the LCT and associated Articles has now been completed by Womble Bond Dickinson; meeting arranged for 9 January 2018 to discuss recommendations and finalise next steps. The intention is to provide LCT with a marked-up version of the existing agreement outlining changes required to allow EDF to pay monies through the existing Trust. Subject to agreement of the LCT Directors, the required changes are to be discussed the Eneco/LZN/Highland Council (Eneco have requested that any changes to the Trust agreements are requested by the Community rather than EDF). Alternative arrangements are also being considered in case agreement cannot be reached to amend the existing Trust. If necessary, we will advise the LCT of alternatives prior to discussing more widely with the Community. The Garve share of the Community Fund is ring-fenced from the commissioning date of the Windfarm.”* Val MacIver was thanked for reading out the update. Community Council members wondered whether the request to change agreements wouldn’t be better coming from the LCT Director’s and its members?

Tor Justad left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**Highland Council updates** – Our Chairman met with Mr Iain Moncrieff on Thursday 7 December 2017 (see attached report). A copy of the report has already been sent to the Ward Manager and all four Ward Councillors. Mr Moncrieff hopes to meet up with our Chairman again in June. Work on clearing some offlets and drains has already begun. Dead deer seen beside the roads on the day of the site visit have been removed.

**Grit bins** – are provided throughout the community so that local residents can help during snowy and frosty conditions. Our Chairman was very annoyed to learn on Wednesday 13 December 2017 that a local resident was seen helping themselves to most of the grit in one grit bin in Achnasheen for use on their own private driveway, not leaving very much grit for other local residents, not very community spirited. This is not the first time this particular resident has been caught doing this. The Highland Council and the Police have been informed of the incident along with the resident’s name.

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.

Highland Council roads are gritted as specified within the Highland Council’s agreed winter maintenance policy – details of this are on the Highland Council’s website at [www.highland.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gritting) where area gritting maps can also be found. Roadside cameras at Achnasheen and Aultguish can now be viewed at [www.travelhighland.info/public/map](http://www.travelhighland.info/public/map) It was noted that the Gritters can’t be everywhere all of the time.

**Postbox’s** – a new Postbox was installed at the Mossford layby on Thursday 21 December 2017. The old Mossford Postbox has been removed. Our thanks to everyone at Royal Mail and the landowner for their assistance in this matter. Need a Postcode? Just go to [www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode](http://www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode)

Hazel Kerio left the meeting at 7.55pm.

**Police report** – no report received but press reports inform us that a driver who was stopped by police three times in eight days during the festive season was found to be over the drink-drive limit each time. The woman, who was pulled over in the Highlands, has been given an interim disqualification pending a court case. Details of the incident were revealed as Police Scotland announced that of the 15,771 drivers stopped in the 2017/18 festive campaign, 567 (1 in 28) were detected for drink/drug-driving. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn confirmed that 37/567 who were detected were driving in the Highlands & Islands.

**Treasurers report** – in the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman with help from the Secretary declared the following figures... Treasurers account was £366.48 minus £12.00 hall hire for December meeting = £354.48. Community Fund (reserve) £538.64. Newsletter (fliers) £698.54. A full report will be available on the Treasurer’s return. 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 - ePlanning – new planning applications at 8 December 2017; ePlanning – new planning applications at 15 December 2017; Tor Justad, Chairperson, Strathpeffer & District Community Rowing Club – information; Jake Diamont, Royal Mail – Mossford Postbox update.

Correspondences received by post – none.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Caroline Gamble noted that construction work on the Wyvis Natural playpark near Wades Bridge had restarted.

In order to meet the next LCT deadline, the booking of a band etc … our Chairman asked Community Council members to start thinking about the 2018 Community Ceilidh, possibly to be held on Saturday 25 August 2018 (TBC). There will be a further discussion at the next ordinary meeting. The Secretary suggested that perhaps the raffle could raise funds for our own Community Fund. Possibility of increasing capacity numbers from 60? Band, Catering and costs?

A mobile bank service from the Bank of Scotland was re-introduced into Achnasheen on 15 November 2016 following the closure of the branch in Lochcarron. Our Chairman recently learnt that the mobile bank timetable has changed. Lochcarron visits have been reduced by over an hour and Laide, Gairloch (Village Square) and Achnasheen will no longer receive such visits. More details are available on [www.bankofscotland.co.uk/accessibility/banking-options/mobile-branch/gairloch](http://www.bankofscotland.co.uk/accessibility/banking-options/mobile-branch/gairloch) It was noted that people from Achanalt and Achnashellach as well as people from Achnasheen did use the service when it visited Achnasheen.

We are trying to find out who owns the eleven fencing sections that have been laying in the Gorstan layby for some time. Enquiries are ongoing.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – none.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** – none.

**Dates of future meetings**

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

Tuesday 6 February 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall – apologies noted from Eliza Leslie Melville

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.

Tuesday 3 July 2018, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 7 August 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 4 September 2018, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 2 October 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 6 November 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 4 December 2018, 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 8.20pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

The new Postbox at Mossford …



On Thursday 7 December 2017, Kenny Maclean spent around four hours with Iain Moncrieff from the Highland Council’s roads department looking at various issues in the Garve & District Community Council area. Iain also took the opportunity to look at some issues in the Lochcarron Community Council area. Iain’s vehicle had a dash cam so the whole trip was recorded. The dash cam also notes the longitude and Latitude.

Iain noted that the white lines on the A890 south of Achnasheen had faded. These will be added to the list for works in the summer.

It was also noted that offlets on the climb to the Luib summit (again A890) required to be cleaned out. Water also appeared to be coming out from an access road. Further investigations will take place to establish where this water is actually coming from.

Damaged road surface to the east of Glencarron Lodge on A890 (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60268728). This road surface is due to be attended to in the next financial year.

There is a section of road beside Loch Dughaill near Achnashellach (A890). This road has been patched several times but continues to break up. Iain advised that the road is due to be resurfaced early in the next financial year but will be patched in the meantime. Kenny pointed out the 100 yards or so of tar that was put up a forestry road, why was it not used on the main road? Iain confirmed that if he had known the contractor had spare tar, he would have instructed it be put on the main road. Iain explained that the Highland Council only pays for tar put on the road, if the contractor has over ordered tar, that is their expense.

School Road in Achnasheen is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60324080). Iain noted the concern and would see what could be done.

Flooding in Achnasheen Village centre – the centre of the village always appears to have water laying around on the grass, in car parks etc. Iain thought a drain may be blocked or extra drainage may be required. He would make enquiries.

Information Shelter – Iain is not involved with this project.

Electric vehicle charging points – A report was presented to Highland Councillors in November 2016. The report suggested an electric vehicle charging point may be installed in Achnasheen to help expand and strengthen the Highland network of charging points. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has been informed by officials at the Highland Council that the charging point will be installed in Achnasheen by Sunday 18 February 2018 probably on Highland Council owned land. Would the Filling Station site be an option? Iain thought the suggestion made sense but the owners of the site would have to be consulted. The site owners will look into this via Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn.

Verge reinstatements works between Grudie and Kinlochewe appear to have stopped again this time west of Achanalt (A832). Both SSE (Keith Boa) and the Highland Council (Malcolm Ross) noticed that works had stopped. Iain felt the work should have been completed by now so will also make enquires.

Drains/ditches near Rosebank, Achanalt (A832) appear blocked with silt. Iain can organise a mini digger and will also get other drains in the area checked/cleaned out at the same time.

Top soil at Grudie (A832) – concerns noted.

Road edge near Grudie Cottage (A832) – Iain felt that if the verge was reinstated, it would be damaged again, best to fill the holes with tar.

Crash barrier at Grudie and near the Church will be fixed shortly. There is also a damaged barrier near the Boathouse at Loch Chullin, Iain noted this.

Lochluichart Church layby – again, tar rather than reinstating the verges might be best.

U3132 Lochluichart Station Road requires further works (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60318099). Further works are planned, hopefully by the end of March 2018. It will either be recycled material or resurfaced.

Potholes on the “S” bends at Lochluichart on the A832 were repaired recently. If these potholes reopen, Iain confirmed that a machine will fill a patch next time rather than men filling a hole as has been the case before.

Inappropriate speeding in the Lochluichart area – Iain will speak to Cllr Kate Stephen.

Corriemoillie to Gorstan run offs and drains need clearing and this has been noted.

Little Garve-Silverbridge back road is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60322137). Iain will see what patching can be done for now, resurfacing may be able to be budgeted for in 2020/2021.

Yellow lines at Gorstan Junction slip road – Ian didn’t feel this would help as there is no police here to police the yellow lines. Perhaps the Police should be made aware of the problem (Police Scotland are already aware of the issues around this Junction).

Side road at Gorstan is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60318870) – noted along with the broken wooden fencing.

Drainage problems – this related to the “big hole” in the layby near Gorstan Junction. Iain was aware of a problem via Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn but wasn’t sure where the hole was … he does now!

Trunk road flooding outside Garve Village. Iain confirmed that he liaises with BEAR and will pass issues on. It was noted that an extra drain was dug by Network Rail some time ago.

Speed limit sign light out at Junction of Stirling Drive and Station Road, Garve (Reported November 2017 - FS62027724). Iain will chase this up with the Street Light Department.

Garve playpark fence requires fixing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60319466). John Mackay, Highland Council Community Services is sorry for not getting back to us about this sooner. The person dealing with the fence is off at the moment but John hopes to have a full update by the end of this week. Move big fencing? Iain advised that John is best to comment on this particular issue but was aware of it.

Missing 30mph sign near Strathgarve Primary School (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS58387155). Iain will chase this up with the Street Light Department.

The Avenue requires resurfacing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60323206) – noted.

Strathgarve Farm road requires resurfacing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60322733). Iain felt this section was worse than the Avenue and will see what patching can be done for now. As explained earlier, new resurfacing sections would need to be in future budgets.

Is the road from Strathgarve to Wades Bridge adopted? Iain thought it would be but will check. The lack of runoff’s and drains was noted. Iain and Kenny also saw the first signs of the Treehouse at the Wyvis Natural playpark getting built … somewhere for future Community Council meetings???

Two dead Deer were seen today lying next to the roads. One south of Achnasheen, one near Dos Mucheran, Achanalt. Iain will report these to the relevant department.

Iain found the whole trip very interesting and worthwhile. With all the water lying on the roads, Iain felt offlets and drains were the place to start and then take it from there once the road surfaces had been given a chance to dry. There are several places where there were no offlets where Iain thought there should be. Iain hopes to attend a Community Council meeting and would like to go back out with Kenny in around six months’ time to see what has or has not been done. Iain will put a plan of works together to then go before the Ward Manager and the four local Ward Councillors.

Kenny thought the whole morning was worthwhile and informative and thanked Iain for his time. Kenny also thanked Iain for the work that does get done, especially when flooding occurred on the A832 at Corriemoillie & Lochluichart on Friday 25 August 2017. Iain confirmed he was there on site that night and the following day.