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

**held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 in Garve Public Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Eliza Leslie Melville (Treasurer), Community Council members Bob Moir and Caroline Gamble, Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn and Val MacIver (Platform PR).

**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 4 February 2020 in Garve Public Hall were proposed without amendment by Joe Stewart and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email.

**Matters arising – EDF** - Val MacIver informed our Chairman via telephone earlier this evening that the Corriemoillie windfarm is running well. Val was thanked for her update.

**LCT update** – Carol Smith, Company Secretary at LCT informs us that … *“Please note that there is a colour A3 inkjet printer at Garve Public Hall for use by community groups.  There is also a projector. To gain access to the Hall for the printer or the projector please contact* *garvehall@gmail.com**”* Our thanks to Carol for the update.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **The new Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area Committee** met on Tuesday 11 February 2020 and Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has taken on the role of Chair after Cllr Alex MacInnes nominated him, this was seconded by Cllr Derek MacLeod. The committee then went on to review the proposed capital roads project for the area over the next 12 months.  The proposed draft capital budget of £1,093,304 for Ross and Cromarty has been split with the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area Committee allocated 48% (£524,785) which reflects the number of roads which falls within Ward 5. Surface dressing capital projects agreed include a 1000metre section (7300square metres) of the A890 South of the Achnasheen Roundabout due to the existing surface being heavily oxidised.

**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 soon. We thank her for her update. In the last few days, a black cover has been placed over the equipment.

**A meeting** was held recently in Achnasheen about the future of the Hall and the group that run the Hall (Achnasheen Amenities). Some other issues raised at that meeting have been passed on to us. **Decaying signs in the Village** – it has been noted that there are still “School” signs up in the Village.  This has again been raised with The Highland Council (Re-reported FS178875328 on Friday 28 February 2020 with picture attached and to Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn).  We have received no reports of decaying or fallen signs but these should be photographed and reported to <http://www.highland.gov.uk/report> **One way system around the Village** – The suggestions of an “A832 East/A832 West” sign might be a way forward to highlight the two roads in/out of Achnasheen Village centre rather than a one way system and has been passed onto The Highland Council for consideration. **“No Overnight Parking”** – as explained at the last Village meeting, such signs are not legally enforceable. **Chemical toilet disposal** – funding had been secured by The Highland Council to install such facilities at their public toilets.  Installation dates tbc. **Speeding** – Police do regular speed checks in and around the Village.  The last few Police reports received by us show no speeding in Achnasheen but Police will continue to monitor the situation. **Speed limit reduced** was requested before but the Village layout didn’t meet the criteria for a 30mph zone (not a built up enough area). **A smiley sign** may help deter speeders. We have already passed these updates onto Achnasheen Amenities and to local residents of Achnasheen via email.

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.

**Noisy neighbours** - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1281/pollution/74/reporting_noise> **BUT** anonymous reports will not be looked into.

**BEAR update -** [www.bearscot.com](http://www.bearscot.com) – We note drainage works on the A835 around the “Check Rail Corner” are taking place. **Trunk road gritters** can be tracked at <http://scotgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2de764a9303848ffb9a4cac0bd0b1aab>

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? We have written to Scotrail and are awaiting their reply.

Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris attended a liaison meeting of Community Councils in the **Dingwall Medical Group** area a few weeks ago. The suggestion was made for perhaps Doctors/Nurses to make mobile visits for such things as the flu jab, perhaps everyone who wants to jab to meet at a mobile unit. This would be dependant on numbers. Postcodes will be supplied to the Medical Group so they can then see how many patients live in the area. Community car schemes were also noted - [www.rossvolact.org.uk/-car-scheme](http://www.rossvolact.org.uk/-car-scheme) and work/life balance issues. Next meeting May 2020. The Chairman thanked Sadie for the update.

**2020 Community Ceilidh –** The Ceilidh will (subject to securing funding) take place on Saturday 12 September 2020 in Garve Public Hall. The Scone Fairies are available to play again. 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 **BUT** all this is subject to us securing funding for the event. An application has been sent in to LCT and we await their decision. Out of the Blue Catering are unable to cater for us this year but we thank Uisdean Menzies for all his help over the years. The Secretary will make further enquiries into catering.

Contin Community Council are looking into ways of filling the gap left by the **cuts to the Number 27 bus**. We have been asked to join a steering group who hope to meet next week. Some funds have already been secured for a feasibility study. “What, where and why” will be the theme of the first steering group meeting. Those attending this meeting felt buses had to fit School/after School activities to allow social inclusion. Also, special evening buses when events are on in Strathpeffer/Dingwall.

Sue Tarr, Chair, TG&DDC has suggested a **Community Visioning Workshop**, an externally facilitated group which would allow the Community Council, LCT and TG&DDC to openly discuss a way forward in terms of effectively working together for the benefit of the community. Community Council members felt current working practices worked fine but would keep the idea in mind. We await LCT’s response.

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 Public 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.

**Treasurers report** - The Secretary took Community Council members through the latest available figures. The latest bank statement shows a bank balance on Tuesday 21 January 2020 was £2,984.29. Expenses were February’s Hall hire £15.00 and Public Liability Insurance of £86.00 for 2020/2021. A £250.00 donation towards the Community Ceilidh has been received. Joe Stewart, seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris proposed Ann Macrae again audit the accounts and the Secretary fee again be £350.00. All agreed.

**Correspondences** - All correspondences are sent to members via email. Correspondences received by email – ePlanning – new planning applications at 7 February 2020; Zurich Insurance – renewal; ePlanning – new planning applications at 14 February 2020; Two emails from Sue Tarr, Chair, TG&DDC – Community Visioning Workshop (received via Tina Hartley); Two emails from Steve Jones – Achnasheen Amenities updates; ePlanning – new planning applications at 21 February 2020; Car Park Project Team, The Highland Council - Pre-Engagement on Off-Street Car Parking proposals for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh; ePlanning – new planning applications at 28 February 2020.

We have also received draft minutes from Contin (x2) and Coigach Community Councils and approved minutes from Aultbea Community Council.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Sadie-Michaela Harris noted that tyres can be taken to Inverness Recycle Centre. Joe Stewart noted vehicle restrictions at the centres - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/12214/new_vehicle_restrictions_at_highland_council_household_waste_recycling_centres>

Joe Stewart informed the meeting that Mrs Moncrieff has left Strathgarve Primary School. Community Council members wished her well for the future.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – As noted in the press, Mrs Bertha Logie has registered her croft (1, Gorstan) on the crofting register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by Thursday 17 September 2020. More details can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home) (C6575).

We have received one consultation from The Highland Council - Pre-Engagement of Off-Street Car Parking proposals for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh. There are no proposals at this stage to introduce car parking charges 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** - One new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 20/00811/LBC is the proposed re-roofing of Lochluichart Church. The deadline for comments to the Case Officer is Friday 27 March 2020. The application notes that the defective roof needs repaired but “Bruachulish” slate is no longer available. The applicant has been advised to use “Spanish” slate instead. Community Council members raised no objections to the application.

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 April 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Public Hall

Tuesday 5 May 2020, 7.00pm, Garve Public Hall

Tuesday 2 June 2020, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Public 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 8.00pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com