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

**held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 in Garve Village Hall**

**Community Council members present:** Kenny Maclean (Chair), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble, Joe Stewart and Sadie-Michaela Harris.

**Also present:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn (7.00pm until 8.10pm) and Sue Tarr (Chair, TG&DDC).

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Community Council member Bob Moir and Fiona Milligan (Infinergy). Apologies were also received (via text) from Val MacIver (Platform PR).

As this was the first meeting of 2020, t**he Chairman opened the meeting** at 7.00pm and wished everyone a belated Happy New Year.

**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 Thursday 5 December 2019 in Garve Village Hall were proposed without amendment by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Kenny Maclean. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email. Our website continues to be well used, receiving around 150 “hits” per month.

**Matters arising – Proposed Kirkan Windfarm** – this planning application is still awaiting determination but a meeting took place last Monday night to discuss a potential community part ownership (5%) of the scheme. Sue Tarr, Chair of TG&DDC attended the meeting and updated this meeting by explaining that the communities that could be involved would be ourselves, Ullapool, Strathpeffer, Contin and Marybank. Representatives from those communities were also in attendance. It is Scottish Government policy to encourage communities to part own a scheme. Normal Community Benefit would also be available to the communities, thought to be around £5,000 per megawatt. CARES can help the communities through the process to see if part ownership would be worthwhile and help with such things as legal and financially viable. *(CARES has been established by the Scottish Government to encourage local and community ownership of renewable energy across Scotland and to help maximise the benefits to communities of renewable energy systems - whether commercial or community-owned).* Various models exist such as buying a single turbine, shares or profits. The first step would be for a lead organisation to do the ground work on behalf of all the communities. This could be Ullapool Community Trust who have experience with Broompower or TG&DDC. Both boards will discuss this at their next meetings. Nothing has been agreed or is set in stone at this stage, discussions are ongoing but Sue will keep the Community Council updated. Sue was thanked for attending and for her update.

**In other related TG&DDC news** … There is to be a **Achnasheen Village meeting** later this month to discuss projects for Achnasheen. Tina and Lucy from TG&DDC are to attend. **The Midge Bite Café in Achnasheen** is available to lease or purchase. Details have been passed onto TG&DDC as a possible project for them to take forward. **Our chairman thanked Sue** for acknowledging the work the Community Council did in setting up the LCT and TG&DDC in her end of year message published on garve.org

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – There are new **vehicle restrictions coming into place at Highland Council run Recycle Centres**. More details at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/12214/new_vehicle_restrictions_at_highland_council_household_waste_recycling_centres>

**Council house rents** are to increase by 3% from April 2020. This would mean the average council house rent will be around £78 per week.

**Ward Five now has its own Area Committee**. The first meeting takes place in Dingwall next week but Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn hopes meetings will take place around the Ward after that.

**Potholes at Garve Recycle bins/Strathgarve Primary** have not been attended too. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn will chase but noted there is a lack of man power on the ground and “A” roads which see most traffic will get the priority. The deteriorating state of Little Garve and Strathgarve roads were noted.

**“Concealed Entrance”** signs for Kinlochluichart Church – Trevor Fraser, Senior Technician at the Highland Council writes … *“The issue with these accesses was looked at a couple of years back, the current sign manual “The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016” do not allow the use of Concealed Entrance signs at this location, it was then decided that it was an issue with the sightlines and all that was required was a cut back of the scrub and trees, but it looks like further cutting back may be required, I will look at the sightlines again and see if the trees need to be trimmed again.”* We thank Trevor for his update.

**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 so that the charging point can be functional. We thank her for her update. A letter from Lochrosque Estate has not been received as promised at our last 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 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> **Illegal dumping** can be reported via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1054/rubbish_and_recycling/89/litter_and_fly-tipping>

**Highland Council winter roads policy** can be viewed at - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads\_and\_pavements/107/winter\_road\_maintenance](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/107/winter_road_maintenance)

**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.

**BEAR update -** [www.bearscot.com](http://www.bearscot.com) – **Culvert works between Garve Hotel and Hazelbrae** – revised drainage works (filter drains) have now been completed. Our thanks to Calum Farquharson and all involved for the work and their updates.

**“Check Rail Corner” barriers** – we have been unable to obtain a response from BEAR. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn will review the barrier in question himself.

Community Council members noted that there seems be **water laying** on the roads at various locations between Hazelbrae and “Check Rail Corner”, more so than in past years, lack of/unsuitable drains?

**Trunk road gritters** can be tracked at <http://scotgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2de764a9303848ffb9a4cac0bd0b1aab>

**Network Rail** – the damaged fence between Killin Farm and “check rail corner” was renewed last week.

**Railway Station Footbridges** – Network Rail have advised that the footbridge at Garve Railway Station is still due for refurbishment in 2020/21; however, they do not have any work planned for the footbridge at Achnasheen Railway Station.

It was noted that the **Dingwall to Stromeferry Railway** will be 150 years old in August 2020. Should the anniversary be marked in some way? The Secretary will write to Scotrail to see what plans, if any, there are.

**2020 Community Ceilidh –** It was agreed to hold another Ceilidh, perhaps in September, date tbc. The Chairman will speak to the Band. It was agreed that the Ceilidh is open to Garve & District residents only as per LCT funding. Donations for the Raffle/Tombola would be welcome.

Following the November 2019 Community Council elections, **Garve & District Community Council currently has one vacancy on the Community Council.**  The Community Council members consider it to be very important to have as broad a representation of our community as possible, as we cover a wide variety of community issues and to do this well, we need members from all corners of our large area.  We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month in Garve Village Hall.  If you are aged 16 or over, live in the Community Council area and are on the electoral roll and would like to be considered for co-option onto the Community Council, please email garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com with your name and contact details.  Your nomination will be considered by Community Council members at their next ordinary meeting.

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

**Reduction in Number 27 Bus service from Contin -** <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/contin-bus-timetable-shake-up-sparks-fears-community-could-be-cut-off-189184/>We are grateful to Norma Ross, Chair of Contin Community Council for bringing this issue to our attention. Garve & District Community Council were not consulted by Stagecoach in December 2019 about this proposal to reduce the service. The new timetable starting Monday 10 February 2020 will see services on Monday to Friday cut back to 7.12am then 5.02pm and 6.22pm. On a Saturday, they would be at 7.13am, 9.46am, 5.02pm and 6.22pm. At present the service runs to Contin 11 times on weekdays and 13 times on a Saturday. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has meet Stagecoach Management to insist that such changes don’t happen. The Highland Council do not subsidise these buses. MSP’s and the MP are also involved. Stagecoach has no plans to reinstate the services due to their poor usage and costs. We are aware of people in Garve who use the service from Contin who will be effected. A public meeting was held on Monday 27 January 2020 in Contin which our Chairman attended along with around 80 people, who were mainly from Contin. A number of those who attended did not realise this change will be taking place. Perhaps a community bus serving Garve, Tarvie, Contin, Marybank and Jamestown needs consideration? Contin Community Council have been awarded £1,500 from the Ward Discretionary Fund to help towards a feasibility study to see if such a service is viable.

Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn left the meeting at 8.10pm and was thanked for attending.

**Formal adoption of Child Protection Policy –** we have now received a copy of this document which it is mandatory for all Community Councils to sign up to. A copy is available in the library section of our website. Proposed by Kenny Maclean, seconded by Joe Stewart, all agreed.

**Treasurers report** – The latest bank statement shows a bank balance on Tuesday 21 January 2020 of £2,984.29. Expenses were December’s Hall hire £12.50.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – ePlanning – new planning applications at 6 December 2019; Stephen Young – Garve Cemetery (received via TG&DDC); ePlanning – new planning applications at 13 December 2019; Two emails from Network Rail – Incident 191208-000042 (fencing); Two emails form Calum Farquharson, BEAR – updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 20 December 2019; Two emails from Pauline Ogilvie, Dingwall Medical Group – minutes and updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 27 December 2019; Trevor Fraser, Highland Council – A832 Lochluichart sightlines; ePlanning – new planning applications at 10 January 2020; Trevor Hunter, Proposed Kirkan Windfarm update; ePlanning – new planning applications at 17 January 2020; Two emails from Sheila Mitchell, TG&DDC – joint meetings; ePlanning – new planning applications at 24 January 2020; ePlanning – new planning applications at 31 January 2020.

Correspondences received by post – Catherine Nugent – Bench request (passed on to Scottish Forestry)

We have also received draft minutes from Lochalsh (x2) and Lochbroom Community Councils and approved minutes from Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon, Aultbea and Gairloch Community Councils.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Sadie-Michaela Harris noted work to install fibre in The Avenue has now started.

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

**Building warrants, planning issues and licensing issues** - There is one new building warrant currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area. 19/02271/DOM2, proposed erection of extension to rear of existing house and erection of new garage, 5 Stirling Drive, Garve. This relates to planning application 19/05382/FUL which we received details for on Tuesday 24 December 2019. Details were forwarded to members of the Community Council and placed on our website. Community Council members had no objections to the planning application. The planning application was granted with no conditions by the Case Officer on Wednesday 22 January 2020.

One other new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 20/00310/LBC and 20/00304/FUL are for the formation of access ramp and siting of toilet block at Lochluichart Church. The deadline for comments to the Case Officer is Friday 21 February 2020. Community Council members had no objections to the proposal.

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 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

July 2020 – no meeting

Tuesday 4 August 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 1 September 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 6 October 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 3 November 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Village Hall

Tuesday 1 December 2020, 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/21179/scheme\_of\_establishment\_final\_sept\_2019](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21179/scheme_of_establishment_final_sept_2019)

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)

garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com