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

**held on Tuesday 6 March 2018 in Garve Village Hall**

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

**Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR), Martin Macphee (Eneco) and Annie Hingston (Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Council).

**Apologies:** Community Council member Bob Moir, co-opted members Joe Stewart and Moragh Wylie, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Fiona Milligan (Infinergy) and PC Craig Rose. Apologies were also given on behalf of Grant Folley, Graham West & Laura Noone (EDF) by Val MacIver.

**The Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone.

**Declarations of Interest** – Eliza Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project and the planning application. Community Council members confirmed that they had read the draft minutes, all consultations and the planning application due to be discussed tonight before the start of this meeting.

**Approval of minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 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 or on request to the Secretary.

**Matters arising – Eneco update –** Martin Macphee was welcomed back to our meetings as he had been unable to attend in some time. Martin explained that the Eneco office is Warwick is now closed with most staff having been made redundant. Eneco still have their office in Inverness and are involved in large scale solar panel projects. On site, there is drifting snow, three to four feet in places. Credit to GG Mackenzie contractors for snow clearance work. There is a minor bearing fault on a turbine but it is still running at the moment. Two cranes will visit the site so that the bearing can be removed. The bearing will be repaired, possibly on site or it will be taken to Newcastle. Martin was thanked for his updates.

**EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that those interested in the replanting works were up on the site over the last two weeks and are currently reviewing the tenders. The site has been closed due to drifting snow and high winds; with most of the turbines performing well in the challenging conditions! Val MacIver was thanked for her updates.

**EDF Education & Training fund** – Iain Catto at Foundation Scotland has asked us to note that the panel agreed at its last meeting to accommodate applicants who need to make an application at short notice.  Such applications will be assessed by Foundation Scotland in the normal way and will then be circulated to the panel for a decision via e-mail. This update has already been uploaded to our website. More details of this fund can be found at [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/)

Iain also tells us that the **Calor Rural Community Fund** aims to give off-grid communities the chance to gain funding for projects that will improve local life. Last year’s winning projects included an inclusive swing for a community park, a new piano for a community choir and the installation of fibre broadband. With a total fund of £50,000 and with 21 individual prize pots up for grabs (5 x £5,000; 6 x £2,500; 10 x £1,000), this year’s Calor Rural Community Fund will be open for applications between Tuesday 20 March 2018 and Monday 30 April 2018. There are more details at [www.calor.co.uk/communityfund](http://www.calor.co.uk/communityfund)

**Infinergy** - Eliza Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project and left the room at 7.35pm. Fiona Milligan has informed us that the Proposal of Application Notice for the Lochluichart Extension II windfarm was submitted on Tuesday 13 February 2018 (18/00682/PAN). This notice is not a planning application. The proposal comprises of a development of nine turbines with a minimum generating capacity of 3MW along with associated infrastructure works. Infinergy are proposing holding their **next open day on Tuesday 3 April 2018 in Garve Village Hall from 2.00pm until 7.00pm (TBC)**. The open day will be advertised through another newsletter and the press as before. Fiona Milligan and Nick Sage will keep us informed of updates over the coming months. This update has already been uploaded to our website. The Proposal of Application Notice went before today’s planning meeting in Inverness. Val MacIver watched the webcast of the meeting where it was noted *3.4 two search areas for wild land (as identified in SNH’s policy statement Wildness in Scotland’s Countryside)* should now just read *two areas of wild land*. Members of the planning committee had no comments. Remaining Community Council members noted the notice and had no comments to make. Eliza Leslie Melville then returned to the meeting at 7.40pm.

**Wester Ross Biosphere SHARP project** – maps and further information were supplied a few days after our last ordinary meeting. All details were uploaded to our website. Community Council members noted that the two playparks in Garve and Little Garve, Core Paths and Public Rights of Way, B&B’s in Garve, Sir Arthur Bignold’s tomb and Captain Dickson’s grave, Luib Bridge, of similar construction to Ledgowan Bridge and Drover's Rest which is a converted barn in Little Garve (which formed part of the historical drovers way from the west through to the livestock sales in Muir of Ord and further south at Crieff) were not on the maps supplied. It was also felt that all four Hotels and the B&B’s should be highlighted more. The icons on the map are small, perhaps these could be made bigger. Other features of note just outside our area are Ben Wyvis, Rogie Falls and the Glen Docherty viewpoint. Laura Hamlet has informed our Chairman that the maps will not be put on public display to start with, the information is more for the project partners only however, the maps could eventually be made public maps at the gateways to the Biosphere area. Community Council members asked that the Achnasheen Terraces also be added to the maps.

**Highland Council updates** – At a meeting of The Highland Council on Thursday 15 February 2018, a 3% increase in **Council Tax** was agreed. Funding was also agreed for **extra grit bins** so a request has been made for extra grit bins for this area.

It was noted just after our last ordinary meeting that the other **speed limit sign** beside Strathgarve Primary School was not working. (FS67640501 reported 8 February 2018). Further **repairs to the A832,** especially filling in potholes and drainage works have taken place in recent weeks during the dry periods! **Resurfacing work** on the Little Garve-Silverbridge back road has taken place. A full list of outstanding works are listed at the end of this minute. It was noted that funding as well as the maintenance plan are constantly changing. Full credit to all the roads teams for their hand work over the winter period.

**The Avenue, Garve** – Correspondence received by the Community Council from The Highland Council in 2013 indicate that The Avenue is owned by The Highland Council. We have asked Nick Richards, The Highland Council’s Forestry Officer for an update. Nick writes … *“The Avenue belongs to The Highland Council’s Community Services. I think it was bought back in 1988 as part of the bridge improvement works. In 2013 SSE were planning to run a cable across The Avenue to accommodate the Western Isles Connection cable route, but I don’t think this ever happened. SSE instructed Treeline Forestry to carry out a survey and to provide a management report for The Avenue, again, I don’t think the recommendations in this report were ever implemented.”* We thank Nick for his reply. The report which we don’t believe we have seen before now suggests most trees in 2013 were classed A or B which meant they were in good to moderate health and condition. It is noted that our minutes from Tuesday 5 March 2013 state that *“There are no tree preservation orders on these trees”.* This update has already been uploaded to our website. Mr Iain Moncrieff from The Highland Council was shown The Avenue when he visited the area in December 2017 and will be shown The Avenue again when he next visits. Community Council members felt that Nick should be asked to review the trees as they are now as a matter of urgency on the grounds of health & safety.

**Electric vehicle charging point** in Achnasheen? This was due to have been installed by Sunday 18 February 2018 but is still not in place. This is very disappointing as funding had been allocated by The Highland Council in November 2016. Enquiries into this issue are ongoing.

Plans for the new **Achnasheen Village Shelter** are ongoing. Press reports remind us that the Achnasheen Village Centre improvements which included the pond along with the existing shelter were all installed 25 years ago, at a cost (at the time) of £85,000. Is the funding still available following recent budget cuts? Enquiries will be made.

Katrina Taylor at The Highland Council has asked us to note that items dumped on private land **is not** something The Highland Council can assist with, it is the land owner’s responsibility. It was suggested environmental health be contacted. The Secretary noticed **dumped tyres, cans and general rubbish at the Achnaclerach layby** on Sunday 18 February 2018. This has been reported and was cleared up a few days later. We have suggested a bin at this layby would be useful.

*Click to teach Gmail that this conversation is important.*We note the **C1087 Bealach Na Ba Road** (Temporary Closure) Order 2018. The road will be **closed weekdays from** **Monday 9 April 2018** from 0900 hours until 1600 hours and from 1730 hours until 2300 hours until **Friday** **18May 2018.** This is to allow the safe installation of approximately 16.5 Kilometres of telecommunication ducting and associated inspection/maintenance boxes/chambers. This update has already been uploaded to our website.

We also note **gas works in Old Perth Road, Inverness** over the next four weeks - [www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Scotland-projects/Old-Perth-Road-Inverness](http://www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Scotland-projects/Old-Perth-Road-Inverness) Expect delays if you are going to Raigmore Hospital. Some reports suggest delays of nearly two hours!

**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 be viewed at [www.travelhighland.info/public/map](http://www.travelhighland.info/public/map) The Highland Council is forecasting a potential financial year end overspend of £2.2m in its Winter Maintenance Budget. A combination of the weather conditions experienced and the timing of the most severe episodes is causing the pressure on the winter maintenance budget. Some of the worst weather conditions have fallen over week-ends and the Christmas bank holiday periods which has resulted in more overtime being required. In addition, there has been increased usage of salt.

We have received an updated **grass cutting** provision guide. As a general rule, high amenity grass (i.e. sports pitches) is cut once a week, general amenity (i.e. open spaces) is cut once a fortnight and low amenity (i.e. path verges) is cut once a month. Road side verges, especially sight lines will continue to be cut once a year. Any queries should be made to The Highland Council’s Call Centre on 01349 886606.

Our Chairman only heard (verbally) last Saturday that Cllr Kate Stephen and Mr William Gilfillan, Highland Council’s Director of Community Services were **visiting our area** last Friday ... nobody told us this visit was actually going ahead!  If we had known, we would have met them both to discuss various issues. Two local residents who had both raised speeding issues did meet Mr Gilfillan and Cllr Stephen briefly. Cllr Stephen wrote today … *“Getting a reduction in the speed limit at Lochluichart would be ideal but will not be quick or easy but hopefully something can be done in the shorter term to help reduce traffic speed.  Speeding and road conditions were recurring themes of the day”*.

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.

**BEAR** update – BEAR Scotland are responsible for the A835 trunk road between Tore and Ullapool. We have received notice that the severe freeze/thaw cycle and regular precipitation has seen the surfacing at a number of locations deteriorate rapidly to a condition which now requires *“urgent attention”*. The majority of work will be carried out during the day under convoy working, however due to restricted roadworks at certain locations, some work will require periods of STOP/STOP working. While every effort will be made to minimise interruption to the free flow of traffic, motorists should expect some delays when they encounter these resurfacing sites. Work will take place “South of Garve”, Inchbae and at Loch Glascarnoch between now and the end of April. The work is estimated to be costing £500,000. This update has already been uploaded to our website. Further information is available at <http://bearscot.com/News/7544/Urgent+repair+programme+/>

In addition to the above, BEAR Scotland has a contractual obligation to inspect the trunk road network, including the A835, at 7-day intervals. These inspections are primarily to identify defects that require prompt attention (Category 1 defects) because they present, or could present, an immediate hazard to road users. For road surface Category 1 defects, the operating companies are required to carry out temporary repairs by 6am the following morning and permanent repairs within 28 days.In addition to the above, BEAR Scotland have a contractual obligation to inspect the truck network every seven days. Repairs must be carried out within 28 days of a defect being found. Any issues should be reported to In addition to the above, BEAR Scotland has a contractual obligation to inspect the trunk road network, including the A835, at 7-day intervals. These inspections are primarily to identify defects that require prompt attention (Category 1 defects) because they present, or could present, an immediate hazard to road users. For road surface Category 1 defects, the operating companies are required to carry out temporary repairs by 6am the following morning and permanent repairs within 28 days.In addition to the above, BEAR Scotland has a contractual obligation to inspect the trunk road network, including the A835, at 7-day intervals. These inspections are primarily to identify defects that require prompt attention (Category 1 defects) because they present, or could present, an immediate hazard to road users. For road surface Category 1 defects, the operating companies are required to carry out temporary repairs by 6am the following morning and permanent repairs within 28 days.[enquiries@bearscotland.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bearscotland.co.uk)

**2018 Community Ceilidh** – our application to the LCT for funding has been sent in and is awaiting determination during their next round of funding, probably sometime in April. The Secretary would welcome donations of raffle and tombola prizes. These can be left at her house.

**2018 Joint Community Council meeting** – discussions with other Community Councils are ongoing.

**The Garve & District Development Company** update – at their EGM held on Wednesday 7 February 2017, John Fenwick and Sue Tarr from Gorstan and Anne Stewart from Achnasheen were elected Member Directors taking the total number of Board members to seven.

**Police report** – PC Craig Rose reports one tacho offence and sadly the fatal RTC on Sunday 25 February 2018 east of Garve where a 20 year old male lost his life. Police Scotland released the following statement on Monday 26 February 2018 … *“Police are appealing for witnesses following a two-vehicle collision on the A835 near Garve, which occurred about 2.00pm on Sunday the 25 February 2018.  The collision involved a red Seat Leon and a white Audi S3. The 20-year-old male driver of the Seat Leon, sustained fatal injuries as a result of the collision. The road was closed until 11.30pm to allow for a collision investigation to be carried out at the scene. Sergeant Chris Murray, of the road policing unit, said "Our thoughts are with the family of the young man involved in this tragic incident. Our enquiries are ongoing and I would appeal for anyone who saw these vehicles, who may have been travelling as part of a group, and who have not already spoken with officers to come forward."* ***Please call 101, quoting reference numbers PS-20180225-2200 or NE2147/18, with any information”.*** We learnt a few days later that the driver was Kyle Robertson, aged 20, from Smithton, a former student of Culloden Academy. Officers have again appealed for anyone who saw the crash to come forward or who may have dash cam footage. They are keen to hear from a *"key witness"* who may have been driving a dark green van who they believe may be able to help with their inquiries. Kyle’s funeral service is due to take place tomorrow. Members noted the floral tributes at the scene of the accident.

Police Scotland have warned of an unusually high number of thefts from vehicles, homes and businesses in a short period of time in the Inverness area. Since the start of the year there have been more than twenty thefts. These have included fuel from vehicles and oil tanks, car batteries and equipment from building sites. Police Scotland has urged the public to make sure properties are properly locked.

The Secretary noted a car has been in the layby between Lochluichart Church and Grudie Power Station since mid-February.  Police have been sent pictures of the car. The car owner has been traced safe and well and the Police have asked them to put a notice on the car to reassure anyone else who finds the car. Abandoned vehicles can be reported via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1330/street_care_and_cleaning/114/abandoned_vehicles> or by calling 101.

**Treasurers report** – The bank statement on Thursday 1 February 2018 was £1,828.07.Treasurers account was £303.98 minus £14.00 Hall hire for our February meeting and minus £18.95 and £23.00 ink = £248.03. Community Fund (reserve) £538.64. Newsletter (fliers) £698.54. Audited accounts for the last financial period (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017) are available on the Community Council website and hard copies are available at Garve Post Office.

Eliza Leslie Melville proposed and Kenny Maclean seconded that Ann Macrae again be appointed auditor and the Secretary fee again be £400. All agreed but it was noted that at The Highland Council meeting held on Thursday 15 February 2018, it was agreed to cut Community Council’s administration grants to all the Community Council’s in the Highlands by around 50%. This means from Sunday 1 April 2018, we will only receive around £445 instead of around £880 so there will need to be changes going forward.

**Correspondences** - by Email – Caris Pittendreigh, Graduate Tourism Officer, The Highland Council – Tourism Infrastructure Questionnaire; Andy Russell, EDF – Thanks; Carron McDiarmid, Head of Policy & Reform, The Highland Council – proposed cuts to Community Council administration grants; Iain Moncrieff, The Highland Council Roads department – Thanks; ePlanning – new planning applications at 9 February 2018; Katarzyna Kowalik, SHAPE – maps and further information; Katrina Taylor, The Highland Council – update; Cllr Kate Stephen - C1087 Bealach Na Ba Road (Temporary Closure) Order 2018; Two emails from Fiona Milligan, Infinergy – update; John Wrigley, Roads Manager, BEAR Scotland – urgent repairs programme (received via Robbie Bain); ePlanning – new planning applications at 16 February 2018; Iain Catto, Community Engagement Executive, Foundation Scotland – updates; Nick Richards, Forestry Officer, The Highland Council – The Avenue update; Carron McDiarmid, Head of Policy and Reform at The Highland Council – Budget update (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – Consultation on 18/00274/FUL (Grudie); Ben Lennon, Bowlts – updated Lochrosque Forest Plan (2018-2018); Robert Gordon, Shieldaig – Road issues; ePlanning – new planning applications at 23 February 2018; Scottish Water – Shaping the future consultation; Andy Summers, Head of Environmental and Amenity Services at The Highland Council – Grass cutting provision (received via HC Policy); Sergeant Alasdair Goskirk – Car in Grudie carpark; Isla Cuthbert, Membership Secretary, Highland Senior Citizens Network - Spring 2018 Newsletter; PC Craig Rose – police report; ePlanning – new planning applications at 2 March 2018.

Correspondences received by post – Phil Waite, Highland Council Outdoor Access Manager for Ross & Cromarty – Core paths review.

We have also received draft minutes from Torridon & Kinlochewe, Shieldaig, Lochcarron, Plockton, Wester Loch Ewe and Gairloch Community Councils and approved minutes from Aultbea and Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Councils.

It was agreed that to save on printing costs, important emails would be digitally stored on a memory stick rather than printed. This would also save on storage space in spare bedrooms!

**AOB from Community Council members** – Caroline Gamble noted the repaired fence at the football pitch in Matheson Road has already started falling apart. This will be reported with appropriate photos.

The Secretary noted there is a pothole at Grudie and four sections of damaged crash barrier between Grudie and Lochluichart. All this will be reported.

**AOB from members of the public** – Annie Hingston reported that mysterious white marks had been painted on her house and the house of a neighbour and that the police had very promptly responded to her 101 phone call. She wanted to make people aware and said that anyone finding anything suspicious should call 101.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received three consultations. The first is from The Highland Council – Tourism Infrastructure Questionnaire. The Scottish Government recently announced a Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. The Highland Council would hope to attract a significant proportion of the fund towards projects in the Highlands. The fund of £6million will be spread over two financial years and is for all of Scotland, not just the Highlands. The Deadline for comments is this Sunday, 11 March 2018. Since we received this consultation, it has been confirmed that Visit Scotland will administer the fund and it will be open from April 2018 for applications from local authorities. Infrastructure improvements - including car parking, camping, visitor facilities and recycling points will be supported, road repairs will not. Community Council members had no comments.

The second consultation is from Scottish Water. Scottish Water is asking its customers in communities throughout Scotland to help shape water and waste water services which will define service and spending priorities over the next 25 years. The utility is inviting views on its proposals and ambitions for the coming decades. The online questionnaire and documents can be viewed at [www.yourwater.scot](http://www.yourwater.scot) The deadline for comments is Friday 31 August 2018. Community Council members felt the network should be extended further west of Garve, especially following responses to the 2016 Community Needs Survey. If you are on a private water supply, you can apply for a private water supply improvement grant. Financial assistance of up to £800 per property may be available. More details at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1053/private_housing/93/private_water_supplies>

The third consultation is from The Highland Council – core paths review. Are there any paths requiring changes, additions to the network or paths that should be deleted? Maps are available at [www.highland.gov.uk/corepathplans](http://www.highland.gov.uk/corepathplans) The deadline for comments is Friday 30 March 2018. Community Council members had no comments.

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - Eliza Leslie Melville declared an interest in the planning application and left the room at 9.20pm. We have received one new planning application since our last ordinary meeting. 18/00274/FUL is the proposed installation of a 25metre Telecoms Mast on land 790metres NW Of Grudie Cottage. The deadline for comments to the Case Officer is next Monday (12 March). Remaining Community Council members noted the planning application and had no comments to make. Eliza Leslie Melville then returned to the meeting at 9.25pm.

**Dates of future meetings –** in light of the cuts to the Community Council administration grant agreed by The Highland Council on Thursday 15 February 2018, a review of future meetings will take place once we have more information on our exact grant funding.

Tuesday 3 April 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall – apologies from Bob Moir noted

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.

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 9.30pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

*The road surface about two miles south of Achnasheen on the A890 has started breaking up leaving long ruts. This has been reported (FS66216276 reported 19 January 2018).*

*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.*

*Road edge near Grudie Cottage (A832) and Lochluichart Church layby still need potholes filled with tar.*

*Pothole at Corriemoillie Bridge (FS68962103 reported 26 February 2018).*

*Pothole just past Corriemoillie Lodge (FS68963204 reported 26 February 2018).*

*Side road at Gorstan is full of potholes (FS60318870 reported October 2017 and again 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 and road surface 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.*

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

The snow slowly melting away from Dos Mucheran and Strathbran on Sunday 18 February 2018 …



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

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