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

**held on Tuesday 2 November 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 (from 7.00pm until 8.20pm), Sue Tarr (Chair, TG&DDC), Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) and two members of the public. Tina Hartley did try to attend the meeting but due to technical difficulties was unable to do so.

**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. 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.

Congratulations to Bertha Logie, Gorstan who celebrated a milestone Birthday last Sunday. A card has been sent from everyone at the Community Council to which she is most grateful. Bertha had a nice afternoon tea at the Priory in Beauly with family to mark the occasion.

**Declarations of Interest** – Co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project and the proposed battery storage facility. 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 and declared an interest in the Scottish Water project. 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 5 October 2021 via webcam should read the Treasurer is *a* landowner, not *the* landowner as the Scottish Water project in Gorstan and Little Garve will cover several areas with several landowners being involved. Sue Tarr, Chair of TG&DDC who attended our last meeting has asked for the following two amendments …

***Access to the War Memorial****– The “On Ya Bike” group have been liaising with TP&E Planning and Engineering (*[*https://www.cycling.scot/transport-planning-and-engineering*](https://www.cycling.scot/transport-planning-and-engineering)*are a social enterprise transport consultancy delivering sustainable transport networks to allow anyone, anywhere to enjoy the benefits of cycling) who have provided a quote for the Garve to Gorstan path which takes account of War Memorial access.  The group are also looking at a safe pathway from Contin to Garve.*

***Amendment: -*** *…. who have provided a quote for first stage feasibility work in support of the Garve to Gorstan and Garve to Contin paths.*

*In the meantime, TG&DDC will make a lower offer for the land without access rights on the assumption that rights will be acquired later.*

***Amendment: - …****. this decision is based on the fact that land will still support the Community Development Plan priorities given existing pedestrian access points via the dropped kerb gate off the trunk road, via core path access along the riverbank and direct access from the rear of Garve Public Hall itself.  Pedestrian access will also become available to the side of Garve Public Hall if the purchase is successful.*

The draft minutes with all three amendments were then proposed by Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Bob Moir. Minutes are available at Garve Post Office, Achnasheen Village Noticeboard, on our website or via email. Minutes will be signed by our Chairman and Secretary in due course via post.

**Matters arising** – **Proposed Kirkan Windfarm** – we have seen through press reports an “additional information” report has been submitted to Scottish Ministers. The document is available online and covers additional environmental issues and two turbines being slightly relocated. Trevor Hunter from Coriolis Energy has since been in touch to say … *“We’re having a public local inquiry w/c 10th January 2022, most likely being held in a hotel with suitable facilities either in Strathpeffer or Inverness, details will be confirmed soon on the DPEA website. SEPA have removed their outstanding objection on peat as we’ve agreed to microsite a couple of turbines. NatureScot’s sole objection was in regards to aviation lighting impacts on wild land summits, which we’ve been able to provide updated details on (a reduced perimeter lighting scheme, potentially only activated when aircraft actually enter within a ‘bubble’ area around the turbines – so only lighting approximately <0.1% of night time hours). Highland Council have an objection mainly on impacts to the A835.”* Our thanks to Trevor for his update which has already appeared on our website. Community Council members have asked why can't the hearing be held in Garve Public Hall?  It is open for use under covid guidance. Also, if the hearing does have to be held out with the area, can a live webcam feed be provided? Trevor has confirmed that it’s down to the DPEA in regard to venue used as they probably have their own guidance that steers them. There will be a live webcam feed on DPEA ‘Webcast’ page. Community Council members welcomed the live feed, especially as the inquiry is being held in the middle of winter. Community Council member Bob Moir noted the numbers of turbines seem to be increasing in the area all the time.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **The “Trench”** in Stirling Drive, Garve. Case reference for trench is FS323269935 still needs filling in. Cllr Cockburn will again chase up for us. **Missing white lines** on A890 south of Achnasheen and in Garve Village (20mph on the roads) are on the list but Cllr Cockburn can’t see that getting done now until the Spring at the earliest.

We have received reports of damage to the **walls around Garve Old Cemetery**. Anyone who finds issues should report directly to The Highland Council with photos to [www.highland.gov.uk/report](http://www.highland.gov.uk/report) The more people who report issues with photographic evidence the better. Cllr Cockburn says he has not heard anything, it was more grass cutting and the up keep of the Cemetery that was mentioned to him but he has asked for a full inspection of the Cemetery and update.

Rachel Campbell, **Local Seasonal Ranger** tells us that … *“I discovered a terrible dumping of motorhome waste a couple of weeks ago at one of the larger lay-bys on the right-hand side as you drive to Achnasheen. The smell was something else. I’ll need to check my notes and pinpoint the location but it’s a popular litter and fly tip lay-by. Silverbridge is the main problem with full bins being a constant issue.”* We thank Rachel for her work and updates. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted the Seasonal Rangers were being kept on beyond 31 October 2021 but Cllr Cockburn was unsure - he would check *(Post meeting note - Cllr Cockburn has been in touch to say six Local Seasonal Rangers are being kept on through various funds through the winter to help the Access Officers across the whole of the Highlands).*  Community Council member Bob Moir noted more **dumping at Rogie Falls** recently that was attended to very quickly. Such incidents should be reported via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1054/rubbish_and_recycling/89/litter_and_fly-tipping> **Garve Litter Busters group** are again looking for volunteers to join them. They collect rubbish once a month or so covering different parts of the community each time. If anyone is interested, contact John Forteith, Garve. We note that last Sunday they filled seven bags of rubbish plus they found tyres, a rusty structure, wet wipes and empty cans. It was a busy day!

**The Highland Council winter service** started on the 14 October and continues to 14 April. During this time, they monitor road and weather conditions across their roads network. The Highland council maintain a fleet of 105 gritters, 42 pavement gritters and 1 snowblower. Across the Highlands there are over 1,750 grit bins. Over a typical winter around 50,000 tonnes of salt will be spread on the road. The cost of providing this service reflects the fact that they have to treat the longest local road network of any council in Scotland. Although expenditure varies according to the severity of the winter, The Highland Council expect to spend in the region of £5million annually.

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/107/winter_road_maintenance>

The Highland Council has set out a **proposed complaints process** should anyone have any concerns about their local Community Council. More details at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/772/politicians_elections_and_democracy/364/community_councils/5>

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.

**Works on Garve Level Crossing** which resulted in a planned closure last Saturday night appear complete.

**Scottish Water** – The Treasurer declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion. Gavin Steel has been in touch to say Scottish Water do hope to carry out works in the Little Garve and Gorstan area hopefully before the end of the year. Final discussions with some of the various landowners are ongoing and a contractor is still to be appointed before works can begin. Our thanks to Gavin for his update.

Yesterday, our Chairman and Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris attended **a joint ward five Community Council online meeting about housing** hosted by Coigach Community Council. They were also joined by Cllr Ian Cockburn, Maree Todd MSP, Communities Housing Trust an several other Community Council representatives. Community Councils from ward one also attended. The main points were social housing was needed, especially on the west coast but land availability and its value is a major issue to make a project viable. Funding, utilities capacity and tradesmen were also issues that needed addressing as some companies want to build 20-30 houses, not just one or two. Perhaps modern pre-fab builds are the way forward but the knock-on effects to local schools and NHS care also need to be considered. Some attending the joint meeting felt worn out after years of volunteering and hitting their head against a brick wall all the time. Cllr Cockburn noted there are currently 10,000 people on the waiting list for a council house in the Highlands. A particular problem in Achiltibuie will need further work but several people and organisations were willing to meet and discuss the matter.

**Cold Weather Payments** – following concerns raised last winter, we wrote to our MP to ask that the scheme be reviewed. He has now received the following reply … *“The scheme is reviewed after the end of each winter season to ensure that the weather station network remains viable and representative. Expert advice is sought from the Met Office and changes made where appropriate before the start of the next winter period. In its advice, the Met Office states: Garve lies within the IV23 postcode district and has a winter mean temperature of 2.6 °C. The IV23 postcode district is linked to the weather station at Loch Glascarnoch with a winter mean temperature of 2.0 °C. The village of Achnasheen is in the IV22 postcode district and has a winter mean temperature of 3.0 °C. The IV22 postcode encompasses a wide climatic range from the inland villages like Achnasheen to the lower lying and milder coastal settlements. IV22 is linked to the weather station at Aultbea which has a winter mean temperature of 5.2 °C. The weather station for IV22 is much milder than the climate of Achnasheen. However, the main population centres in IV22 are on the coast and since the CWP service is limited to postcode districts, IV22 is linked to Aultbea to ensure it is representative of the coastal populated areas. No changes recommended however; officials are continuing to discuss with the Met Office possible options for modernising the service in the longer term.”* Our thanks to our MP for his help and support in this matter. Community Council members felt more local weather readings should be possible these days and using the full Postcode rather than the Postcode district. Fuel poverty is becoming a bigger issue so it’s important to get this corrected. It was suggested local readings should be supplied to show what a difference it would make to the overall picture. It was also noted that it was changed for Garve many years ago, so why not for Achnasheen?

**TG&DDC updates** – Sue Tarr and Yvonne Boa took us through the latest updates. **The ideas group** have met regarding the Sustainable Choices Action plan action points. Speed Indicator Signs for both Achnasheen and Garve were felt to be needed along with “Slow Down” signs for Lochluichart and Achanalt. Perhaps some signs could be powered by small solar panels. Clearer road markings may also help. Glyn Robson at Lochluichart Estate is providing data from their speed cameras to help make the case. Enquiries are now being made following the meeting into the type of signs available and costs. More details of the action plan can be viewed at <https://garve.org/sustaining-choices-action-plan> We have already asked Transport Scotland and Network Rail to look again at the various issues in and around Garve and welcome the news that an onsite meeting between BEAR and Network Rail is due to take place next week. Flora Smith at Killin Farm will keep us updated!

**Proposed purchase of land at Garve Hotel** – the latest offer made to the sellers by TG&DDC has been refused. Legal enquiries into the ownership of the car park outside Garve Public Hall are still ongoing. TG&DDC have now suggested two options as a possible way forward to local stakeholder groups (Achnasheen Amenities, Garve Public Hall Trustees, LCT, Community Council & Development Company). One along current lines of buying three lots or the other just to purchase lot 6 and part of lot 3 which could be used for parking at Garve Public Hall. The Development Company had asked local stakeholder groups to respond by last Friday but have now extended the deadline until this Friday. Sue wished to thank those who had already replied and to all the local groups for staying the course on what has been a big project already. In answers to Community Council members’ questions, we were told that the community right to buy had been getting prepared but Covid didn’t help as offices were closed and then the land became available for purchase. The Development Company had attended a Garve Public Hall Trustees meeting recently and the Trustees had seen the proposal of purchasing less land. Yvonne and Tina continue to work closely with the Hall Trustees. Our Chairman asked if the Hall Trustees had agreed to option two as is stated on the ballot paper. Bob Moir, who is a Hall Trustee said that to his knowledge the Trustees had not and only the proposal to change the amount of land to be purchased had been presented to them by the Development Company however, he would seek clarification.

A **community renewable energy zoom meeting** is planned for later this month. More details at <https://garve.org/community-energy-solar-pv-hydro-what-are-the-options> It was noted that it was a shame it is on the same night as an LCT Directors meeting. Diary clashes should be avoided if possible, especially as (like Community Council) LCT dates are set up to a year in advance and are available online.

Progress reports on the **Community Development Plan** are available on garve.org which we welcome. **TG&DDC AGM** will be held online next week. Our Chairman thanked both Sue and Yvonne for their updates.

Cllr Cockburn left the meeting at 8.20pm and was thanked for attending.

Some dates for the diary … The **LCT** AGM will be held tomorrow night via webcam. **A Church coffee morning** and sale of work will take place this Saturday 6 November 2021 from 10.00am until 12noon in Contin Village Hall. £3.00 entry but that includes coffee. **Remembrance Sunday** is on Sunday 14 November 2021. A service will take place at Garve War Memorial at 1.00pm. Our former Treasurer Eliza Leslie Melville has donated a wreath for us to use, our thanks to Eliza. It was agreed that co-opted member Hamish-Leslie Melville would lay the Community Council wreath as our Chairman has been asked to lay The Highland Council wreath in Cllr Cockburn’s absence. A huge “well done” to all the volunteers who have been tidying up the area around the Garve War Memorial in recent weeks, it looks great.

**Future of Achnasheen Hall** – the survey to Achnasheen and Achanalt residents organised by the Achnasheen Amenities group was sent out around Wednesday 13 October 2021 with a Sunday 31 October 2021 deadline for replies to be received by their Chairman. We await the results …

Community Council member Bob Moir noted that the Garve Events group have decided not to connect **Christmas Lights** to streetlamps.

**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](mailto:garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com) with your name and contact details. This update has already appeared on our website.

**Police report** - no formal report received but as reported at previous Community Council meetings, anyone who witnesses speeding or inappropriate speed is asked by the Police to **call them directly on 101** at the time of the incident and make a witness statement.  Video or photo evidence is also welcomed by the Police.

An individual has been allowed to keep their driving licence after being caught speeding at 107mph and without insurance at Achanalt on 8 August 2020 because they need their driving licence to get to work. Instead, they were fined £640 and had their driving licence endorsed with nine penalty points, which means they are one road traffic offence away from an automatic six-month ban.

Our Chairman has been made aware that a Catalytic Convertor has been stolen from a local resident’s car in Garve. The Police are aware.

Police Scotland have been receiving reports regarding bogus workmen operating within the Highlands and Islands area, persons have been seen acting suspiciously around industrial and farm premises, looking in gardens and knocking on doors reportedly looking for ‘business’. Be aware!

**Treasurer’s report** - The Treasurer updated members that the bank balance as per the latest bank statement dated Tuesday 21 September 2021 remains £2,700.00. The breakdown is as follows …. Newsletter fund unchanged at £744.50. Reserve unchanged at £1,538.45. Admin £417.05. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

**AOB from Community Council members** – no issues raised.

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

**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** - There is one new building warrant currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area. 21/01897/DOM1 is for the renovation and extensions to Garve Public Hall. This relates to planning application 21/01070/FUL.

Four new applications have been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. The first three are all Prior Notification Orders. 21/04759/PNO - Peatland Restoration, Strathbran Estate. 21/04757/PNO - Peatland Restoration, Fannich Estate and 21/04760/PNO - Peatland Restoration, Lochrosque Estate. Community Council members had no questions or comments on these PNO’s.

Planning application 21/03869/FUL is the proposed change of use and renovation of an existing agricultural barn into a one-bedroom dwelling at Dos Mucheran. The deadline for comment to the Case Officer is this Friday. Community Council members raised no objection to this application. 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** - the latest guidance received from The Highland Council on Monday 11 October 2021 was as follows … *“We have been regularly reviewing the guidance on face-to-face meetings for Community Councils and appreciate that many of you wish to move back to meeting in person.  However, given the case numbers that still remain in Highland, our advice would be to continue to try and avoid larger groups of people coming together when alternative mechanisms exist.   Therefore, we would continue to recommend that Community Councils meet virtually in order to minimise risk of transmission. We do recognise however that you are independent organisations and therefore you are entitled to determine whether you wish to follow this advice or not.”*

**Dates of meetings in 2022** were proposed by Kenny Maclean and seconded by Sadie-Michaela Harris, all agreed. *(Ordinary meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month unless stated otherwise)*

Tuesday 7 December 2021, 7.00pm, webcam

January 2022 – no meeting

Tuesday 1 February 2022, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 7.00pm, webcam

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

July 2022 – no meeting

Tuesday 2 August 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 6 September 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

Tuesday 4 October 2022, 7.00pm, venue/webcam tbc

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

Tuesday 6 December 2022, 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.  The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

*On Sunday 31 October 2021, a Class 43 High-Speed Train (known better as an Intercity 125) made its first ever trip to Kyle of Lochalsh.  The train had travelled from London the day before and passengers were able to see the beautiful sights of our community despite the damp weather.  The train is pictured here arriving at Achnasheen at 11.00am before heading west onto Strathcarron …*



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

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