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

**held on Tuesday 2 April 2019 in Garve Village Hall**

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

**Also present:** Val MacIver (Platform PR) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), co-opted member Joe Stewart, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and PC Craig Rose.

**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. Best wishes to Cllr Mrs Cockburn who has been unwell.

**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 draft minutes** of the last ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2019 in Garve Village Hall were proposed without amendment by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, in the **NEW** Achnasheen Village notice board, on our website or via email.

**Matters arising – EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that the site is running well. Val was thanked for her updates.

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk) Our understanding is that the planning application for the proposed extension is about to be applied for. Today, we received a CD of the various files, a hard copy is also available in Garve Village Hall.

**SSE update – The Avenue trees** – we await an exact date when SSE employees can come to cut down the two trees.

Press reports suggest that **Ofgem is minded to reject** the current proposals for a 600MW cable linking the Western Isles to the mainland. The cable in question was planned to be run under The Avenue in Garve. Ofgem said it would instead support alternative proposals for a 450MW cable, or even a 600MW link but at a reduced cost. Daryn Lucas at SSE writes … *"Whilst the news is unfortunate we are still pressing the case for the 600MW HVDC link as we believe it presents the optimal choice for connecting renewable generation in the Western Isles. This is a position shared with the vast majority of the project stakeholders. The consultation closes on 2nd April 2019 and following that Ofgem will either confirm or change its “minded to” position”.* We thank Daryn for his update and await developments.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – at a meeting of The Highland Council on Thursday 7 March 2019, it was agreed to look at the possibility of splitting the Ross & Cromarty area committee so that Ward Five had its own area committee. Further discussions are to take place.

A press release from The Highland Council dated Monday 25 March 2019 informs us that from yesterday, **vehicle tyres will no longer be accepted at the Recycling Centres**.  As vehicle tyres are not classified as household waste, The Highland Council is not statutorily obliged to accept them. Householders can dispose of unwanted tyres through the network of garages and tyre dealers in Highland that will accept old tyres and recycle them on their behalf for a small fee, approximately £2 per tyre.  For more information e-mail recycle@highland.gov.uk or call 01349 886603.

**Bridge signs** – in hand.

**Silverbridge public toilets** – our Chairman and Secretary called in there before this meeting to find the toilets are still closed awaiting repairs. In Cllr Cockburn’s absence, we will ask Robbie Bain, Ward Manager for an update.

The Secretary has **collected more rubbish** from the layby east of Lochluichart Church.

Several **potholes** between Gorstan and Achnasheen have been attended to in recent weeks. Our thanks to the roads team. Bob Moir noted a **“ditch”** is opening up in Stirling Drive. Our chairman will visit and report accordingly.

**Dumped tar** in the boathouse layby east of Achanalt has been attended too, many thanks to Katrina, Laura and team.

**Achnasheen electric vehicle charging point, noticeboards and information panels** – new noticeboards were installed on Monday 25 March 2019, other items are ongoing.

**Speed limit issues** - Robbie Bain, Ward Manager advises ... “*the main road at Garve would be a matter for BEAR, for Lochluichart and Achnasheen, it would be for Iain Moncrieff. I would imagine that within the existing speed restrictions in Garve and Achnasheen if there are issues of speeding, these would be a matter for the Police and there is little additional information that a speed survey would provide, apart from confirming what we already know - that some drivers don’t obey the speed limit. At Lochluichart, the question would be whether the current, National Speed Limit was appropriate and that is one that Iain would be best to advise on”*. We thank Robbie for his input. In the meantime, the issue has been referred to the Police which has resulted in drivers being caught – see police report below.

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.

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

**BEAR update** – Network Rail “probed” **the embankment** between Hazelbrae and Garve Hotel on the night of our last meeting. Network Rail writes … *“Our Asset Engineer (Drainage), has confirmed that having discussed this matter with a representative of BEAR, they have advised us that they do plan to rectify the flooding in Garve.  However, before BEAR confirm their plans, a meeting between Network Rail and BEAR will be arranged to discuss the options and the way forward”.* We thank Network Rail for the update. Calum Farquharson at BEAR writes … *“I have carried out two site investigations in recent weeks with our operations team to discuss the feasibility of various options. The two main problems that have been identified are water runoff from Network Rail’s embankment and a sub-standard culvert which is unable to carry the excess water. I have a meeting with Network Rail planned to discuss what they can do to limit the volume of water reaching the trunk road and to assess the stability of their embankment with regards to excavation works and installing new drainage systems at the bottom. I appreciate that this has been an ongoing issue for some time but I am confident that Network Rail and I can resolve this issue in a timely manner.”* We thank Calum for his update. Community Council members felt FCS should also be contacted and consulted.

In other news from BEAR, **resurfacing works** are due to take place on Monday 15 April 2019 from 7.00am until 7.00pm on a section of the A835 near Blackbridge. Traffic management will be in place, the road will remain open but expect some minor delays. It was suggested that to help spread the word, signs should be placed at the location in good time and social media should also be used.

**A joint informal meeting** between LCT, TG&DDC and the Community Council took place on Wednesday 6 March 2019 to discuss the proposed community development plan. Our Chairman, Secretary, Caroline Gamble and co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris attended.  Most Directors on the LCT and TG&DDC boards also attended.  In general, there was agreement that the draft plan was along the right lines with some minor amendments and additions to be made.  TG&DDC now have 111 members.  A question was asked about FCS land. FCS are open to suggestions regarding ANY piece of their land for a community project but it was acknowledged that access/traffic management issues would need to be considered. It was useful to chat to various elected individuals in the community and it is hoped such meetings can happen again from time to time. TG&DDC organised a public drop in event on Thursday 21 March so members of the community could view and comment on the proposed community development plan. Around 40 people attended. Q11 in the 2016 Community Needs Survey did show 69 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that a new trust should have a five to ten-year plan.  Tina Hartley has asked us to note that the Garve Stakeholder Meeting and the Achnasheen Meet & Greet Meeting both held in February were not advertised as one to one sessions, but that is a good idea for the future. Regarding the proposal for the pond in Achnasheen, this suggestion was received as part of their Household Survey. We thank Tina for the update. We have passed on details of the Land Fund and SSE community resilience fund to TG&DDC.

**2019 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 17 August 2019 from 8.00pm until 11.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30pm. Music will be provided by “The Scone Fairies” who are Bob Massie and Jonathan Hill. Both men are lifelong enthusiasts of traditional Scottish music. Catering by “Out of the Blue Catering” will be soup, sausage rolls, tea and coffee and those attending are welcome to BYOB and plastic glasses. 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 any Community Council member. **FREE** tickets for this event will be available in due course. Page six of the 2016 Community Needs Survey report does show support for vibrant social activities.

There are plans for a **Joint Community Council** meeting for Ward Five Community Councils to be held later this month. The Secretary, Bob and Sadie all hope to attend.

**Community Council Scheme Review 2018-19** – as noted at our last ordinary meeting, there is currently a review of the scheme underway by The Highland Council. Community Councils and members of the public have the opportunity to comment and submit representations on the draft proposals. The draft proposals include formalising youth membership, a maximum of four co-opted members (currently one third of total membership), members who move out with the area stay on the Community Council until the next interim/full election (currently they are no longer members as soon as they leave the area) and reviewing core funding arrangements. [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CCReview1819](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.co.uk%2Fr%2FCCReview1819&data=01%7C01%7CAlison.Clark%40highland.gov.uk%7C768530abcbf84d17b1b408d69e5c79bd%7C89f0b56e6d164fe89dba176fa940f7c9%7C0&sdata=LShsAL%2FImWH9T2vjmjMOxKjKfB9nz%2FNWIEeD5qmLJ1U%3D&reserved=0). The consultation will run until Friday 31 May 2019. This update has already been posted on our website.

Caroline Gamble updated the meeting that she has ordered **broadband** and no issues have been found with the cable in the Little Garve area.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – PC Craig Rose sent us the following report earlier today … *“Another month of several road traffic offences on the A832 at Achanalt with 10 speeding offences. RTC involving foreign vehicle at Gorstan Junction (last Wednesday afternoon). Following concern raised re speeding in Garve Village, email circulated to Local officer and Road Policing unit. 2 persons detected speeding in the village in the last month, one MOT offence”.*

Police Scotland is appealing for witnesses following a single vehicle road traffic collision on the A835 near the Aultguish Dam at Loch Glascarnoch yesterday. The collision involved a white Citroen Berlingo van, which had been driven south from the direction of Ullapool. The vehicle left the road shortly before 5.30pm on Monday 1 April. No other vehicles were involved. The 33-year-old male driver of the van was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. His injuries are described as serious but are not believed to be life-threatening. Road Policing Sergeant Donnie Mackinnon said: *"Our enquiries are ongoing into this incident and I would urge anyone who may have witnessed the collision or saw the van on the A835 beforehand to come forward. Any information can be passed to the Road Policing Unit in Dingwall by calling 101, quoting incident NE1586/19.”*

Press reports inform us that a 46-year-old man has admitted driving dangerously and has been fined £525, banned from driving for a year and will have to re-sit an extended driving test before regaining his licence after colliding with three cars and forcing another car off the road while overtaking a touring bus on a bend at Lochluichart on 5 May 2018.

These represent a rise from 23 and 27 respectively in the same period in 2017.**Treasurers report** – In the absence of The Treasurer, The Secretary updated the meeting. The latest bank statement on Tuesday 12 March 2019 shows a balance of £2,424.73. Expenses for the last month were £18.00 Garve Hall hire for March meeting, £27.00 Secretary ink and £86.00 Insurance. Accounts currently with the auditor. Anyone who wishes to donate to our fundraising baskets can do so directly to our Secretary or at the reception of Garve Hotel. Hamper baskets would be particularly welcome. We once again send our thanks to Garve Hotel for all their help with our fundraising activities.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – Robbie Bain, Ward Manager – speed survey; Laura MacAllister & Katrina Taylor, The Highland Council – dumped tar; Emma Green, two emails from Zurich Insurance – renewal; two emails from Tina Hartley, TG&DDC – updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 8 March 2019; Scott Dalgarno, Development Plans Manager, The Highland Council – Inner Moray Firth Development plan update (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 15 March 2019; Lynn Sharp, Improvements Service - Consultation on Draft Revised Guidance for Licensing Boards (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 22 March 2019; Network Rail – Flooding update (Incident:190218-000241); Calum Farquharson, BEAR – flooding update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 29 March 2019.

Correspondences received by post – CD from Infinergy.

We have also received draft minutes from Applecross (x2), Contin, Lochcarron, Shieldaig and Plockton Community Councils, notes of a non-quorate meeting of Lochalsh Community Council and approved minutes from Gairloch Community Council.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Our Chairman noted that **The Countryside Ranger** has organised a food for free foraging walk beside the Blackwater river on Thursday 18 July 2019 from 4.00pm until 5.30pm. Learn about edible plants and the cultural uses for them on this guided walk. Take a flask of hot water and a collecting tub to try a tea flavoured by plants that you pick yourself. Distance: 3.5km/2.25mi. Suitable for families and adults. Booking of **FREE tickets** is essential by 4.00pm on Wednesday 17 July 2019 at <https://booking.highlifehighland.com/guest-activities/1713/> The Countryside Ranger has also organised a walk to tea in the Tea House bothy at Achnashellach on Tuesday 4 June 2019 from 9.00am until 5.00pm. A rugged and remote circular walk into the wilds of Wester Ross. They will aim to be at the Tea House bothy in time for lunch (and tea!). You will be mostly on stalkers tracks but there will be some rough ground too as you come across ancient pine forest and tumbling waterfalls. Suitable for adults over 18 years only. Participants must have good fitness for steep and rocky terrain and bring appropriate outdoor clothing, footwear and lunch. The distance is 15km/9.5mi. Booking of **FREE tickets** is essential by 4.00pm on the Monday 3 June 2019 at <https://booking.highlifehighland.com/guest-activities/1709/> Page six of the 2016 Community Needs Survey report does show support for vibrant social activities.

**AOB from members of the public** – a member of the public suggested dummy “police” signs and 40MPH speed stickers on wheelie bins might help reduce speeding in Garve. A similar idea helped in Carrbridge – noted.

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received one consultation from the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government is seeking views on draft revised guidance for Licensing Boards. Under the terms of Section 142(1) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, Scottish Ministers may issue guidance to Licensing Boards as to the exercise of their functions under the Act, which they must have regard to. The first guidance for Licensing Boards was issued in April 2007. One of the purposes of the guidance is for Scottish Ministers to give guidance to Licensing Boards on the effect of the complex areas of, and interactions between, the legislative provisions. The first guidance has not been substantially amended since it was issued to Licensing Boards. Scottish Government are committed to updating it, aiming for it to reflect the range of associated primary and secondary legislation enacted since it was issued and for it to provide clarity for Licensing Boards therefore, The Scottish Government are seeking views on the draft revised guidance. You can read the draft guidance here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-licensing-scotland-act-2005-section-142-draft-revised-guidance-licensing-boards/> The consultation closes **Tuesday** **11 June 2019**. To share your views, contribute to the consultation here: <https://consult.gov.scot/justice/draft-revised-guidance-for-licensing-boards/consultation/subpage.2016-07-07.1474135251/> 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** – no updates or new applications since our last ordinary meeting. 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 7 May 2018, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall – apologies noted from Bob Moir.

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 8.15pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

*The refurbished village shelter in Achnasheen with new noticeboards …*



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

garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com