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

**held on Tuesday 4 June 2019 in the Conference Room, Garve Hotel**

**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), Tina Hartley & Lucy Beattie (local Development & Engagement Officers) and two members of the public.

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

**The Chairman opened this meeting** at 7.30pm following the conclusion of the AGM 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. Tonight’s meeting was scheduled to have taken place in Garve Village Hall but the Hall is unavailable. They hope to reopen the Hall shortly. Our thanks to the Hall committee for their help in this matter, Community Council members and to Garve Hotel for accommodating us tonight.

**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 7 May 2019 were proposed without amendment 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 – EDF** - Val MacIver updated the meeting that the site is running well. Val hopes to have an update about a potential upgrade to the Corriemoillie Windfarm for our August ordinary meeting. Val was thanked for her updates. Bea Jefferson has been in touch with an update regarding the **EDF Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund** … *“The fund represents 20% of the overall EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Community Fund. Its focus is to support local people with education and training opportunities and contribute to creating job opportunities in the local area. At our April 2019 Panel, 15 awards were made (13 individual bursaries, one mentoring award and one award to a project linking individuals to employers) totalling £18,793. Three individual bursary awards totalling £2,718 were made to residents from Garve and District (£500 to fund driving lessons and driving test, £1,000 to fund travel and accommodation relating to BDes Hons Illustration and £1,218 to fund course fees, accommodation and travel related to an advanced jewellery course). In addition, a £1,732 mentoring award was made to TLC Associates to fund six months mentoring support. In total, £4,450 was awarded to individuals and organisations based in Garve and District. The next deadline for applications is* ***Monday 26th August 2019*** *for decisions in early October”.* We thank Bea for her update. Updated posters advertising this fund have been supplied and are already up in the various locations in our Community. <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/> Sadie-Michaela Harris declared it was she who was recently awarded £500 to fund driving lessons and driving test.

**SSE update – The Avenue trees** – Patrick Allan informs us that SSE are in the process (27 May 2019) of securing funding for the hire of the work platform. We thank him for the update.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – Katrina Taylor informs us that the **tyres** **at Gorstan** are on a private track. As this is private land it is up to the landowner if this is what they want. If it attracts further tyres, it would be the landowner who would have to address the issue. Our thanks to Katrina and her team. Community Council members felt it would be useful to have Iain Moncrieff’s input on this as Roads Manager. He will be contacted along with photos.

**Mess behind Silverbridge toilets** – reported but yet to be cleaned up – matter to be chased up with Environmental Health and possibly SEPA if necessary.

The Secretary noted a dog bed and water container, carpets, plasterboard, kitchen cupboards, metal stand, mattress and pillows **dumped in Lochluichart and Grudie laybys** recently. Everything reported and cleared up within a few days. Our thanks to Katrina and her team.

**Achnasheen electric vehicle charging point –** still awaiting full installation. Can electric bikes use such facilities? Unlikely but according to the internet … *“electric bike batteries are designed to be removed from the bike’s frame so they can be charged at home or at the workplace.”*

**Achnasheen information panels** – latest information panel designs were received yesterday. Our Chairman asked for Community Council members input by the end of this week.

We also note **new wood** in the car parks and additional **tree protection** around the new trees.

**Road sweeper** was round Achnasheen last Friday.

**Stone wall** just past the Achnasheen roundabout on the A832 is damaged/crumbling in places – reported on Sunday 12 May 2019 (FS118406696).

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 Dingwall Service Point 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 –** Tommy Deans at BEAR will look into crash barriers at **“check rail corner”**. Tommy writes … *“I have spoken to our Road Safety Team and Transport Scotland’s Area Manager.  We absolutely appreciate that the removal of the trees and the subsequent exposure of the railway changes the driver experience on the route. Looking at the bend specifically my road safety colleagues tell me that there is no automatic requirement to increase the height of the existing barrier. However, there is a need to assess the start and end points of the barrier to check if any extensions are required.  At the same time a site assessment will be carried out by a barrier expert to look at the suitability of the existing barrier.  The final result may be that no additional work is required but let’s see what is identified during the assessment. It is likely to be July before this will be done but we’ll arrange it as soon as we can.”*  We thank Tommy for his update.

Regarding **flooding** between Hazelbrae corner and Garve Hotel, Calum Farquharson from BEAR writes … *“The meeting with Network Rail on Monday 13 May 2019 went very well. Network Rail are planning to improve their ditching system at the top of their embankment. This should limit the volume of water that we are seeing, seeping out of the embankment and onto the A835. They are yet to determine a construction date but have advised that the works will be carried out this financial year. As far as our works are concerned, one of the outlets to our culvert appears to have collapsed which may be limiting the flow of water during periods of heavy rainfall. We are going to carry out a CCTV survey to determine the condition of this culvert and will make any appropriate repairs. Furthermore, we plan to replace our culvert, immediately west of the second Gabion Wall as that is currently inadequate to deal with surface run off. As you can imagine, replacing a culvert on this narrow section of the A835 may be quite disruptive so it is likely to be carried out after the summer. I’ll let you know as soon as we have an indicative date”.* We thank Calum for his update. Scottish Forestry have not replied to our enquiry on this matter. Residents in Garve have recently received a **letter from Network Rail** informing them that stabilisation work on the railway embankment will take place every night (except Fridays) from now until 23 August 2019 between 11.00pm and 8.00am. The Letter states … *“We are legally obliged to work on the railway at times that cause least disruption to trains. Any questions or concerns please call 03457 114141 or* [*www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus*](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus)*”* We also note the works at Garve level crossing last night.

**Bridge signs** – Our Chairman has visited several main bridges in the area. It appears eleven do not have names on them. We have asked Robbie Bain for their correct names and costs for signage and installation.

**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”. Soup, sausage rolls, tea and coffee 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 70, **FREE** tickets will need to be obtained on a first come first served basis from The Secretary by Wednesday 31 July 2019. 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 any Community Council member. Many thanks for donations already received. A flier was emailed/hand delivered to every accessible property in our area advertising this event on 17 & 18 April 2019. A copy of the flier is also on our website and posters have been placed in the Achnasheen Village notice board, Garve Village Hall notice board and at Garve PO where spare fliers are also available. A note has also been placed on the Development Company’s website. 39/70 tickets have already been allocated. Page six of the 2016 Community Needs Survey report does show support for vibrant social activities.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – no report received but social media reports inform us that speed checks were being carried out at Achnaclearach on Monday 20 May 2019. A police presence was also noted in Achnasheen last Sunday lunchtime. There appears to be scam letters doing the rounds again. An example of one received by a local resident was shown to those present. It was suggested that the police should be called or <https://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk/Contact>These represent a rise from 23 and 27 respectively in the same period in 2017.

**Treasurers report** - Expenses for the last month were £12.50 meeting expenses in May. Anyone who wishes to donate to our fundraising hampers can do so directly to our Secretary or at the reception of Garve Hotel.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – Katrina Taylor, The Highland Council – tyres; Two emails from Tommy Deans, BEAR – crash barriers; Alison Maclennan – Garve graveyard walls; Network Rail – Incident 190513-000327 (dumped rubbish); Lynn Sharp, Improvement Service – lets consultation (received via HC Policy); Two emails from Cllr Alasdair Christie - Community Council Network Meeting (received via HC Policy – meeting has since been cancelled); ePlanning – new planning applications at 10 May 2019; Calum Farquharson, BEAR – update; Alan Fraser, The Highland Council - S37 Interim Progress Reports for Local Flood Risk Management Plans; Brian Davey, Improvement Service - Local Governance Review Newsletter (received via HC policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 17 May 2019; Bea Jefferson, Foundation Scotland – update; Patrick Allan, SSE – tree update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 24 May 2019; Two emails from Helen Smith, Rowan Tree Consulting – Achnasheen information panel updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 31 May 2019.

We have also received draft minutes from Wester Loch Ewe, Lochbroom, Shieldaig, Lochcarron, Plockton, Stromeferry & Achmore and Coigach Community Councils and approved minutes from Gairloch Community Councils.

**AOB from Community Council members** – The Secretary wondered if **no turning signs** could be put on the Grudie adopted road as long lorries are struggling to get around the corners at the houses. It was pointed out that if it is an adopted road, they have a right to use the road but enquiries will be made.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – We have received one consultation from The Scottish Government. The 51-page consultation asks for views on the regulation of short-term lets in Scotland. There has been growth in short-term lets in a small timescale and the consultation sets out the factual background, describes the issues arising, outlines local authorities’ current powers to address them and presents an overview of regulatory approaches elsewhere in the world. The consultation closes on **Friday 19 July 2019**. More details - <https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets/> Community Council members had no comments on the consultation.

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 new issues 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)*

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

Tuesday 5 November 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 3 December 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

January 2020 – no meeting

Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 3 March 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 7 April 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 5 May 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 2 June 2020, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

It was agreed that as we are now having summer and winter breaks, any issue with a deadline will be emailed to Community Council members for their consideration. A special meeting can be called if necessary. As ever, updates between meetings will continue to be posted on our website.

Those attending this meeting wished to place on record their thanks to our Chairman and all the Community Council members for all their hard work representing this community.

It was also suggested a joint “drop in” session where all local groups, big or small, were represented would be useful for the community, a “one stop shop”, similar to the “drop in” event held prior to TG&DDC AGM last November. This suggestion would be raised at tomorrow night’s LCT public meeting but Community Council members were in general agreement with the suggestion.

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 ……………………………….

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

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