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

**held on Tuesday 1 June 2021 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.

**Also present on webcam:** Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn, Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Community Council member Joe Stewart and PC Kelly Murray.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15pm following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting and welcomed everyone and explained that this meeting was being held via webcam due to the current Coronavirus situation. He reminded members of the public that they were still very welcome to attend Community Council meetings even on webcam and take part in the discussions under his guidance. Those who can’t attend our meetings can, as always, write to the Secretary with any issues they wish raised.

We received news a few days ago that Keith Frost of Garve had passed away. Our thoughts go to the family. The Treasurer informed the meeting that former resident Jimmy Dalgety has also passed away. Our thoughts to his family. It was noted that it is one year exactly since we started meeting via webcam. We send our congratulations to co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville who has just completed one year’s service on the Community Council. Our Chairman wished to thank everyone for his nomination in the Garve & District Covid19 Community Support Hero Awards. It was good to see so many current and former Community Council members on the nomination list. Helen Grainge, former Chairperson of the Community Council won and received a cake! He also wished to thank everyone for their good wishes following his 40th birthday yesterday.

**Declarations of Interest** – Co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris is a Director of the LCT. Community Council member Bob Moir is a Garve Public Hall Trustee. The Treasurer is a member of the Garve litter busters’ group. 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 May 2021 via webcam were proposed without amendment by Bob Moir and seconded by Caroline Gamble. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email. Minutes were then signed by our Chairman and Secretary.

**Matters arising** – **Infinergy** – Co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in this project and took no part in the discussions. [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/) Nick Sage contacted us on Thursday 20 May 2021 to say the EIA application for Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II will be submitted in the coming weeks. We thank Nick for the update.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **EVC** – a meeting at The Highland Council took place in Wednesday 5 May 2021 and agreed that charges will come into force from 1 June 2021 (20p per kWh for standard charge, 30p per kWh for rapid charger, minimum £1 fee).  Any profits would be reinvested in more EVC's to help expand the network further across the Highlands. Both Cllr Derek Macleod (Gairloch) and Cllr Alex MacInnes (Kishorn) asked about the Achnasheen EVC.  Still no way leaves to connect it to a power supply, discussions with SSE and the landowner are ongoing.  Both Cllr's admitted they are getting a lot of "stick" about the Achnasheen EVC, both from local residents and this Community Council. There is also still no word if the local electricity network can cope with a unit but that does depend on the type of charger and number of charge points. Another site in Achnasheen has now been suggested as a possible way forward however, the status of the land/safety of access etc. will all have to be looked at in addition to the available electrical capacity but the EVC team at The Highland Council have confirmed that they will investigate all of this as a priority and keep us in touch. We thank them for their updates and await news! This update has been passed onto our local Energy Officer.

**Seasonal Access Rangers** – in light of “wild camping” concerns, The Highland Council have appointed Seasonal Access Rangers to engage with tourists. The Rangers will work in small teams of two or three in six areas around the Highlands. The Rangers will work weekends. As things stand, the Ranger role will continue until Sunday 31 October 2021. The Ranger role is being managed by The Highland Council. People can contact the Ranger team directly but they do ask that people are realistic in their expectations, the team are not an emergency service and are there to educate & engage rather than enforce. The team can be contacted by email at accessrangers@highland.gov.uk We have contacted the Rangers directly to establish links. The Senior Ranger for this area is Tim Francis. The Secretary has spoken to Tim and will be meeting another of the Rangers later this week to show them our “hotspots” including Grudie, Wades Bridge, Silverbridge, Wyvis Car Park and around the Garve Railway Station. We will put Norma Ross, chairperson of Contin Community Council in touch with the Rangers following reports of problems at Rogie Falls. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn noted that The Highland Council Rangers are working in partnership with other Rangers and meet weekly to compare notes. Community Council member Bob Moir noted a number of Campervans driving through Garve Village … Sat Nav issues again?

In other Highland Council news, **patchwork with hot tar** is currently taking place south of Achnasheen on the A890 and **grass verge cutting** has taken place between Achnasheen and Strathcarron. The **clothes recycling bin** in Achnasheen was out of use after someone blocked up the opening into the bin. The Highland Council were made aware and the matter has now been resolved.

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.

**A835 Trunk Road** - The Secretary noted white lining at the checkrail corner on Wednesday 5 May 2021. **Faults on the Trunk Road (A835)** should be reported via <https://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/>

**Network Rail** – work on the railway between Achanalt and Achnasheen will take place **nightly** from 8.00pm on Sunday 6 June 2021 until 5.00am on Thursday 10 June 2021 (four nights). In addition to these works, other works on the railway in the Achnasheen area will take place every night from 8.00pm until 7.00am (except Friday nights) from now until Friday 17 September 2021. More details are available by visiting [www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway) or by calling their helpline on 03457 114 141. This update has already appeared on our website.

Since our last ordinary meeting, we have received reports that the **Achnasheen Post Office Outreach Service,** which has been in place since 2012 in Achnasheen Village Hall, may be closing. We have asked Post Office Limited for clarification on this matter as we have received no formal consultation. No response has been received however, press reports at the weekend suggest the Postmaster who had provided the service has resigned. Yesterday, we learnt from Achnasheen Amenities Group who run the Hall that another Postmaster has agreed to take on the Outreach Service and all being well, the service should restart later this month. Our thanks to the group for their regular updates.

**TG&DDC updates** - Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) updated this meeting that the Development Company are stilling looking into buying land around Garve Hotel. There are three plots which, they feel, would help meet the community’s wishes. A Quantity surveyor has been approached. The old signs at Little Garve will be removed, funding from The Princes Countryside Trust has been awarded to help with Covid19 recovery and summer activities and a recent eBikes event went well. All hand sanitisers are now in place. The Treasurer noted a sign on the ground at the playpark. Yvonne will try and get that put back up. Yvonne was thanked for attending.

**Police report** - ***ACHNASHEEN: -*** *Road Traffic Matter – 1, Minor RTC - Deer Struck – 2, Cars racing / Speeding – 1, Abandoned / Suspicious vehicles – 1, Covid Breach Calls (including vehicles in area with foreign number plates) – 2, Public Nuisance – 2, Assist Member of Public – 1, False call / good intent (drugs related) – 1, Concern for person – 1, Communications Offence – 3.*

***GARVE: -*** *Road Traffic Matter – 2, Road Traffic Offences – Dangerous Parking – 2, Road Traffic Collision / Deer – 3, Public Nuisance – 1.*

*Of note there were increased calls reporting road traffic collisions involving deer and also a number of calls advising of dead Deer on road and near misses.* Our thanks to PC Kelly Murray for her report. Police reports are also available in the library section of our website. Everyone was reminded that incidents should be reported directly to the Police on 101. Video evidence would be welcome. Social Media is not the way to report incidents to the Police.

**Garve & District Community Council currently has a 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.  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. This update has already appeared on our website.

**Treasurer’s report** – The Treasurer reported no overall change since last month. The bank balance was £2,363.78. Treasurer’s fund is £117.58, Newsletter fund is £744.50 and Reserve is £1,501.70. The Auditor has requested her payment of £60.00 is paid by bank transfer rather than cheque. All agreed to this request.

**AOB from Community Council members** – The Secretary noted a **dead Deer at Strathbran and “P” signs** missing in that area. The sign poles rusted and fell down. They were reported some time ago but both issues with be raised with The Highland Council again.

Community Council Member Bob Moir and the Treasurer both noted **Potholes** in the Garve and Strathgarve areas but it was acknowledged these have been reported already along with **white line** issues. The Treasurer also noted the fence between the railway and road east of Garve was loose in places. We will report this to Network Rail.

Our Chairman noted that the Midge Bite Café in Achnasheen is now part of a scheme to **help reduce food waste**. An app that lets you rescue unsold food from local shops and restaurants at a discounted price so it doesn't go to waste is now available. More details at <https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb> Perhaps other outlets in this area could also sign up to this scheme? Perhaps we could be the first community to have zero food waste? Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) noted the suggestion and informed this meeting that a similar scheme works in Ullapool.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – none. 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** – Concerns have been raised by Garve residents regarding recent works on the **Garve village flood protection embankment.** These concerns have been passed onto the Planning Department and SEPA to investigate and take appropriate action if necessary. This update has already appeared on our website.

There is one new building warrant currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area. 21/00961/DOM4 is for drainage for a holiday cabin on land 100metres west of The Studio in Achnasheen.

One previous planning application has been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 21/01649/FUL was the proposed erection of house with Air Source Heat Pump and shared access on land 45metres south east of Hillcrest in Gorstan. The Planning Officer has granted planning permission for this house with seven conditions. More details are available on the planning section of The Highland Council website.

There were no new planning applications or licensing issues to consider this evening.

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)*

July 2021 – no meeting

Tuesday 3 August 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 7 September 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 5 October 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

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

Tuesday 7 December 2021, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

January 2022 – no meeting

Tuesday 1 February 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 5 April 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 3 May 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 7 June 2022, **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 8.10pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com