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

**held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Bob Moir, Caroline Gamble and co-opted members Joe Stewart (from 7.25pm) and Sadie-Michaela Harris.

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, David Lawson (Eneco), Val MacIver (Platform PR) and three members of the public.

**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.

**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 3 September 2019 in Garve Village Hall were proposed without amendment by Bob Moir and seconded by Eliza Leslie Melville. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email. Our website continues to be well used, attracting around 150 “hits” per month.

**Matters arising –** David Lawson from **Eneco** updated the meeting that Martin Macphee has left the company and David has taken Martin’s role since June 2019 and David was now Site Manager for the Eneco Lochluichart Windfarm.  The site itself is running well.  A main component was changed around two months ago, involving an escort from the site heading south.  No further issues known at this stage.  The Information Cabin at Aultguish is to close as planning permission for it being there has now run out.  The Cabin was offered for sale to the Aultguish Inn but they have declined.  The Cabin will be sold by Eneco for £8,000 plus VAT to any interested local community group.  If there is no interest from any local community group, then it will be sold on the open market.  If anyone is interested in purchasing the Cabin, please contact Eneco.  It was noted that TG&DDC may be interested but whoever bought the Cabin may also need planning permission.  David was thanked for his updates.

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

**Proposed Kirkan Windfarm** - Trevor Hunter writes … *“We’ve been dealing with comments/matters raised from consultees since submission in March. At the beginning of August, we received confirmation from Energy Consents Unit that we would need to produce a submission of “supplementary environmental information” to deal with questions raised from SNH and The Highland Council, so we are in the process of generating this, likely submission around early to mid-October. This includes in particular a couple of extra night-time visualisations from within “wild land” classified areas, and some cumulative visualisations with Lochluichart Extension 2”.* We thank Trevor for his update. This update has already been posted on our website.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – At a Highland Council special meeting held on Thursday 5 September 2019, Councillors approved the **new scheme for Community Councils** following consultation over recent months.

**Community Council Elections** are currently underway overseen as ever by The Highland Council. Those wishing to stand as a candidate must be over 16 years of age, a registered voter, and reside within the boundary of the Community Council area. More details at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting/643/community_council_elections> This update has already been posted on our website and posters placed in Garve Post Office, in the Achnasheen Village Noticeboard and on social media. There has also been press coverage of these elections.

The Secretary has learnt recently that The Highland Council are putting in a **Bore Hole for the Silverbridge toilets**.

Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted **a bridge inspection** in progress on the old Silver Bridge on Monday 23 September 2019. The men were abseiling over the side!

**Illegal dumping** – Both Katrina Taylor and Robbie Bain at The Highland Council note the Secretary’s suggestion of cutting back trees in front of the laybys which may help prevent illegal dumping as those responsible wouldn’t have somewhere to hide. Robbie will make some further enquiries into the suggestion. This update has already been posted on our website to highlight this ongoing issue.

In recent weeks, The Secretary discovered a **Pedestal and Wash Hand Basin** in a layby that disappeared a few days later – possibly been recycled by someone?

Co-opted member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted **rubbish up by the Wyvis Playpark** which a local resident cleaned up. It was noted the Playpark group do regular clean ups themselves.

On Wednesday 25 September 2019, our Chairman was made aware that **white roughcast** had been dumped by Loch Glascarnoch. He advised that the photos be passed onto The Highland Council which can be done via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1054/rubbish_and_recycling/89/litter_and_fly-tipping> which was done.

**Achnasheen electric vehicle charging point** – The charger is still not fully installed. Anna Myeshkova at The Highland Council tells us they hope to resolve all outstanding issues shortly so that the charging point can be functional. We thank her for her update.

**Achnasheen information panels** – The panels should hopefully be in place shortly.

**The street cleaner** was around Achnasheen on Thursday 12 September 2019. **The gully sucker** was around Achnasheen on Wednesday 18 September 2019. Our Chairman can’t recall this level of service in Achnasheen in recent times.

**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. A program of works on the rock face is currently underway. This will result in the road being CLOSED to all traffic and pedestrians from 10.00pm until 7.00am every night until 7.00am on Sunday 3 November 2019. Diversion signs are in place. During the day, all classes of traffic will be convoyed through the site in single file, with the traffic being held by traffic signals at either end of the works.  Delays of up to 20 minutes can be expected. This update has already been posted on our website. The latest weekly update on The Highland Council website states … *“Weekly Update - Week Commencing 23/09/19. Anchor drilling and grouting for slope AA22 is complete. The existing netting on slope AA22 has been removed and the new netting has now been installed. Overnight working will continue as planned. Work has now commenced on the second slope, AA14.”*

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> **Bulky uplift information** - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1063/rubbish_-_household_waste/132/dispose_of_large_household_items>

Co-opted Member Joe Stewart joined the meeting at 7.25pm.

**BEAR update -** [www.bearscot.com](http://www.bearscot.com) – Calum Farquharson at BEAR writes … *“We have been in touch with Network Rail and are progressing our design accordingly. I can only apologise again that our works were not completed in conjunction with Network Rail’s and that the subsequent flooding occurred. We have programmed our works to commence Monday 28th October, after the school holidays. The reason for doing so is that in order to carry out the works, we will need to close the road and we believe the traffic flows will be significantly lower after the October holidays. To minimise disruption, we intend to work between the hours of 7pm and 7am. Until then, we have explored the prospect of limiting the flow from Network Rail property to prevent the water reaching the Trunk Road at this particular location. However, it is very probable that the water would eventually build up and flow across the railway itself, causing more problems than we aim to solve. In the meantime, our inspectors and operations team will closely monitor the situation and erect flood warning signs if necessary”.* We thank Calum for his update. Due to the nightly closure of the Stromeferry Bypass, this work may be postponed by a week to avoid too many night time road closures in the area. If the work is postponed, this may clash with our next Community Council meeting.

Reports suggest there will be **resurfacing works** taking place on the A835 west of Contin from Sunday 20 October 2019 until Thursday 24 October 2019. Expect minor delays.

Co-opted member Joe Stewart noted the **sightlines** were cut back very quickly at the Little Garve Junction after the issue was raised at the Community Council meeting.

**Scottish Water** – [www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk) – Regarding the continued bursts in Little Garve, Gavin Steel writes … *“Thank you for your note which I have passed on to our investment planners.  I’m sorry to note that there has been another recent burst. It often surprises people, but the financial cost of carrying out multiple repairs is generally much lower than replacing the water main.  However, our fundamental aim is to provide a reliable service to our customers - and we recognise that the performance of the network at this location is getting in the way of that.”* We thank Gavin for his update. Caroline Gamble noted another failure in the mains supply on Friday 20 September 2019. Caroline tried to claim a partial refund on her water rates as per previous advice given but learnt that as long as there is at least a drip coming from your tap, you have a supply. However, due to the number of interruptions, Scottish Water would make a “good will payment”. **It was agreed** to update Gavin Steel with these latest developments and to press the need for a reliable service that consists of more than a drip!

All five local **Defibrillators** have now had new pads fitted, thanks again to Mr Stuart Cunningham who made a £300.00 donation to cover the costs of replacing the pads. He asked that the donation be made in memory of Ian & Jannette Menzies. An updated guide to help keep the Defibrillators rescue ready has been sent to those who house the Defibrillators. The local Defibrillators used to be registered on the Scottish Ambulance Service database but that database no longer exists and has been replaced by a new national database called “The Circuit”. This new database is connected to every Ambulance Service in the UK and allows them to direct bystanders to the nearest Defibrillator to help save lives. Our chairman has updated the new database and our website accordingly.

**Sadly, the Achnasheen Pocket Orchard trees** planted in April 2019 have been destroyed by Deer. The group writes on their social media page … “*There is now no Pocket Orchard in Achnasheen, and unless someone comes forward to offer a different, deer-free site, it seems pointless to try again”*. The funding for this project came from the Ward Discretionary Fund. There has been press coverage of this issue.

**Garve Railway Station Footbridge** – The last update from Network Rail received in June 2019 stated that *“repair and re-painting of the footbridge is now scheduled to take place in 2020/21”*. Some re-painting work on the handrails took place on Wednesday 26 June 2019. Bob Moir noted the risers have been wire brushed recently but the rust is getting worse making the whole structure look terrible as well as the ground under the bridge. **It was agreed** we seek a further update, in particular which financial quarter might the work be done in 2020/2021.

Alan Jones Associates recently undertook a **consultation of the community** regarding a refurbished/new Hall in the Garve area on behalf of TG&DDC. 105 surveys were returned providing a return rate of 41%, mainly from Garve residents. 63% wished to see the redevelopment and expansion of the existing Hall, 25% wished to see a new build Community Hall and 12% wished to see neither option. Alan Jones Associates will now develop a business case to support the redevelopment and expansion of the existing Hall in Garve. Main issue raised though was the lack of car parking although Network Rail land may be available to address this issue.

A member of the public has written to the Community Council concerned that **Kinlochluichart Church** is to be mothballed. We have since received several verbal comments concerning the Church, all concerned about its future. We asked a Church Elder for clarification on this matter. Hazel Kerio replied … *“At the moment, the church at Kinlochluichart is being cut to 1 service per month, with a review in May. If numbers don't improve, it will be closed and only used for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. At the moment, we have a service every second week with Contin joining us and we go down to Contin on the other week, this is very successful and we want it to remain like this.”* We thank Hazel for the update. Although we were aware that the number of services were to be cut, we were not aware of the possible mothballing after a review. It appears several regular attendees of the Church were not aware along with people attending this meeting. The Church is the last Church in our community, centrally located and will soon have a disabled toilet and access at no cost to the Church of Scotland. The building has a meeting room which is in regular use which in turn provides an income that goes to Friends of Lochluichart. The Category B listed building <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB1774> was built to a Thomas Tedford design under the Church of Scotland Act of 1824 so carries some historic value. It was felt a review over a six-month winter period may produce unrealistic figures, would 2-3 years not be a better timescale? It was felt that if there were no services, then the Church will be seen to be effectively closed. **It was agreed** that the congregation should conduct a survey of the whole community to show what support there is in retaining services at Kinlochluichart. Several people attending this meeting offered to help in this task as private individuals. The Community Council will write to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh seeking further clarification on this matter and raising the concerns expressed to us. As things stand, the next services to be held in Kinlochluichart will be on Sunday 13 October 2019 at 11.30am, Sunday 27 October 2019 (Communion) at 11.30am, Sunday 24 November 2019 at 11.30am, Sunday 22 December 2019 at 11.30am, Sunday 26 January 2020 at 11.30am, Sunday 23 February 2020 at 11.30am, Sunday 29 March 2020 (Joint Linkage service) at 11.00am and Sunday 26 April 2020 at 11.30am. Signs are to be placed on the roadside advertising the services and Tea & Coffee will be served afterwards, everyone of all ages welcome. TG&DDC are happy to advertise Church services online as well as the Community Council.

These represent a rise from 23 and 27 respectively in the same period in 2017.

**Treasurers report** – The latest bank statement shows a bank balance on Wednesday 11 September of £3,114.74. Expenses include Hall hire for last month’s meeting. The Chairman was asked if he was owed fuel money to cover travelling expenses, he will check his records.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – The Circuit – New National Defibrillator database; Alison Clark, The Highland Council - New Scheme Approved and Elections; Gavin Steel, Scottish Water – update; Katrina Taylor & Robbie Bain, The Highland Council – laybys; Trevor Hunter, Coriolis Energy – update; Alan Jones Associates – Community Consultation regarding Hall; ePlanning – new planning applications at 6 September 2019; Robbie Bain and Sylvia Tarrant, The Highland Council – Elections; Jo Ford, Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations - Invitation to the Poverty Alliance about Child Poverty (received via Robbie Bain); Calum Farquharson, BEAR – Flooding updates (x2); ePlanning – new planning applications at 13 September 2019; Isla Cuthbert, Highland Senior Citizens Network – Newsletter; ePlanning – new planning applications at 20 September 2019; Flora Smith & Hazel Kerio – Kinlochluichart Church future; HC Policy - Phase two consultation on BT proposals to remove public call boxes; Anna Myeshkova, The Highland Council – Achnasheen EVC; ePlanning – new planning applications at 27 September 2019.

We have also received draft minutes from Shieldaig, Plockton, Lochalsh and Lochcarron Community Councils and approved minutes from Gairloch Community Council.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Community Council members wished to place on record their thanks to Bob Moir for securing the new sign on **Blackwater Bridge**.

Our Chairman reminded Community Council members that **Remembrance Sunday** is on Sunday 10 November 2019. The Treasurer will arrange a wreath from the Community Council. **It was agreed** that co-opted member Joe Stewart will lay the wreath. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn hopes to attend to lay The Highland Council wreath. Service time at the Garve War Memorial TBC.

Our Chairman was recently asked about our bunting. **The Community Council bunting** is 10 metres long and we have 10 separate lengths so when joined up (100 metres) will easily criss-cross a large room. Local groups and individuals in the community are very welcome to borrow our bunting for parties, open days, special events etc …  Contact the Secretary for more information. This update has been posted on our website.

**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 Highland Council - phase two consultation on BT proposals to remove public call boxes. Our four objections to the proposed removal of all four of our Phoneboxes in our area has already been noted. A further four objections have also been noted against the proposed removal of the Achnasheen Phonebox on the grounds of *“this remote area experiences frequent power cuts, resulting in dependence on the payphone in emergencies due to home telephones being inoperable.”* The Highland Council are now seeking any proposed additions or changes to the feedback already received by Thursday 24 October 2019. Feedback already received is available to view at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/670/consultations_complaints_and_compliments/855/consultation_on_bt_proposals_to_close_public_payphones_across_highland> For responses to the consultation and queries, please contact[policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)It is perhaps worth noting that 63/110 proposed Phonebox removals did not attract any objections. Following the conclusion of this second phase of consultation, The Highland Council's final decision will be submitted to BT and published in early November 2019. Ofcom states that BT must not bring a proposed removal into effect if it has received a written objection to the proposal from the Council by the end of the consultation period.  This is known as the local veto. **It was unanimously agreed** that we write again objecting to all four proposals in our area.

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** - There is one new building warrant currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area. 19/01868/DOM4, proposed build up on both gable ends to install uPVC windows, 3 - 4 Mossford, Lochluichart.

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 5 November 2019, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall (subject to change, see our website for details)

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

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 ……………………………….

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

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