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

**held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 via Zoom webcam**

**Community Council members present on webcam:** Kenny Maclean (Chairman), Jennifer Haslam (Secretary), Caroline Gamble (Treasurer), Bob Moir, Sadie-Michaela Harris and co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville.

**Apologies:** Community Council member Joe Stewart.

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm** and welcomed everyone and explained that this meeting was being held via webcam due to the current Coronavirus situation. Community Council members were very sad to hear Brian Williams, a grandson of Jackie Macdonald of Achnasheen passed away on Thursday 13 August 2020. Our thoughts are with the family.

**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 August 2020 via webcam were proposed without amendment by Caroline Gamble and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email.

**Matters arising – Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **Speeding through Mossford and Lochluichart –** co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville has purchased cameras and they have been installed. Testing of the cameras is ongoing but should be completed shortly.The next Area Committee is Thursday 15 October 2020so Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn will need the film by the end of this month so that the issue can be raised at that meeting. In related news, **Police patrols** continue to take place in the Achnasheen area. On Sunday 9August 2020 and again on Friday 21 August 2020, several cars were stopped.

**Verge grass cutting** between Grudie and Gorstan took place the day after our last ordinary meeting.

We have been made aware of reports that **Silverbidge toilets** are closed again due to further plumbing problems. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn is already aware and is liaising with the Senior Ward Manager on this issue. Visitors have in the meantime have being going around the back of the building to spend a penny. This is a health risk which has also been reported accordingly and discussions within The Highland Council are underway to address the mess. Our Chairman visited the site on Saturday 22 August 2020 with his plunger but the building was locked and man hole covers appeared to be stuck shut! Our latest understanding is that contractors have now been on site to carry out cleaning of the pipework and they have taken samples of the water. Once these have come back with the all clear, the contractors will be able to sign off the work as completed. A deep clean of the building can then be arranged before reopening to the public. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has been advised that the toilets should be open by October but he is pushing this to be brought forward subject to the water test results. We thank both Dot Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager and Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn for keeping us in the loop. The Highland Council run 75 public toilets across the Highlands but others are available through the Comfort Scheme. More details at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/12763/highland_council_designs_new_branding_to_signpost_visitors_to_nearest_comfort_scheme_toilets>

The Highland Council notes that **residents should report issues directly to them** by calling The Highland Council’s Call Centre on 01349 886606 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.

**BEAR update – Damaged Garbat bridge** - Richard Cook at Bear writes as follows … *“The safety barrier on the bridge has been damaged by a vehicle strike and is now in an unsafe condition.  The traffic lights and speed restriction are there to protect motorists.  In order to remove the traffic lights, we are planning to install a temporary safety barrier to protect the damage.  We need to obtain approvals for the use of this system but hope to have it in place by the end of August. The permanent repair of the bridge barrier will take some time since we are designing additional improvements to the vehicle restraint system that will provide additional protection for motorists.  These additional improvements require the edge beam of the bridge to be structurally assessed and strengthening works designed, approved and certified.  Once the design is complete, we need to engage a sub-contractor to carry out the works.  We expect the works will be completed on site towards the end of this year. We have been monitoring the traffic at the site while maintaining the traffic lights and do not believe any significant delays are being caused.”* We thank Richard for his detailed update which we have already posted on our website. It was noted that social distancing rules may delay this work.

**East of Garve** – A Garve resident has raised concerns of the speed of traffic as vehicles leave Garve passing Killin Farm. They have raised this with The Highland Council’s Road Department directly. As we have pointed out, this section of road is not a Highland Council road, it is part of the trunk road network so we have passed their email onto BEAR and the Police. It is perhaps worth noting that speeding and inappropriate speed for the road conditions are two separate issues.

**Andy Mudd at ASPE** has been appointed to see what, if anything, can be introduced to improve working practices between the Community Council, LCT and TG&DDC. Andy has been sent our constitution, previous minutes and has had an initial chat with our Chairman on the telephone. He was invited tonight to observe proceedings but perhaps had difficulties getting online.

Contin Community Council have commissioned a transport feasibility study into options to **improve bus services** since the cuts to the number 27 bus. Is there demand for a replacement service to extend into Garve? The feasibility study is now available to read on our website. Section four would suggest that existing train/bus services in our area cover most people’s needs but perhaps a community car scheme might be useful (para 4.3 & 4.5). Such a scheme already exists <https://www.swrc-carscheme.co.uk/> as noted in the study (para 4.20). We thank Contin Community Council for including us in the study and for their continued updates.

**BT wish to remove payphones** in our area as discussed at our last ordinary meeting. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has passed onto us a list of all payphones on the list, 107 in total across the Highlands including our four payphones. The list show both the Achnasheen and Aultguish payphones were used an average of ZERO times per month in the last year. The list also shows both the Achanalt and Garve payphones were used an average of 2 times per month in the last year. The vast majority of payphones on the list were used less than 10 times per month in the last year, 45/107 payphones on the list were used ZERO times per month in the last year. Our letters of objection have already been sent in but members of the community can have their own say at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/payphones2020>

**Treasurers report** – The Treasurer reported a bank balance of £2,977.19 following expenses due to the Secretary of £40.80 to cover gift card, cards and stamps. Bank signature changes are ongoing. The Secretary suggested a gift be purchased to give to the former Treasurer in recognition of her many years of service to the Community. Community Council members fully agreed and the Secretary will attend to the matter. Our Chairman asked Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris if we owed her anything for providing these Zoom webcam sessions. Sadie is happy to provide the service at no charge to the Community Council. Sadie was thanked for her help in this matter.

**AOB from Community Council members** – co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville asked about the **layby opposite Fannich road end.** He is happy to use Estate manpower to cut bushes blocking sightlines when entering/leaving this layby to make the area safer for road users. He felt it is an accident waiting to happen if nothing is done. Community Council members accepted the offer as it maybe some time before The Highland Council can attend to the work.

Several Community Council members noted the **continued fly tipping** in the area including paint tins, doors, furniture, vacuum cleaners etc … The recycle centres are now open as reported before at our meetings. A full list of items that can be taken to the recycle centres is available at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1063/rubbish_-_household_waste/873/household_recycling_centres> Has Coronavirus effected what can or can’t be taken at the recycle centres, perhaps due to staffing shortages? Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn will be asked for clarification.

Our Chairman noted that letters have been sent to Achnasheen residents to say that essential platform repairs are required **at Achnasheen Railway Station**. Works will take place from 10.00pm on Wednesday 16 September 2020 until 7.30am on Thursday 17 September 2020. Any resident with questions or concerns are asked to contact Network Rail directly on 03457 114 141.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have been made aware of two consultations since our last ordinary meeting. First consultation is from The Soil Association on behalf of Scottish Forestry - Forest Management carried out by Forestry and Land Scotland SA-FM/COC-007002. They would welcome any comments we have on; a) forest management carried out by Forestry and Land Scotland and/or b) the FSC Standard being used (you can view this standard at <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre> / <http://ukwas.org.uk/> ) The deadline for comments is Tuesday 15 September 2020. Community Council members had no comments.

The second consultation is noted from recent press reports. S Bedwell at Achnaclearach (South) wishes to decroft 0.209ha of amenity ground (105902). Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and/or any expressions of demand for the croft must be sent to [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by Tuesday 25 September 2020.

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 issues. All planning applications can be viewed at [www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning\_-\_applications\_warrants\_and\_certificates/143/planning\_permission/4](http://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 6 October 2020, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 3 November 2020, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 1 December 2020, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

January 2021 – no meeting

Tuesday 2 February 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 2 March 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 6 April 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 4 May 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 1 June 2021, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

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 attending.  He also thanked Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris for hosting the Zoom webcam session and to the Secretary for travelling up to Achnasheen to view this webcam meeting.  The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

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