**NOTES of the Garve & District Community Council non-quorate meeting**

**held on Tuesday 7 August 2018 in Garve Village Hall**

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

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn (7.00pm-8.15pm), Val MacIver (Platform PR 7.00pm-8.25pm), Lucy Beattie (Local Development & Engagement Officer) and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Community Council members Bob Moir & Caroline Gamble, co-opted member Joe Stewart, Fiona Milligan (Infinergy) and PC Craig Rose. Val MacIver gave apologies on behalf of Grant Folley (EDF).

**The Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone. He explained that this meeting would not be quorate (at least FOUR Community Council members have to attend for a meeting to be quorate) however, he would give general updates to help keep the community informed as there hasn’t been an ordinary meeting in nine weeks due to the summer break.

**Eneco –** Future of the **information cabin** at Aultguish – On Sunday 10 June 2018, our Chairman received a telephone call from Dario Negri at The Aultguish Inn informing him that the Eneco information cabin may be taken away by Eneco before it’s temporary planning permission expires next August. Community Councils are not advised to hold assets so our Chairman put Dario in touch with the Development Company’s Community Engagement and Development Officer.

**EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that the site is running well. Val MacIver was thanked for attending. Press reports inform us that EDF has sold a 49% share of 24 of its UK windfarms to Dalmore Capital Limited and Pensions Infrastructure Platform. This sale includes a 49% share in the Corriemoillie windfarm. EDF will continue to run the Corriemoillie windfarm and oversee maintenance requirements.

Bea Jefferson has been in touch to say the **EDF Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund** is open for applications until Monday 27 August 2018. Around 6.5% of the first years funding went to people from our area. More details are available at [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training) This update has already been posted on our website.

**Proposed Kirkan windfarm** – [www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.kirkanwindfarm.co.uk) – public exhibition days took place on 12 & 13 June 2018 in Garve and Achnasheen as noted at our last ordinary meeting and in the press. Notices of these open days were sent to properties within 7-10kms of the proposed windfarm site by Coriolis Energy. Coriolis Energy & ESB representatives saw fifteen people in Garve but four of them were not local residents. Nobody attended the open day in Achnasheen. The main issues raised at these open days were (1) visual impacts, in particular the view from Loch Glascarnoch and (2) arrangements for the possible community benefits fund. The EIA Scoping Opinion on behalf of Scottish Ministers has now been published. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) - Our Chairman has been out with Iain Moncrieff from The Highland Council’s roads department.  **A full road report** is available in the library section of our website.

At the **Joint Community Council** meeting held on Thursday 17 May 2018, we learnt that *“nearly £1million is coming from the Scottish Government to help fix potholes but it appears some at The Highland Council feel that money is needed to pay for the existing overspend.”* Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn thinks the money did indeed just go into the big pot. In recent weeks, The Highland Council has found an additional £1.5million for the roads budget after an underspend was established in The Highland Council’s ICT investment program. Of the additional sum, £50,000 has been set aside to improve the ice alert systems. Cllr Cockburn’s understanding is that old road ice sensors will be replaced as well as additional ones being installed. Winter maintenance is discussed throughout the year and will be discussed at an upcoming ward business meeting. He also understands that £327,000 of the additional £1.5million will be spent on roads in ward five. Resurfacing works on the “S” bends at Lochluichart are still on the works program.

Katrina Taylor at The Highland Council feels the **bin stand in the Grudie layby** is in the right location. We thank Katrina for her update. A new bin was installed on Friday 15 June 2018 and we note the bin and stand have been moved in recent days. Perhaps our suggestion was suitable after all.

**Grass verges** along the A832 and A890 within our area were cut on Wednesday 20 June 2018 however, the good dry weather has resulted in the grass growing back up very quickly including the ragwort. We note it is unlikely we will get a second cut this year despite sight lines becoming overgrown.

Can a **“sharp bend ahead”** sign be put beside the road near Grudie Cottage? There are rules for such signs to be put up. It maybe more of a case of roadside marker poles are required but Iain Moncrieff, Cllr Kate Stephen and Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn are all happy to see what can be done.

**The faulty streetlight in Achnasheen (7NP)** – The replacement light got damaged in transit so another one has had to be ordered. Trees around the column will be cut back at the same time. Over the last few days, our Chairman has been made aware that some streetlights in Garve, in particular in and around Matheson Road are not on at nights. Residents have been advised to report this to The Highland Council’s Call Centre on 01349 886606 or via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/110/street_lighting_and_traffic_signals> In both cases, you will need to provide the reference number on the streetlight column.

**The pothole in Matheson Road** which we reported in February 2018 was filled in a few weeks ago.

**Side road at Gorstan** – flood risk assessments are currently taking place. The clearing out/repair of ditches and offlets is in hand along with fixing the damage following flash flooding in early June. Local residents are thankful for the work already done.

It is perhaps worth noting that the outstanding road issues list, which used to be two pages long is now completed or in hand and credit should be given to all those at The Highland Council for their hard work in ensuring the various issues have been addressed, especially before the winter sets in.

**A890 Stromeferry Bypass** – <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/104/stromeferry_bypass> - although this section of road is out with our area, we take an interest as it affects local residents and tourists alike. Work on a section of rock face just west of the tunnel will begin on Monday 3 September 2018 and will last for up to 12 weeks. A road to rail diversion will allow traffic below 7.5tonnes to run on the railway for certain periods during the day. The road/rail diversion will be completely closed at night to all vehicles between 10.00pm and 7.00am. An open day explaining the works in more detail took place last month in Lochcarron. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Achnasheen Information Shelter** - The proposed works were slightly redesigned to help reduced costs and were then re-tendered after a poor and over budget response from contractors. After a second tendering round, there was a further poor response by contractors and again tenders were over budget - although significantly lower than the first time. The Highland Council are now in negotiations with the lowest bidder to reduce costs to be within budget. It is hoped this project will be completed by the end of this year.

Nominations for The **Highland Council quality awards 2018** will be discussed at our September ordinary meeting.

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 – Garve Level Crossing** – on Tuesday 12 June 2018 we received an update from Doreen Cockbill … “*BEAR Scotland have been requested by Transport Scotland to design and implement a resurfacing scheme on the approach to Garve Level Crossing. This will include the use of High Friction Surfacing to improve skidding resistance for vehicles approaching the crossing. The proposed resurfacing works are planned to take place during the financial year 2018/19, but as yet no firm date has been fixed. However, the works are likely to take place in the autumn/winter time to avoid the peak tourist season. Transport Scotland are also liaising with Network Rail to investigate what options, if any are available to reduce the slip hazard resulting from the rails crossing the carriageway.*

*It is important to remember that a prohibition of cycling exists at this Level Crossing requiring that cyclists dismount from their cycles and cross over the level crossing on foot. This regulation is in place to ensure cyclist safety at this location. Whilst this may result in a slight increase in cyclist journey times, in the interest of their own safety we would advise cyclists to comply with this regulation.”* We thank Doreen for the update. This update has already been posted on our website. We note John Finnie MSP has also taken an interest in this issue. Signage at Balnacra Level Crossing has also been put up reminding cyclists they must dismount before crossing. The Highway Code states in Rule 306 that cyclists should take particular care at a level crossing. Rule 82 states that extra care should be taken when crossing the tracks and that those riders should dismount at level crossings where a “cyclist dismount” sign is displayed. Would additional signs and road markings help when the existing signs and road markings are being ignored? Perhaps the “cyclist dismount” sign should be brought forward? Perhaps the names of those who fail to follow road signage and the Highway Code should be passed to the police?

**Wyvis Natural Playpark** – a few days after our last ordinary meeting, we received a further update from Sharon Wright, Chairperson of the Wyvis Natural Playpark group … *“We do not expect this high number of visitors to continue long term once the initial "need to see what it's like" has past.  We can therefore not say at this stage if additional parking will be necessary.  The Forestry Commission are planning to add signage to their existing signs directing traffic to the Little Garve car park from the Silverbridge end. With regard to bins, both The Highland Council and Forestry Commission Scotland advised against placing bins as they are often used for the "dumping" of rubbish, rather than their intended purpose.  We have a "please respect our environment, take your litter home" sign by the gate as you leave the park. Toilets - a lot of playparks do not have toilet facilities - any installed toilets would need maintenance, cleaning, emptying ...  The Forestry Commission lease did state that we could add toilet facilities in the future if needed, so will keep this in mind. We will of course do whatever we can to discourage people walking on the walls of Wades Bridge but cannot be held responsible for parents who do not properly supervise their children”*.  We thank Sharon for her update which has already been posted on our website. The Chairman has visited the location on three separate occasions over the last two months on different days and at different times of day and did not witness any problems. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has visited the site in recent weeks and also found no problems however others have witnessed further problems. Signs promised by Forestry Commission Scotland to help direct traffic would be a big help. It has been requested that any further issues are raised at the time directly with the Wyvis Natural Playpark group. The Playpark officially opened on Monday 25 June 2018 and the Playpark at Strathgarve Primary School officially opened on Tuesday 26 June 2018. Our Secretary and Treasurer attended both openings.

**Scottish Water** – on Friday 6 July 2018 we received the following email from Trish Wilson, Corporate Affairs Officer at Scottish Water … “*I am writing to ask for your assistance in helping to urge customers to reduce their water usage during this hot, dry weather. Parts of Ross-shire are supplied by the Assynt Water Treatment Works which is currently running at full capacity. The works supplies fresh clean drinking water to Alness,* ***Garve****, Strathpeffer, Beauly, Muir of Ord, Munlochy, Avoch, Fortrose, Cromarty and smaller villages in the surrounding area. By taking small and simple measures, customers can help to ensure we can continue to supply water to homes and businesses such as using a bucket of water instead of a hose to wash your car or only washing windscreens and headlights and brake lights, using a watering can instead of a hose to water gardens and plants, taking a shower instead of a bath and making it a short shower, only using washing machines or dishwashers fully loaded and turning off the tap when brushing teeth and shaving”.* We thank Trish from the update. <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/customers-across-scotland-asked-to-use-water-wisely> Some present did not realise the Assynt Water Treatment Works supplied such a large area. The Highland Council has issued a reminder **to owners of private water supplies** that it is their responsibility to arrange for the provision of water to their properties. Further advice on water efficiency is available on the Scottish Water website at - <http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/you-and-your-home/your-home/water-efficiency> The Scottish Government has implemented an emergency assistance scheme. The emergency supply is for domestic use and will be prioritised by The Highland Council to those of greatest need. Requests for emergency assistance in the Highlands can be made by calling 01349 886603 or emailing env.health@highland.gov.uk Both these updates have been posted on our website.

The recent hot weather has resulted in **Loch Glascarnoch water levels** dropping so far that the old road to Ullapool has resurfaced. The amount of grass and wild flowers taking hold is also very noticeable as you walk around. There are no reports that the low water level will result in any problems generating electricity.

Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn left at 8.15pm and was thanked for attending.

**2018 Community Ceilidh -** After securing funding from the LCT, Garve & District Community Council are again holding a Community Ceilidh for everybody (all ages) in the community in Garve Village Hall on Saturday 25 August 2018 from 8.00pm until 11.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30pm. Music will be provided by “The Captain Stupendous Ceilidh Band”, back by popular demand! Soup and beefburgers will be available from around 9.00pm and those attending are welcome to BYOB and plastic glasses. As the capacity for this event will be 60, **FREE** tickets will need to be obtained on a first come first served basis from the Secretary. No ticket will mean no entry on the night. A raffle will be drawn at the end of the night raising funds for the Community Council. Donations for the raffle or tombola would be welcome and can be handed in to the Secretary or on the night.53/60 tickets have now been given away for our Community Ceilidh.  If you haven't already booked your free tickets, contact the Secretary ASAP!

**The Garve & District Development Company** – Tina Hartley, Community Engagement and Development Officer at the Company has been in touch to say their website (<https://garve.org/>) is now up and running and Tina would encourage people to register on the website as a follow up from their community meetings. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Mossford Water Supply** – we received an email from a Mossford resident about an application for funding (£5,130) to improve the water supply to the Mossford houses. It appears the Mossford resident was not aware such an application was made on behalf of residents. We are not involved in this application so have passed the email on to the Lochluichart Community Trust.

Val MacIver left at 8.25pm and was thanked for attending.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – PC Craig Rose reports *“Since 1July 2018, one drink driver at Achanalt, one person stopped at Achnasheen and found in possession of drugs, one person charged with careless driving following an RTC at Tarvie, one person reported for speeding at Achanalt and one reported theft at road works near Garve.”* We thank PC Rose for his report.

Press reports inform us that a driver from Cornwell who drove at 102mph near Achanalt was recently fined £600 and received six penalty points.

Further press reports inform us that a 34-year-old man was alleged to have driven a car at 100mph on the A835 at Achnaclerach north of Garve on Sunday 24 June 2018.

Police Scotland are appealing for 1witnesses after a serious road traffic collision on the A835. The collision was reported around 6.25pm on Sunday 24 June 2018 and happened around one mile west of Tarvie. The collision involving a blue Volkswagen Bora and a green and white Peugeot Boxer van. The 21-year-old man driving the Volkswagen was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness for treatment to serious injuries. A police spokeswoman confirmed that the man had been cut free from the car by 9.30pm but died in Raigmore Hospital the following day. Press reports inform us the 21-year-old was Lachlan Brown, from Killen, on the Black Isle and our thoughts are with his family. It was noted that there has been a number of accidents in Ross & Cromarty this year.

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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**Community Council Review -** The current Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils which includes the constitution that all Community Councils work to in Highland came into effect in April 2011. Since the last full Community Council elections in November 2015, The Highland Council has held 76 interim elections and it is estimated that Community Councils are now only at around 60-70% elected membership level, leaving approximately 400 positions unfilled throughout Highland. The Highland Council feels this leaves Community Councils vulnerable to falling into abeyance and leaving communities without representation. The Highland Council are therefore seeking to understand how they can sustain and develop Community Councils going forward. Initial suggestions from The Highland Council have included making Community Council areas bigger, so that they represent around 2,000 people or paying Grant costs retrospectively up to a certain limit. Community Council members are asked to share their views directly with The Highland Council by the end of September who will then review the feedback received. Some Community Council members have wondered if there would be a knock-on effect for the Lochluichart Community Trust and The Garve & District Development Company as both use our area map. Our Chairman does not think there would be as the Lochluichart Community Trust Article 1.1 explains their map is the one agreed by The Highland Council on 3 March 2011 and the Development Company operates in a postcode defined area as explained in their Article 4.

**Co-option –** deferred until our next ordinary meeting in September.

**Treasurers report** – The bank balance on Monday 9 July 2018 was £3,043.86. The mystery deposit of £638.50 was with regard to funds raised from hamper sales. Treasurers account was £329.20 minus £16 June Hall hire. Community (reserve) fund stands at £1,223.17 after a donation of £500 was received minus £16.99 Noticeboard covers. Newsletter (flier) fund was £695.50 minus £20 Diesel for our Chairman travelling around with the flier advertising to vacancy. £775 received from LCT to cover community ceilidh costs.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by Email – Gail Grant & Karen Grant – Strathgarve Primary Playpark official opening; Sharon Wright, Chairperson, Wyvis Natural Playpark group – update; Katrina Taylor, The Highland Council - Grudie layby bin stand; Henry Whaley - Garve Level Crossing; Diane Macrae, Criminal Justice Services (Alness) - Clearing up plastic (9 - 15 July); ePlanning – new planning applications at 8 June 2018; Doreen Cockbill, Correspondence Officer, BEAR Scotland – Garve Level Crossing update; Two emails from Eileen Irvine, Office Co-ordinator, The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust - HSCHT Board Of Directors Nominations; Dr Ian McNamara, Chairperson, Highland Senior Citizens Network - Summer 2018 Newsletter; ePlanning – new planning applications at 15 June 2018; Sylvia Tarrant, Corporate Communications Officer, The Highland Council – Quality Awards 2018 (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 22 June 2018; Bea Jefferson, Community Fund Coordinator (North), Foundation Scotland – EDF Education & Training Fund updated poster and first year report; Tina Hartley, Community Engagement and Development Officer, The Garve & District Development Company – website update; The Highland Council Community Services – Winter service survey; Sadie-Michaela Harris – vacancy; ePlanning – new planning applications at 29 June 2018; Trish Wilson, Corporate Affairs Officer, Scottish Water - Help us save water this summer; Susan Blease, Principal Solicitor - Regulatory Services/Clerk to the Highland Licensing Board - Consultation on Licensing Board Policy Statement 2018-2023; ePlanning – new planning applications at 6 July 2018; James Mckenzie, Scottish Government - EIA Scoping Opinion published; Highland Council Policy – News release (advice on private water supplies); Le-Anne Fraser, Administrative Assistant - Early Years, The Highland Council - Play Improvement Group - Community Guidance; ePlanning – new planning applications at 13 July 2018; ePlanning - Consultation Request Notification (18/02928/FUL Dos Mucheran); Gavin Steel, Corporate Affairs Manager (North), Scottish Water - Update on Scottish Water 'use water wisely' campaign; ePlanning – new planning applications at 20 July 2018; Alison Rowe – Mossford water supply; ePlanning – new planning applications at 27 July 2018; Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy, The Highland Council - Community Council Scheme Review - initial engagement (received via HC Policy); PC Craig Rose – Police report; ePlanning – new planning applications at 3 August 2018.

Correspondences received by post – HAGS play equipment – The ultimate playlist!

We have also received draft minutes from Coigach, Lochcarron, Shieldaig, Lochbroom (x2), Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon, Contin and Torridon & Kinlochewe Community Councils and approved minutes from Gairloch (x2) and Aultbea Community Councils.

**AOB from Community Council members** – The Secretary noticed a lawnmower has been dumped at Little Garve. The Chairman will take photos and report accordingly. The Secretary also asked if a spring could be put on the gate at Lochluichart Railway Station. The Chairman will make enquires.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – On Wednesday 27 June 2018 we received a winter service survey from The Highland Council’s Community Services Department. The link was forwarded onto Community Council members so they could take part in the survey.

We have also received a consultation sent to all Community Councils regarding the proposed Highland Licensing Board Policy Statement 2018-2023. Deadline for comments is Friday 31 August 2018. As this meeting is not quorate, Community Council members will be asked for any comments via email.

Notice of both these consultations were posted on our website.

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** - Three planning applications were received during our summer break that required a response before this meeting. 18/03185/FUL is the proposed erection of a switch gear house and associated buried HV Cable for the already consented Fannich 500kW hydro-electric scheme (14/00903/FUL), 18/03028/FUL is the proposed re-instatement of an internal separation wall between Garve Cottage and Rosemount, Garve and 18/02928/FUL is the proposed installation of 100kW hydro-electric scheme including pipeline, intake, powerhouse and formation of access track, land At Dos Mucheran, Achanalt. Community Council members were informed by email and had no comments. Details of these planning applications were posted on our website and as always were available on The Highland Council’s planning website - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning_-_applications_warrants_and_certificates/143/planning_permission/4>

One other planning application has come to our attention. 18/03397/PIP is a planning in principle application for a house, land 1300metres South East of Torriegorrie. The deadline for comments to the Case Officer is Monday 13 August 2018. As this meeting is not quorate, Community Council members will be asked for any comments via email.

**Dates of future meetings**

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

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

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 2019, 7.00pm, Achnasheen Village Hall

Tuesday 4 June 2019, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall. Old minute books will be available to view.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the non-quorate meeting at 9.00pm.

*The recent hot weather has resulted in Loch Glascarnoch water levels dropping so far that the old road to Ullapool has resurfaced. The amount of grass and wild flowers taking hold is also very noticeable as you walk around. Our Chairman visited the site last Saturday afternoon and his photo shows the view looking west along the old road …*



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

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