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

**held on Tuesday 5 March 2019 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:** Val MacIver (Platform PR, 7.00pm until 8.45pm).

**Apologies:** Community Council member Bob Moir, co-opted member Joe Stewart, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and Fiona Milligan (Infinergy). Community Council members noted and agreed to Joe’s continued absence due to work commitments.

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

**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 February 2019 in Garve Village Hall were proposed without amendment by Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Caroline Gamble. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, on our website or via email.

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

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk) Our Chairman now understands that the planning application may not be submitted until April 2019.

**SSE updates** – Trees in The Avenue. The Highland Council have given permission for the two dead/leaning trees to be cut down. SSE required a form to be sent in to “Be The Difference” which our Chairman has completed. The Chairman has offered to meet representatives of The Highland Council and SSE on site if necessary. SSE hope to cut the two trees in April/May.

**Flooding on hillside above Gorstan** – Lisa Marchi at SSE writes …”*my understanding is last year the area was hit by heavy rainfall which caused localised flooding around the junction at Gorstan where a drain collapsed, Highland Council repaired the drain and the damage caused.  The question was then asked had the Beauly Mossford Project impacted on the area, so we commissioned a flood impact report through Mott MacDonald.  The report concluded that the flooding was not the result of the access track works for the project however the report did suggest some remedial repairs to the track and drainage.  We have carried out these repairs as per the report.*” We thank Lisa for the update. Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted there had been workers up on the hill opposite the Garve Hotel on Wednesday 20 February 2019 where they were working before earlier this year. Looks like they had more machinery too.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – at a special meeting of The Highland Council held on Thursday 15 February 2019, it was agreed that Council house rents, burial/cremation fees, planning fees and Council Tax would all go up by 3%. Streetlights would be dimmed by 20% between 00:00 and 06:00. Full switch off would be made available for communities who requested it, subject to local consultation. Recycle centre opening times will be reviewed, bin lorry routes reviewed, increase in commercial waste fees and grass cutting reviewed along with cuts to Education budgets. The budget is set to deliver £37.456 million savings over the next three years with a "Change Fund" of £2.5 million set aside to help "resource and deliver the change programme". Investment of an additional and recurring £1.5 million for roads maintenance was also approved. The area allocations have been calculated using the historic distribution formula which uses weighted road mileage and population. The allocation will be as follows: Caithness - £164,400, Inverness - £244,950, Ross & Cromarty - £365,400, Isle of Skye - £132,150 and Sutherland - £292,500.

**Bailey Bridge (officially known as Blackwater Bridge) sign** – will be attended to. The Secretary wondered if **all bridges** should have their bridge names on a plaque on the bridges? That way, there is no confusion where things happen. Perhaps a good history/geography project for the school? It was agreed to fix the Bailey Bridge sign first, then look at other bridge signs.

Contrary to some social media posts, The Community Council is not looking into erecting signs for local playparks. This would be something for those local groups who run the parks to undertake. The incorrect social media post has since been deleted. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Wondering dogs** – picture needed and then it needs to be sent to - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1211/animal_welfare_and_pest_control/472/dog_control/2> **Dog fouling** – picture needed and then it needs to be sent to - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1330/street_care_and_cleaning/473/dog_fouling> In both cases, anonymous reports will not be accepted. It was noted that the recent dog in question has not been seen lately.

Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn received reports last week that **Silverbridge public toilets** are closed again. Our Chairman and Secretary visited the site before this meeting and can confirm they are indeed locked. “Facility not in use” signs are on all the locked doors, no lights on and windows closed. With Rogie Falls and Strathpeffer public toilets not open yet, things are getting desperate! Cllr Cockburn made enquiries and reports that the facilities are closed due to a broken pump but should be fixed soon.

On Sunday 10 February 2019, The Secretary walked the **verges of Grudie Bridge** on a litter pick, all part of her spring clean. The Secretary also discovered a sign damaged just to the west of Grudie Bridge which was replaced last Tuesday. The Chairman also assisted the Secretary on Sunday 17 February 2019 to **clean up an embankment** and four laybys between Lochluichart and Achanalt … four black bin bags were filled! It was also noted that a number of **layby bins** were not locked into the stands. This has been flagged up with The Highland Council who will remind the crews who service these bins to make sure the bins are locked in properly.  Sometimes as the bin stands age, the locking mechanisms can become ineffective. This will also be checked. **Dumped tar** in the Boathouse layby east of Achanalt has also been reported directly to The Highland Council. At a recent public meeting, the mess along the Achnasheen verges was noted despite the efforts of local residents to keep Scotland tidy!

**Verges in Achanalt** – ditches and offlets will be cleaned out the next time the digger is in the area. Our Chairman reminded them that the ditches and offlets south of Ledgowan are still on the “to do” list, perhaps the two jobs could be done at the same time.

**Electric vehicle charging point in Achnasheen** – installation is ongoing.

Roof sheeting for the **Achnasheen Village shelter** was replaced last Monday. New noticeboards and information panels are to follow.

**A890 Stromeferry Bypass** – although this section of road is out with our area, we take an interest as it affects local residents, local businesses and tourists alike. Our Chairman attended a meeting at The Highland Council HQ on Thursday 7 February 2019 – see attached note. He welcomed plans by HITRANS who are proposing to pull funding together to investigate the possibility of shortening the token section between Strathcarron and Kyle following on from the successful involvement in the improved temporary arrangement during the last set of rockface works. If installed, the new signalling system will help delayed trains get caught up quicker, a benefit to all the communities who live along the line, especially as passenger figures are up. 2017/18 saw 3,310 passengers use Achnasheen Railway Station, 434 passengers used Achanalt Railway Station, 632 passengers used Lochluichart Railway Station and 4,302 passengers used Garve Railway Station.

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)

**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 regarding the wet embankment**. Our Chairman sent a video of the flooding to BEAR, SSE and Network Rail. Rachael Pringle from BEAR writes … *“Our engineers have carried out a survey of this area yesterday (27/2/19). They are developing a scheme for planned delivery in the next financial year. The works will likely involve a partial culvert replacement and installing sections of filter drain. This will require liaison with Network Rail as seepage from their embankment appears to be the root cause of the water flowing across the trunk road. Our Operations Manager is also going to arrange for flood signs and sand bags filled with salt to be left at this location. They will also continue to monitor the site.”* We thank Rachael for the update. Our Chairman has contacted the Scottish Road Works Commissioner as this section of road continues to be a problem. They informed him that Network Rail are “Probing” the embankment this week as part of further investigation works.

The Secretary noted new white lining from west end of Garve to just east of Garve was painted last week.

Thanks to a member of the public who found out about the A835 being closed next Thursday night. We had not received notification of this. BEAR Scotland, who are responsible for the trunk road, will close the road at Tarvie overnight on Thursday 14 March 2019 from 7pm until 6am for road resurfacing works. Emergency services will be allowed through as usual and works will pause at 9pm, 11pm, 1am and 4am to allow waiting vehicles to be escorted through. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Wester Ross Biosphere** - [www.wrb.scot/](http://www.wrb.scot/) - co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris attended the launch of their plan on Saturday 9 February 2019 in Ullapool. Around 40-50 people attended, all ages were represented. Sadie wondered if the group should have additional powers? It was noted they are there to promote the area. Copies of the plan will be available on their website.

**TG&DDC updates – a stakeholder meeting** took place on Thursday 21 February 2019. The Secretary and co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris attended. Sadie noted the meeting covered small business opportunities, Garve Village Hall and isolation of self-employed who could perhaps meet up from time to time. Perhaps a handyman service and men’s shed project could work together. The Secretary thought the meeting would be more on a one to one basis and noted Garve Hotel does employ local residents, some of whom are studying SVQ’s. The Secretary also thought the speed limit in Garve should be reduced.

Our Chairman attended a **“Meet & Greet” event in Achnasheen** later that day. He too thought it would be on a one to one basis. Various ideas about business opportunities in Achnasheen were suggested. Issues he was asked to look into were **“No Parking Signs”** (not enforceable without Traffic Orders) **speed bumps** in the Village (may put people off visiting the Village centre and may cause unwelcome noise as vehicle cross them), **reducing the 40MPH to 30MPH** (would require traffic speed survey, then Traffic Order, then new signs) and getting better **Village entrance** signs (new Village entrance signs could be funded by LCT which in turn may help with speeding). It was noted that such signage might help people to realise there are two roads down into the Village centre and the signs could feature something about the wildlife in the Village. It was also suggested at the meeting that the Village pond be filled in for car parking space … those attending didn’t think that was a good idea. Community Council members agreed that a speed survey should perhaps be carried out in Garve, Lochluichart and Achnasheen. Enquiries will be made.

In other news, Lucy Beattie has been in touch about the **proposed community garden project**. Ed Tarr is the lead director on the Community Garden project and Lucy is the lead CEDO. A public meeting will be held in the spring to bring everyone up to date and to discuss all projects proposed within the community and there will be a workshop for progressing the development plan at the end of March, details will be confirmed soon on the Development Company’s website garve.org The offer of a tree is appreciated and noted but the community garden idea is not quite at the planting stage yet. We thank Lucy for her update. Highland Senior Citizens Network recently published their spring newsletter. A section covered community transport which is something the Development Company are looking into. The newsletter has been passed on.

Val MacIver left the meeting at 8.45pm and was thanked for attending.

The Community Council and LCT have been invited to a meeting with the Development Company tomorrow to discuss the proposed community development plan. Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris wondered about policing public comments on the Development Company’s website. Sadie was advised to speak to the Development Company directly.  
  
We note that the **old water pumping station** in Little Garve was sold by auction last Thursday.

**2019 Community Ceilidh** – funding application submitted to LCT, awaiting determination.

Initial discussions about another **Joint Community Council** meeting for Ward Five Community Councils is taking place.

**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.

**Police report** - [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) – no report received.

These represent a rise from 23 and 27 respectively in the same period in 2017.**Treasurers report** – The bank balance on Thursday 21 February 2019 was £2,846.72. Treasurers account £91.42. minus Feb Hall hire £14.00 = £77.42. Community (reserve) was £1,838.01 plus donation of £250.00 = £2,088.01. A letter of thanks has been sent. A further donation towards auditing costs was offered and welcomed. Newsletter (flier) fund £695.50. The Treasurer, seconded by our Chairman proposed Ann MacRae be again appointed auditor and the Secretary fee for 2018/2019 be £350, unanimously agreed. The Treasurer, seconded by The Secretary, proposed our Chairman be given £40 towards travelling expenses, all agreed.

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.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – ePlanning – new planning applications at 1 February 2019; Carol Smith, LCT Secretary – application received; SSE Be The Difference – update; Lisa Marchi, SSE – Beauly to Mossford line works; ePlanning – new planning applications at 8 February 2019; two emails from Rachael Pringle, BEAR – wet embankment updates; Network Rail -Incident: 190218-000241 (wet embankment); Katrina Taylor, The Highland Council – layby bins update; Marcus Dicks, SSE – tree update; Zurich Insurance – renewal 2019/2020; ePlanning – new planning applications at 15 February 2019; Lucy Beattie, TG&DDC – community garden; two emails from Sheila Mitchell, Company Secretary, TG&DDC – proposed joint meeting; Police Scotland – consultation (received via HC Policy); ePlanning – new planning applications at 22 February 2019; Isla Cuthbert, Membership Secretary, Highland Senior Citizens Network – spring newsletter (forwarded into TG&DDC); Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy, The Highland Council - Community Council Scheme Review 2018-19 update; Robbie Bain, Ward Manager – A835 overnight closure (14/15 March); Tina Hartley, TG&DDC – draft development plan; ePlanning – new planning applications at 1 March 2019.

We have also received draft minutes from Plockton, Lochcarron, Shieldaig and Torridon & Kinlochewe Community Councils.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Caroline Gamble updated the meeting regarding broadband in Little Garve. Caroline wrote to the local Broadband group who explained that a bright warning tape is placed above the cable to warn digger drivers that a cable is there. Residents in Little Garve are advised to order the new service as normal if they wish and any problems with the cable will be picked up by Openreach.

Our Chairman noted that he received a letter last Thursday to say the power would be going off in Achnasheen from 10.00am until 2.00pm next Tuesday so that a transformer could be upgraded to allow another customer to be connected to the network.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received one consultation from Police Scotland. Police Scotland want to hear from the public about how Police Scotland shape the service that they provide. In 2017 Police Scotland agreed a ten-year strategy for how they want to build a sustainable service able to adapt to the needs of a changing Scotland. Each year Police Scotland are required to publish an Annual Police Plan which sets out their operational priorities for the year ahead. As part of their ongoing engagement, Police Scotland are looking for opinions from people across Scotland on their proposed outcomes, approach, and how the public want to be involved in working with them to continue to shape future services. The plan will be laid before the Scottish Parliament by the end of March. The survey will be open until Monday 18 March 2019. [https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconsult.scotland.police.uk%2Fconsultation%2F2019shape&data=01%7C01%7Cpolicy6%40highland.gov.uk%7C03e9fc12935e4884479908d69b2ff557%7C89f0b56e6d164fe89dba176fa940f7c9%7C0&sdata=wcg%2FVXReBxdnKp0iNwGSjCsny3RzL8ao%2BCpJ2vEPuxU%3D&reserved=0) 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. 18/05914/FUL was the renewal of planning permission to build a house and garage, land 40metres NW of Glentawik in Little Garve. Planning permission has been granted with three conditions. 1 - No trees shall be removed, lopped, topped or otherwise damaged on site unless with the written approval of the Planning Authority. 2 - No development shall commence until all retained trees are protected against construction damage using protective barriers located beyond the Root Protection zone. 3 - No development shall commence until the site access has been constructed in accordance with The Highland Council's Access to Single Houses and Small Housing Developments guidelines.

One new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 19/00607/FUL is a renewal of 11/04617/FUL from 2011. The application is for the proposed removal of outbuildings and the erection of two houses, land 80metres west of Chuilin, Grudie Bridge. Deadline for comments to the case officer by Friday 15 March 2019. Community Council members had no comments.

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 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 9.15pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

*Damaged drain cover opposite Railway Yard, Achnasheen (FS99034497 reported 9 December 2018 with picture).*

*Damaged drain cover outside “The Studio”, Achnasheen (FS99035718 reported 9 December 2018 with picture).*

*Top soil washed away/sunk in on grass verges in Achanalt (FS103722925 reported 26 January 2019 with picture).*

*Ditches and offlets in Achanalt need cleaned out (FS103723318 reported 26 January 2019 with picture).*

*Pothole at Grudie Bridge (FS97132387 reported 31 October 2018 and again 25 November 2018 with picture and again on 3 February 2019 FS104506789 with picture).*

*Offlets in “Jock’s” layby, Grudie Bridge require cleaned out. (FS103779661 reported 27 January 2019 with picture).*

*Damage to crash barrier to the west of Lochluichart Church (FS69992497 reported 10 March 2018 and FS73369865 re-reported on 19 April 2018 with a picture).*

*Pothole on newly repaired patch of road at Lochluichart (FS103780392 reported 27 January 2019 with picture).*

*Several potholes developing on the loop road above Little Garve (FS106907725 reported 24 February 2019 with picture).*

*We have received reports of damaged drain covers and kerbstones in Stirling Drive, Garve. This has been reported (FS66213050 reported 19 January 2018 and a picture).*

*The road surface is breaking up at the start of The Avenue, especially at the Bailey Bridge where the steel edge is exposed (FS68964983 reported 26 February 2018).*

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

[garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com](mailto:garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com)

**Notes from meeting of 7 February 2019, to discuss A890/Stromeferry Bypass, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.**

**Present**

Colin Howell (CH) (Head of Infrastructure)

Councillor Allan Henderson (AH) (Chair of Environment, Development and Infrastructure) (present at start of meeting)

Councillor Margaret Davidson (MD) (Council Leader) (present only for part of the meeting)

Kenny MacLean (KM) (Garve & District Community Council)

Aileen Grant (AG) (Lochcarron Community Council)

Apologies – Quentin Banting (Lochcarron Community Council)

**Discussion**

AH reported back from recent HiTrans meeting where discussions have been taking place on introducing a new train token for a 'press and ride' system. This would reduce intervals to 25 minutes (improvement on current 42 minute intervals). Pressures from local communities have helped to achieve this, and it would be open to communities to write to the Transport Minister and Network Rail asking for speedy delivery of this new token system.

AG said she would raise this at the next LCC meeting with a view to sending a letter. CH to identify a contact name at Network Rail.

AH and CH explained that at the recent EDI Committee meeting, it was proposed to set up a Stromeferry Bypass Working Group – a cross-party working group. This proposal requires ratification from the Full Council at their meeting on 7th March. If approved, the Working Group will comprise the four local Councillors, Chair and Vice Chairs of EDI (viz AH) and Chair and Vice Chair of Resources.

AG and KM requested that a copy of the minutes of the working group meetings should be sent to their Community Councils. (Post meeting note - They would be submitted to the next EDI Committee so they’d appear in the public domain a week before each of those Committees).

**Short Term Issues**

Other Feedback from the EDI Committee Meeting is

1. Funding has been approved for the next round of rockface stabilisation works. This will include (a) works to be done in Autumn 2019 (re-netting two rockfaces plus a ground conditions survey for constructing 'catch netting') and (b) works to be done in 2020 (constructing 'catch netting'). In addition, there will be the usual Annual Inspection.

AH explained that the majority of Members are trying not to allow this issue to become 'political' and there is wide cross-party Member support to find a solution.

2. The format for rockface assessments is changing - new format, more customer-friendly, is being introduced by Scottish Government. KM said that he likes the current format which sets out risk and probability and hence prioritisation of actions. He asked if this format could continue to be available.

3. Drone surveys of the trees - to be carried out with a view to potentially lopping the tops off, leaving the roots and 2m high stumps to aid slope stabilisation.

4. Autumn road closures – these are still under consideration. One of the slopes to be stabilised is at the eastern end where road-on-rail diversions would be difficult because of adverse topography. Hence there may be a need for weekend closures. KM and AG expressed concern and asked for plenty of notice especially for planning and organising events at that time of year. Any closures would not affect train movements. However, road-on-rail diversions may still be necessary, and 20-minute temporary road closures and overnight working are also under consideration. CH to consider further and organise public consultation once the options have been further considered.

**Longer Term Issues**

*Scottish Ministers and STAG*

The STAG process for selecting the route of a replacement road is at Stage 2 – with 32 options narrowed down to 9. AG asked if it might be possible now to introduce a new option or re-examine one of the original 32 options. For example, the idea of inviting quarrying companies to take down the rock face in terraces away from the road/rail line. CH explained that this (or something similar) was one of the original 32 options, but wasn't taken further because the sheer quantity of material that would have to be quarried and removed from the site was overwhelming. All the options were fully assessed earlier and will not be revisited unless there are compelling reasons. The reasoning for knocking out 23 options is contained in the STAG Stage 1 report but this may no longer be available online - CH will check and, if required will reinstate the Stage 1 report on the Council's website.

The current 9 options involve 3 different corridors (north, online, and south), and Council Members chose one optimum route within each corridor. However, when STAG Stage 2 was submitted to Scottish Ministers, the Council were asked to provide a single 'targeted STAG' option which considered the 9 routes taken to STAG Stage 2 – Transport Scotland have yet to comment or infer a preferred option. CH explained that for the purposes of making the case to Ministers for extraordinary funding, and to demonstrate 'value for money', this 'targeted STAG' excluded wider network improvements for each of the 9 options included in the original STAG – e.g. Lochcarron bypass (but he was at pains to confirm that if this option did get external funding then Highland Council could fund the Lochcarron by-pass section – he said Members recognised the strength of feeling for the need to bypass Lochcarron if the bridge option were to progress).

There is still no feedback from Transport Scotland or Scottish Ministers on the STAG.

*Funding*

Sometimes government budgets have an underspend in a financial year, and this might be one source of funding. Hence Highland Council would like to select a preferred route and work this up further. For example, Scottish Rural Transport Fund might have possibilities. Scottish Futures Trust has greater potential especially as one of their roles is to fund infrastructure, but they tend to take into account leverage/investment return, for example through development of sites for housing. What about benefit to Kishorn? That card has already been played.

AG also asked about the forthcoming Strategic Transport Projects Review, but that focuses only on trunk roads.

*Consenting*

The Council is committed to consider funding to do some design work to take matters forward (as agreed at the November Committee Meeting).

A planning application and CPOs will be required. CH estimated >£1mill to get permissions (significantly more for the Strome narrows option because of the complexities of the bridge design and ground conditions).

CH advised about current budget constraints, both revenue and borrowing constraints. It will be difficult to find monies to allow the project to progress: a budget meeting was taking place while we were meeting.

There will be further public consultation/engagement at some point and it was agreed that this will be important.

*Going Forward*

KM and AG thanked CH for his time and asked him to pass thanks on to AH and MD. It was agreed that this was a useful meeting. It was agreed that AG and KM could do a note to report back to their Community Councils. KM asked if we might repeat such meetings at regular intervals – every 2 or 3 months suggested.

AG 7/2/19

KM edits added 7/2/19

CH edits added 8/2/19

CH edits added 8/2/19