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

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

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

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Community Council member Bob Moir, co-opted member Joe Stewart and Val MacIver (Platform PR).

**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. On Saturday 13 October 2018, our Chairman bumped into the former Councillor and former MSP Jean Urquhart. She was asking after everyone. Dr Kate Stephen thanks the Community Council members for their good wishes in her new job. Congratulations to Simon Bedwell and Maren Hagen who had a baby last week.

**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 2 October 2018 in Garve Village Hall were proposed by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village notice board, on our website or via email.

**Matters arising – Eneco –** Martin Macphee has informed our Chairman that the Information Cabin will be staying put until planning expires on 28 August 2019 (14/02247/FUL). On Saturday 27 October 2018, co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris went for a walk up to the Windfarms and found a damaged grit bin full of rubbish.  Our Chairman contacted Martin who told him that the grit bins are to be replaced and filled with grit shortly.  They will also remove the old post-box which is also full of rubbish and hasn't been used in years. We thank Martin for his updates.

**EDF** - We understand the Corriemoillie windfarm is running well. We thank Val for her updates.

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk) – no further updates since our last ordinary meeting.

**Proposed Kirkan windfarm** – [www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk) – Trevor Hunter, Project Manager, Coriolis Energy has been in touch to say their website has had around 200 “hits” in the last six months or so. CD’s of the photomontages are to follow but in the meantime ‘wireline’ images of the potential view from Strathvaich road end looking west have been sent.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – October 2018 has been the dumping month. Sadie-Michaela Harris, our new co-opted member has already found out we are a very hands-on Community Council! Sadie was out for a walk on Saturday 6 October 2018 and found the grit bin on The Avenue, just past Strathgarve Primary School was full of **rubbish** including bags of dog mess - at least all the rubbish was in the one place. Sadie has emptied the grit bin and put all the rubbish in a proper bin. We thank Sadie for her help in this matter. Katrina Taylor from The Highland Council writes … *“I had a look out in Garve today (9 October) and the area was very clean with no litter or dog fouling.  There is a bin at the bottle banks, at the Burial Ground and at the bottom of Matheson Road. I would think that is more than sufficient for this area.  I will arrange for the bins to have stickers on them advising the public that the bins will take litter and dog waste as a lot of people don’t realise this but it is the cleanest and most efficient way for dog waste to be dealt with”.* We thank Katrina for her help in this matter.

On Tuesday 16 October 2018, the Secretary found **dumped wool fleeces** in the Silverbridge car park. This was reported and we were advised to report to the Police as it may be a case of sheep rustling. Our thanks again to Katrina Taylor at The Highland Council who organised the area to be cleaned up.

**Cardboard boxes were dumped** at the Achnasheen recycle bins recently however, the name and address were still on the boxes. Our Chairman returned the dumped boxes to their rightful owner.

The Secretary noted that the **plainer and tarring squad were at Lochluichart** and have repaired the road on the “S” bends where most of the potholes were from last winter – a welcome sight however, the machine has missed some potholes! Our Chairman will raise this with Iain Moncrieff from the roads department on their next site visit together which was to be this Thursday but Iain has had to postpone the site visit. A revised date is awaited by our Chairman. It was noted that **tar has been dumped** beside the road at Lochluichart and over at Strathgarve. This will be brought to Iain’s attention. We also note **crash barrier repairs** have begun, **offlets at Lochluichart** have been cleared, **repairs to the road** at Gorstan Junction and between Gorstan and Corriemoillie are in hand and that the **road sweeper** was in Achnasheen on Thursday 25 October 2018. **A pothole at Grudie** has been reported online.

**Achnasheen Village Shelter** - the design of the interpretation/orientation panels have been sent to our Chairman who has shared the details with Community Council members as feedback on the initial design was required by Wednesday 31 October 2018. Community Council members would like to see improvements including quality/content of photos, promotion of the Munro hills and lochs and perhaps a panel placed in Garve/Gorstan as Garve is the gateway to Wester Ross and the Biosphere area. Our comments have been noted. With regard to the **Wi-Fi provision** in Achnasheen Village centre, it is hoped that an install date for the fibre circuit and also an install date for the equipment will be known soon. It would appear that BT are being slow to give a date for fibre connection. It is still hoped that the system could be in place by the end of this year.

**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. Weekly updates on how work is progressing are now available at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/104/stromeferry_bypass/2> Work on the rock face is due to be completed by Friday 23 November 2018 but there has continued to be severe delays to traffic including the school bus on Tuesday 9 October 2018 which resulted in the bus being delayed for around an hour. Queues of over 100 cars have been reported however, following pressure by Community Councils, Councillors, MSP, MP and others, plans were put in place on Monday 22 October 2018 so that the road/rail diversion could be used as soon as a train has passed through, a bit like a ‘level crossing’. To get Network Rail to go from "it can't possibly be treated as a 'level crossing'" to "the idea is feasible" in just a few weeks is testament to all those who have been pushing for change. Our Chairman has suggested that a written agreement be put in place between The Highland Council and Network Rail, so both the road/rail diversion AND the signalling system can be used again if there is an unexpected rock fall or when more works are needed. Our Chairman has asked about a long-term solution to the Bypass. The response from the Transport Scotland reads … *“with regards to the transport appraisal prepared on behalf of The Highland Council, I can confirm that this is currently being reviewed by Transport Scotland. Transport Scotland continues to provide technical advice to Highland Council on the appraisal process, and it is anticipated that a full response to the report will be provided to the council in the near future, however, as the A890 is a local road, responsibility for a decision to upgrade or improve the route ultimately lies with the council and is not reliant on advice from Transport Scotland”*. Work on four sections of rock face that are deemed very high risk (large to very large failures likely which have a high chance of causing loss of life to road/rail users) are required. This may require weekend closures of the road so the work can be carried out. The new Chief Executive of The Highland Council hopes to visit the site before the end of the year. The Bypass is due to be discussed at a Highland Council meeting later this week.

The Highland Council are conducting another **budget consultation** - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11409/your_voice_your_council_your_future>

Our Chairman recently received a message from Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn asking if **Silverbridge toilets** were closed. Someone has told the Councillor they believe the facilities closed in 2016. Our Chairman visited the site recently and can confirm both the men’s and ladies’ toilets are open and are both are in full working order. Perhaps someone didn’t read our Chairman’s report from Monday 12 June 2017 … “*Silverbridge toilets closed on 25 May 2016 due to water and sewage problems. I doubt any of us expected the toilets to remain out of order for so long. We were delighted that after our constant campaigning, the facilities opened again on Tuesday 4 April 2017”.* We note Rogie Falls toilets are now closed as they usually do each winter.

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) The Highland Council’s winter service started on the 14 October and continues to 14 April. The Highland Council maintain a fleet of 105 gritters, 42 pavement gritters and 1 snow blower. Over a typical winter around 50,000 tonnes of salt will be spread on the roads. Although expenditure varies according to the severity of the winter, The Highland Council would expect to spend in the region of £5million annually. During mornings of adverse weather, treatment on the A832 Braemore Junction to Gorstan Junction will begin at 5.00am instead of 6.00am.

**Potholes** can be reported directly via The Highland Council website - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/road_faults> We learnt recently that NC500 are in constant discussions with The Highland Council through a stakeholders group about the roads.

**Trunk Road issue** - There appears to be blocked drains on the A835 trunk road between Garve Village and Gorstan Junction.  The flooding on the "S" bends below Kirk House (the old Church) is resulting in vehicles having to swerve on to the wrong side of the road on a dangerous corner. BEAR Scotland have been asked to look at this issue urgently which they confirmed they would do. Community Council members will keep an eye on this issue.

Blair Millen has contacted our Chairman directly to ask if the Community Council would like an online presence on the **Development Company’s website**. Blair thinks the Development Company’s website receives around 80 “hits” per update. This compares to around 150 “hits” a month on our own website which was first created in March 2013 and costs us £zero. Following discussion, it was proposed by our Chairman that we keep our own website so that we have our own online identity, seconded by The Treasurer, unanimously agreed.

The Community Council was **offered a stall** at last week’s TG&DDC AGM. The two issues raised at the stall were potholes (which people acknowledged we were dealing with) and the future of Community Councils (a decision on this should be known by summer 2019) - we would encourage all residents to take part in the public consultation about the future which The Highland Council will be conducting in due course. The community will always be represented … but it could be the case that its done by another Community Council covering a much larger area. Other stall holders were LCT, RSABI (supporting people in Scottish Agriculture), Development Company with their new Secretary Sheila Mitchell who is from Ullapool, poppy appeal, NC500, Broadband group and Energy group. It was good to see around 40 people attend. Lucy Beattie told our Chairman that around 13 children attended the recent activities day in Garve Village Hall.  The AGM started just after 7.00pm and Ed Tarr (Chairman) gave credit to the Community Council for setting up the Development Company.  He also noted the future of Community Councils might be changing. Seven areas of the articles were changed following a vote by members. The Board now has all eight seats filled following a vote at the AGM - Ed Tarr, Steve Jones, Alan Illingworth, Uisdean Menzies, Sue Tarr, John Fenwick, John Bedwell and Chris Hamilton are now all Member Directors. It was noted that it was the Community Council who set up the LCT in 2011, TG&DDC last year and who carried out the 2015 Broadband Survey and the 2016 Community Needs Survey. Both these surveys (which are still available to view on our website) have lead onto the creation of the Energy and Broadband groups. As one person said at our stall … *the fruits of the Community Council’s labours are blossoming*. The Chairman felt credit must be given to the groups who have achieved all that they have.

**Scotland’s Highlands and Islands** are now one of the top five regions to visit in 2019 according to [www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel/regions](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel/regions) Gabbi Armstrong at NC500 would like to hear what attractions and accommodation there are in our area for those travelling the NC500. They can be “off the beaten track” if necessary. More details at [www.northcoast500.com](http://www.northcoast500.com) Community Council members suggested local B&B’s, hotels, self-catering, playparks, walking areas, cycle paths, recycle bin locations, Glascarnoch Dam, Munro hills and the railway should all be highlighted.

**Remembrance Sunday –** is this Sunday. The Treasurer has ordered a wreath for the Community Council. It was agreed at our September ordinary meeting that The Secretary will lay the wreath. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn hopes to attend to lay The Highland Council wreath. A service will be held at the Garve War Memorial at 12.30pm. The service will be followed by refreshments at Garve Village Hall. There is also a commemoration of the conclusion of the first world war by a ‘Return to Light’ service in Inverness on Saturday. Our thanks to the Treasurer who has once again donated the wreath to the Community Council.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – No report received but we note social media reports of someone wondering through property in the Corriemoillie area on Monday 22 October 2018, allegedly looking for mushrooms. Is it the time of year for mushroom picking? This has been passed onto the Police.

Police Scotland are urging people to be on guard against a possible fraud involving emailed invoices.

They have received reports across the area where residents who had recently had work done on their property received invoices for payment by email from the company they had used. This appeared genuine and offered banking details for the company. However, it appears these emails may have been a fraudulent email designed to impersonate the genuine trader. If in doubt, don't pay out. If you suspect a scam you can report your concerns by calling 101.

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** – The bank balance on Tuesday 25 September 2018 was £2,300.81. Treasurers account £247.20 minus £12.88 cards, minus £39.95 ink, minus £16.00 October Hall hire and minus £20.00 fuel = £158.37. Community (reserve) was £1,408.17 plus £572.00 hampers minus £84.86 & £57.30 hamper expenses = £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. The hampers this year have raised around £1,000 for the Community Council. We are most grateful. A thank you card has been sent to the Hotel.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – Cllr’s Bill Lobban & Helen Carmichael - Invitation to a commemorative Armistice event (received via HC policy); Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (North), Scottish Water – Newsletter; Trevor Hunter, Project Manager, Coriolis Energy – Proposed Kirkan windfarm update; Carolyn Smith, Civil Engineering Technician, Development & Infrastructure at The Highland Council – Stromeferry Bypass update; Katrina Taylor & Iain Moncrieff, The Highland Council – The Avenue grit bin; ePlanning – new planning applications at 5 October 2018; ePlanning – new planning applications at 12 October 2018; Lucy Beattie, TG&DDC – AGM; Clifford Smith & Robbie Bain, The Highland Council – Silverbridge car park; ePlanning – new planning applications at 19 October 2018; Fiona Livingstone, Business Support, The Highland Council – Proposal to establish a Gaelic medium catchment area for Ullapool Primary School; Lynn Sharp, Project Officer, Knowledge Management – Unconventional Oil and Gas Consultation (received via HC policy); Andrea Johnson, WEA Highland office - The WEA Women in the Highlands Project; Paula Finlayson, Planning Systems Administrator, The Highland Council – database updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 26 October 2018; BEAR Scotland – A835 drain updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 6 November 2018 and Chief Executive’s Office, The Highland Council - Quality Awards 2018 update (received via HC policy).

Correspondences received by post – Sunshine Gym – Outdoor fitness equipment for adults; Donald Macleod, Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland – Consultation of Loch Rosque Forestry plans and HAGS 2018 community offers leaflet.

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

**AOB from Community Council members** – In the 2016 Community Needs Survey, there was support for a **Christmas party for whole community** (children & adults) to bring everyone together – 26 votes.  A public meeting was held last night in Garve to see what people actually wanted. Caroline Gamble attended and thought around 15-20 people attended. Dates and times are still TBC but there was a suggestion that invites would be hand delivered. There were suggestions of Santa, games and live music!

Caroline also noted that we have not seen a report of the **condition of Bailey Bridge and that the trees in The Avenue** were not looking any better. Both these issues will be raised.

The Treasurer noted that there are plans to raise the **path from the road to the Church** to help with disabled access. There are also plans for a disabled toilet. Perhaps the Community Council could use the Lochluichart Community Hall as a meeting place. Costs of hall hire would be a factor but it could be considered once the work has been completed.

We note the annual **Church of Scotland Autumn sale of work** will take place on Saturday 17 November 2018 from 2.00pm in Garve Village Hall.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – At our last ordinary meeting, we noted one screening report - 18/04341/SCRE, installation of 135m high single wind turbine near Corriemoillie Wind Farm submitted by a company called “Clean Earth”. We now see a EIA will not be required.

We have received three consultations, first is from Forestry Commission Scotland – Loch Rosque forestry plans 2018-2042. This would involve felling some trees to the South East of Kinlochewe, eastern side of Glen Docherty, around Lochrosque itself and part of the quarry wood around half a mile east of Achnasheen. Replanting would be mainly scots pine and native broad leave. Community Council members had no comments.

Second consultation is from The Highland Council - Proposal to establish a Gaelic medium catchment area for Ullapool Primary School. More information at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_-_general_information/24/school_consultations_and_closure_proposals> A public meeting is to be held in Ullapool next Monday. The deadline for comments is Monday 10 December 2018. Community Council members had no comments.

Third consultation is from the Scottish Government - Unconventional Oil and Gas Consultation. The Scottish Government is currently finalising its policy position on the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. As part of that process the Scottish Government is inviting views on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and partial Business, Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) of their preferred policy position, that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. The consultation will close Tuesday 18 December 2018. Responses to the consultation are invited via the Citizen Space portal: <https://consult.gov.scot/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/preferred-policy-position-on-uog/> Community Council members had no 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** - One previous planning application has been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 18/03397/PIP - proposed erection of house in principle, land 1300metres South East of Torriegorrie has been granted permission in principle with eight conditions. Full details are available on The Highland Council website.

One new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 18/04715/S37 is the proposed change of one existing wooden pole on the 33kV line and add a new pole to create a single span 33kV spur, land 60metres North East of Dos Mucheran, Achanalt. Community Council members had no comments. The Highland Council plan to raise no objection to this application. There are now no outstanding planning applications awaiting determination for our area by The Highland Council.

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)*

Tuesday 4 December 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

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

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 8.30pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

Our stall in Garve Village Hall on Thursday 1 November 2018 …



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

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