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

**held on Tuesday 5 April 2022 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, Sue Tarr (Chair, TG&DDC), Tina Hartley (Principal Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC), Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC), Heather Donaldson (Secretary, TG&DDC from 7.20pm), Mike Franklin (Director, TG&DDC), Heather Green (Director, TG&DDC) and three members of the public.

**Apologies**: Community Council member Joe Stewart. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris gave apologies on behalf of Murdo Maclennan and Tina Hartley gave apologies on behalf of Andrew Biddlecombe (Director, TG&DDC).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone. 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 by post or email with any issues they wish raised.

Isobel Grant, a long-standing member of the Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Council has passed away aged 90. Isobel would visit us here at Garve & District from time to time before Covid and always enjoyed our meetings. Our thoughts are with her family and the Community Council.

Our website, first launched in March 2013 still has 150-200 “hits” per month. We were one of the first community groups in Garve & District to have an online presence and have an emailing list. Our emailing list now has 120 people on it who live in our area. The Polling Station count for the upcoming Highland Council election tells us our community has 264 people living here at the moment. Our Chairman wondered how many other Community Councils can say they email their draft minutes directly to around half of their community? If anybody would like to be added to our emailing list, just email us directly at garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com

As recently reported via social media and on our own website ([www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict)) our Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Community Council member Bob Moir were very pleased and honoured to meet Mrs Joan Whiteford on Thursday 17 March 2022. Joanie is The Queen’s Lord-Lieutenant for Ross & Cromarty. She had been made aware of our Jubilee tree plans and wanted to see things for herself as well as hear all about the work of the Community Council. We also showed her our Jubilee tree in Gorstan which we planted to mark the 2012 Jubilee. We were also delighted that Andrew Townsend, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant attended along with former Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Eliza Leslie-Melville. Our Chairman wished to thank all who attended on the day, it even stayed dry … until five minutes after the Lord-Lieutenant left when a downpour hit!

On Sunday 20 March 2022 our Chairman was driving through Garve when he spotted some members of the Garve Litter Buster group in action! It was the first time our Chairman had seen them at work so stopped to thank them in person on behalf of the community for all their hard work. More volunteers are needed so if anyone is interested in helping out, just contact John Forteith. In slightly related news, Katrina Taylor at The Highland Council who deals with bins and illegal dumping is moving on to another department, we wish her well. Katrina messaged our Chairman to say how good it had been to work with such pro-active and helpful groups as the Garve Litter Busters and the Community Council.

**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 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 1 March 2022 via webcam. Our Chairman noted a comment from Sue Tarr on email to the Senior Ward Manager who felt her contribution at our last meeting was *“certainly not minuted”.* Sue stated at this point that she acknowledged that the minutes were not verbatim. Sue said her contribution to the discussion on the trees was not minuted. Our Chairman stated that Community Council members felt the draft minutes did cover all points raised at the last meeting. The draft minutes were then proposed without amendment 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. Hard/electronic copies are also available on request from the Secretary. Minutes will be signed by our Chairman and Secretary in due course via post.

**Matters arising** – **Proposed Battery Storage facility** - co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in this project and took no part in the discussions. <https://meetings.ili-energy.com/lochluichart-energy-storage-project/> No further news since our last meeting.

**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/) No further update received.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **white lines** in Garve Village and Gorstan Junction will be attended to in the spring. We will ask for an update on this. **Collapsed drain** in Garve between Garve Public Hall and Garve Post Office has been reported. 387273371 was reported on Tuesday 21 December 2021. A picture was sent directly to Cllr Cockburn on Sunday 27 March 2022 with a request to chase the matter up, which he has done, awaiting an update. **Damaged road sign** east of Mossford has been reported. 393832332 was reported on Monday 17 January 2022. Now that the worst of the winter weather has passed, we will ask for an update.

A question was raised about **potholes** on the Little Garve to Silverbridge road. The last time our Chairman was on this section of road (a few weeks ago), he thought the road surface had been improved slightly. The Treasurer will keep an eye on this section of road and report back any issues. It is also perhaps worth noting that there is a global shortage of bitumen.

**Achnasheen EVC –** work to connect an underground electric cable to the EVC began on Tuesday 8 March 2022 by SSEN and was completed a few days later. This is nearly five years to the day after the EVC was first installed. Work to increase the local capacity in the network has also now been completed by SSEN in the last few days. EVC Management team at The Highland Council have confirmed that … *“we expect the charge point in Achnasheen to be up and running in the next few weeks. We’ll keep you updated on dates as we need to confirm commissioning of the charge point. SSEN are due to have their work completed soon so will then just be the meter installation and commissioning left to do”.* A big thank you to all concerned for finding a way forward on this issue including Cllr Cockburn and the local MSP whose office had been on the telephone to our Chairman just the other day on this matter. TG&DDC had looked at installing other EVC’s in our area at Aultguish and Grudie. Perhaps Garve is also now an option following the purchase of land next to the Garve Hotel? Ewan Bush (Local Energy Officer) publishes monthly updates. His reports can be viewed at <https://garve.org/energy-officer-reports>

As reported at our December 2021 ordinary meeting, **Achnasheen roadside cameras** are well used by those travelling through our area to see what the road conditions were like. Unfortunately, they have been unavailable for public viewing for some time. The latest update from the roads team is … *“we have been in discussions with our Corporate Communications team and other parties regarding this and the feedback has been positive so far. We are moving forward with this project with a view to it being live before the end of October 2022. Whether it is hosted on The Highland Council website or via the highland travel website (it will hopefully be resurrected soon) remains to be determined. We will keep you posted as this project progresses”.* Our thanks to all involved.

We note **seasonal outdoor access rangers** are to return - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14522/visitors_to_be_engaged_by_outdoor_access_rangers>

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.

**Faults on the Trunk Road (A835)** should be reported via <https://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/> We note BEAR Scotland are to keep responsibility for the trunk roads in Ross-Shire and the North West until 2030 - <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/trunk-roads-in-ross-shire-and-the-north-west-to-stay-under-b-271111/>

**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – all trees are gifted to the landowners as Community Councils are not advised to own assets. On Saturday 5 March 2022, Community Council members Bob Moir, Sadie-Michaela Harris co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville walked The Avenue with Murdo Maclennan (attending in a personal capacity) to see exactly what could or couldn’t be planted in The Avenue. The group had a look at the soil quality, it was quite a sandy composition which Murdo says will be prone to drying out more quickly during drought and that is something we should consider alongside climate change when thinking about which species of tree to plant. Murdo felt several existing trees may need urgent attention, especially some which appear to have a form of root and butt rot (this was in evidence in the trees that fell in the high winds a few months ago). These concerns have already been forwarded to Nick Richards, Forestry Officer at The Highland Council with appropriate pictures *(thanks to Sadie for the pictures)*. Murdo felt that reverting back to our original idea of planting seven trees to mark The Queen’s seven decades on the throne as discussed at our February 2022 ordinary meeting would be our best course of action as Murdo felt the 100 free trees would be too difficult to manage and some species weren’t suitable. Murdo also suggested that we could plant more trees over time as more trees fall in winds or are removed for safety reasons if we felt it to be manageable and subject to landowner’s permission. The gift of 100 free trees has had to be declined since our last ordinary meeting as we can no longer meet some of the *“i dig trees”* project terms and conditions such as planting all the trees in the one location. Murdo wonders if it may be advisable not to plant Scots Pine again due to the concerns of possible rot and perhaps transition the site to Sessile Oak if the landowner agrees? Murdo also raised an issue over who owns the land either side of the road that runs through The Avenue so we have asked the various parties to compare notes including The Highland Council’s roads and legal department, neighbouring properties and we are consulting directly with Registers of Scotland … currently awaiting feedback.  This project is now on hold until the land ownership issue is resolved. Our Chairman had hoped to involve the local school in this project but until the land ownership issue is resolved, that is also on hold. Our thanks to Murdo for his time and advice on this matter and to everyone in the community for their help, advice, sharing ideas and willingness to help plant trees. We note press reports that in the UK, over one million Jubilee trees have already been planted. Our Chairman forgot to express at our last ordinary meeting his thanks to Community Council members Bob Moir and Sadie-Michaela Harris for talking to Garve and Strathgarve residents while out in the Village about this project. Community Council member Bob Moir noted that the landowner would become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of any trees planted and that the trees would probably be for the next generation as advised by Murdo. It is interesting to note that both Scone Palace and Windsor Castle are also planning to plant seven trees to mark The Queen’s seven decades on the throne.

In related news, the **Garve Events Group** are planning to have an afternoon tea on Sunday 5 June 2022 to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Plans are still being worked on at this stage. It was nice to see some of the pictures online recently from the lunch we organised in 2012 to mark the Jubilee. Donations from local Estates and Businesses were a huge help at that time to pay for it all as LCT money wasn’t available until the Lochluichart windfarm started producing electricity in 2014.

Heather Donaldson (Secretary, TG&DDC) joined the meeting at 7.20pm.

**Scottish Water update** - our Treasurer declared an interest in this topic and took no part in the discussion. Installation of new water pipes for the **Little Garve/Gorstan** area are ongoing, mainly on the Gorstan side. In related news, **a leak in Achnasheen** Village centre was soon attended to on Friday 11 March 2022 by Scottish Water after being raised by our Chairman. Our thanks to the local Scottish Water team for their prompt response.

We were sorry to hear via the selling agents that lot one **(Garve Hotel)** and lot five were back on the market, especially after what we had heard over Christmas from the then “new” owners.

**Garve Public Hall update** – Bob Moir declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion. Alan Jones Associates undertook a consultation of the community regarding a refurbished or new Hall in the Garve area in the Autumn on 2019. 105 surveys were returned providing a return rate of 41%, mainly from Garve residents. 63% wished to see the redevelopment and expansion of the existing Hall. Since then, the Hall Trustees have been working to fulfil those wishes of the community. For the benefit of those not on social media, their latest update from Alan Ross, Chairman of the Trustees reads as follows … *“Today (Saturday 2 April 2022) saw the final part of woodcutting and chipping around the Hall by the Trustees for the new development. At the same time, we managed to chip all the branches that were left over from the storm that took down the trees onto the sheds at the back of the Garve Post Office. We are now at a stage where the planning and building warrant has been passed, thanks to the LCT we have employed a Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer, Clerk of Works and Architect to progress the Hall forward to the next stage. The Trustees would like to thank all the community groups and organizations for their support and you the community for your patience at this time.”* It is full credit to the Trustees that they have taken on board the communities wishes fully and kept this project moving forward despite Covid restrictions. Tina Hartley (Principal Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) has been helping the Trustees and had asked us about a possible planning matter in relation to a storage unit. Our Chairman advised the Hall Trustees would be better asking the Planning Officer directly, who advised planning permission wasn’t needed for the temporary sitting of the unit during the works.

At our last ordinary meeting, we learnt that LCT and TG&DDC were hoping to find a way forward for the **Energy Grant**. Since then, LCT have released the following statement … *“Following on from the information received from OSCR and our Solicitor we had to confirm that we were no longer able to pay out the household grant as it is perceived as a payment rather than a grant. LCT has been in contact with Eneco (owner of the Lochluichart Windfarm) to ascertain if they would be willing for the funds to be paid direct to the Development Company who could forward on the funds to individual households.  Whilst Eneco were initially open to discussion they have now reported back that they are unwilling to amend the original community benefit agreement and therefore LCT is not able to continue to pay the grant.  They have also confirmed that it is essential that LCT maintains its status as a charity as per the original community benefit agreement.  EDF Renewables will now be contacted to ascertain if they are able to offer any way forward. Under the criteria of the community benefit agreements LCT is not able to pay out grants to alleviate poverty or financial hardship but are able to pay out grants to support vulnerable people and to support projects that improve health.  Under these criteria LCT is able to continue to pay the community support grant, which is administered by the Garve and District Development Company.  This grant is not means tested and LCT would encourage the community to apply for this grant, where applicable”.* It was noted that legal matters, governing documents and OSCR were all issues that needed to be thought through, even though the payments had been getting made for the last four years. The Secretary recalled another windfarm east of Inverness that was able to pay an energy grant. The meeting was informed that those payments have also had to stop. Rising energy costs might mean more people will be entitled to the LCT community support grant.

A meeting of the **Traffic Calming Working Group** took place online on Thursday 24 March 2022. It would appear replies have not been forthcoming from The Highland Council so our Chairman has suggested the group liaise directly with Cllr Cockburn which they have done. Our Chairman made a few phone calls to try and keep this topic moving forward for the traffic calming group.  The most useful phone call was to Cllr Cockburn who confirmed he would like to see the full chain of unanswered emails and would chase up accordingly. Cllr Cockburn confirmed that The Highland Council have no statutory duty to install smiley signs so the working group/TG&DDC could apply to LCT for funding for their purchase.  The Community Council can’t as we are not advised to own assets. Ongoing maintenance of these signs would need consideration as things do break down. Owners of land beside the roads may also need to be approached. Our Chairman has also supplied details of company’s whose equipment meets Transport Scotland and The Highland Council’s road regulations to the group. More details will appear at <https://garve.org/gd-traffic-issues> Thanks to Tina Hartley (Principal Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) for updating this webpage earlier today. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris asked if screenshots could be put in the comments of a garve.org page? This will be looked into. Cllr Cockburn was asked if The Highland Council would support putting signs up like Transport Scotland have already agreed for the trunk road. Cllr Cockburn was unsure if more signs were needed in Garve as there are cameras at the Level Crossing which have been issuing fines but would try and get more information before he retires at the upcoming Highland Council election. Bob Moir noted press reports that the mobile camera van is increasing its visits to the A835. The Treasurer wondered if white bollards at road entrances might help slow traffic down?

**Defibrillators** – we have been made aware that the Lochluichart Defibrillator’s pads are out of date. Our Chairman explained to the local resident that the Community Council no longer oversees the Defibrillators but would pass the message on. It seems all the local Defibrillator’s pads have expired. The pads can still be used, but will be less effective. Tina Hartley (Principal Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) confirmed new pads are already on order and should be in place shortly.

**Mural at Kinlochluichart Church?** – co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville updated the meeting that it had been suggested a fence be put up between the Church and toilet block to hide the outbuildings from the Church. The Minister has instead suggested painting the buildings like a mural on a wall. Perhaps a project for the local art class to take on and/or the school? Yvonne Boa (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) noted the suggestion.

We have received an email apparently from **BT Openreach** asking about inspecting Broadband poles.  The Community Council was not involved in the Broadband project but have passed the matter on accordingly.

**Joint meetings** – TG&DDC have suggested a series of joint working events, hopefully face to face but possibly on webcam. Some meetings did start to take place some time ago, but then Covid stopped everything. TG&DDC have suggested maybe hold meetings on a quarterly basis with a rotating Chair and Secretary, each organisation could suggest agenda items. Suggested dates: - Thursday 28 April 2022, TG&DDC to Chair and Secretary. Thursday 28 July 2022, LCT to Chair and Secretary. Thursday 24 November 2022, G&DCC to Chair and Secretary. Thursday 30 March 2023, TG&DDC to Chair and Secretary. All dates tbc. Community Council members were in agreement with the proposal but it was suggested that perhaps the first meeting should be on webcam due to the current high Covid rate. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted with increasing petrol costs, webcams might be the only way forward.

Our Chairman received a message from a local resident saying there is **barbed wire** laying in bundles on the ground in Strathgarve, possibly on Forestry land.  They felt it was dangerous to animals, especially people walking their dogs so we have passed a message onto Murdo Maclennan at Forestry Scotland. Community Council members recalled this coming up before. Community Council member Bob Moir went for a walk the other day and thought it was the same wire as before between the Quarry and the Wyvis Natural Playpark. Rotton posts in places have made the old fence fall over too. We will await Murdo’s response on the matter once he is back at work.

**Police report** - no formal report received and we note our current liaison officer has moved posts so we await word on their replacement. Our Chairman is grateful to neighbouring Community Councils for their help in trying to find out who our new officer is. As reported at previous Community Council meetings, anyone who wishes to raise an issue with the Police is asked to **call them directly on 101** at the time of the incident and make a witness statement.  Video or photo evidence is also welcomed, indeed encouraged by the Police. Our Chairman has been made aware of reports of speedy, noisy cars racing around the Achnasheen roundabout at 10.00pm each night. Local residents are hoping to catch the incident on film so it can be reported properly to the Police.

**Formal Complaint** – as part of the complaints process, this separate item needs to be on tonight’s agenda. It is sad to report that shortly after our last ordinary meeting, Sue Tarr wrote to the Community Council saying she felt our Chairman had shown her discrimination in an email about our Jubilee tree plans. Community Council members read the full chain of emails but could not see any form of discrimination. Sue was informed of this but in a further step, for the benefit of both sides, our Chairman referred himself to the independent complaint’s procedure for Community Councils. They found our Chairman had not been discriminate in his emails. Apologies have since been received in writing from Sue and accepted and our Chairman stated in writing to Sue’s apology that he was sorry Sue felt singled out as that was never his intention. As Sue had made reference to both LCT and TG&DDC in her comments at our last ordinary meeting on the subject of trees and in her emails, our Chairman thought it best to ask for any comments from both organisations directly. Neither had comments on the accusation of discrimination or on our Jubilee tree plans as such but both wondered if sensitive information contained in the emails from Sue should have been shared. As a rule, personal or sensitive information should not be shared but, in this case, it was thought written permission had already been given by Sue in her email on Friday 4 March 2022 where she wrote *“go ahead”*. However, to ensure there are no doubts in future, our Chairman suggested that even when it appears permission to share has been granted, written confirmation will be sought if an email or letter containing personal or sensitive information needs to be shared out with the Community Council. As advised in the past, when writing to the Community Council, it’s probably better not to write about personal or sensitive information if possible. Our Chairman thanked Sue for her understanding of the situation. At tonight’s meeting, Sue thanked our Chairman for his apology, but said she had not made a formal complaint. Sue raised an issue about how the Community Council deals with correspondence, as her original email regarding planned trees for The Avenue had not been read out as an item of correspondence or discussed under this agenda item. Our Chairman confirmed the emails would be kept and looked at again once the land ownership issue had been resolved. Our Chairman suggested that our GPDR statement should perhaps be updated at this time in light of the above. This was formally proposed by Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Bob Moir. A vote of the Community Council members showed five voted in favour and one abstention from our Chairman as he felt he shouldn’t vote on this matter as he was the subject of the formal (self-referral) complaint. The GPDR statement will be updated and placed on our website in due course.

**Treasurer’s report** - The Treasurer updated the meeting that the bank balance on Friday 4 March 2022 was £2,519.05 but with end of year expenses of £350 for the yearly Secretary fee and £23.40 for stamps and cards, the real balance would be £2,145.65. This breaks down as £744.50 Newsletter fund, £1,538.45 Reserve and £-137.30 Admin. This minus figure will be covered by the reserve as in previous years. Ann Macrae is happy to audit our yearly accounts once again. The Treasurer, seconded by the Secretary formally proposed that Ann be appointed auditor again, unanimously agreed. Our thanks to Ann. Ann will do the audit once all bank statements covering up to and including year-end (31 March 2022) have been received from the bank. The Secretary asked why hasn’t our Chairman been claiming his yearly petrol allowance of £40 as agreed many years ago at Community Council? Our Chairman had to admit he’d forgotten about that and would deal with the matter next time he needed Diesel. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

The final issue of the **old Achnasheen and Garve News & Views newsletter** was published in the summer of 2016 having started in 1998. Now, TG&DDC are looking at setting up a new local newsletter - <https://garve.org/community-newsletter> We hold £744.50. This was left over from the old newsletter when it folded but we were only ever meant to safeguard this fund until a newsletter got going again. Our Chairman has always felt that offline is as important as online to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be kept up to date so was happy to propose handing the full amount over. Community Council member Bob Moir recalled the ending of the newsletter in 2016 and was happy to second the proposal, unanimously agreed. Regarding content, our Chairman acknowledged that printing our minutes in full may fill too many pages but offered to write a summery after each meeting for the newsletter instead. There is a vote currently taking place as to what name to give the new newsletter - <https://garve.org/community-newspaper-name> Tina Hartley (Principal Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) confirmed that other funding of £10,000 had already been granted for the newsletter so it could be published over a 12-month period as a pilot project. A one day per week paid position has been created which Heather Donaldson will fill. If anyone has copies of the old newsletter, TG&DDC would be pleased to see them as they hope to get a full set together from 1998–2016.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris wished to thank Hall Trustees for opening up the Hall recently so donations for **the Ukraine** could be left there by local residents. Sadie also wished to thank everyone who donated. We note a Bric-a-Brac sale will take place at Lochluichart Community Hall on Saturday 16 April 2022 from 10.30am until 1.00pm. All proceeds will be donated to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. There will be teas, coffees and biscuits on the day, all welcome.

The Treasurer noted press reports that **BT’s plans to move away from copper lines** to digital/fibre lines has been put on hold. <https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2022/03/bt-consumer-pauses-digital-voice-rollout-following-customer-backlash/> We along with The Highland Council and many other organisations had raised concerns after it came to light that these new phonelines don’t work if there is a power cut. It was noted that some areas have already changed over but customers can decline the switchover for now.

Our Chairman note **Royal Mail stamps** are to have a barcode next to them. Old style everyday stamps will no longer be valid after Tuesday 31 January 2023. If you have any old-style stamps, you are encouraged to use them up or you can swop them for free by going to <https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps?iid=HP_M1_BARCODEDSTAMPS> or calling Royal Mail Customer Services on 03457 740740. Special stamps with pictures on them and Christmas stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid. Stamps can not be swopped at a Post Office as Royal Mail and Post Office are separate businesses.

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – one consultation from The Highland Council. Community Council’s in Highland are currently being consulted about the proposed Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2. Deadline for comments is 12noon on Friday 17 June 2022. Community Council members had no comments. 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** - Two previous planning applications have been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. At our February 2022 ordinary meeting we considered 21/05895/FUL, the proposed construction of a house and garage at North Hill Forest, Silverbridge. Planning permission has been granted by the Case Officer with three conditions. 1 - The development as proposed shall proceed in accordance with the approved plans and no deviation from these shall occur. 2 - Before the first occupation of the dwellinghouse hereby approved, sufficient parking and turning shall be provided for three vehicles (excluding garages), within the curtilage and shall be maintained as such in perpetuity. 3 - The garage/annexe hereby approved shall be used solely as accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling house at no time shall it be occupied as a separate dwelling. Building warrant 22/00552/DOM1, construction of house and garage with home office annexe above at North Hill Forest, Silverbridge has since been lodged with The Highland Council.

At our March 2022 ordinary meeting we considered 22/00498/FUL, proposed change of use of workshop and library to a house at Crannach, Strathgarve. Planning permission has been granted by the Case Officer with no conditions.

One new planning application has been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 22/01297/TPNO is the proposed installation of 30m lattice mast, fenced compound, cabinet and associated works, adjacent to the Fannich Tunnel and Grudie Woodland Track. The deadline for comments to the Case Officer is Friday 15 April 2022. Community Council members raised no objections 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 Thursday 3 February 2022 is that we can now meet in person if we wish to.

*(Ordinary meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month unless stated otherwise)*

Tuesday 3 May 2022, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 7 June 2022, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, Garve Public Hall tbc. Apologies noted from Community Council member Bob Moir.

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)

We learnt recently that Cllr's Cockburn, Macleod and MacInnes are all not standing again at The Highland Council elections in May.  This means this will be the last time we see Cllr Cockburn attend our meetings as the local Councillor. Five candidates including Cllr Biz Campbell hope to fill the four seats in ward five. Our thanks to all outgoing Councillors for their help and especially to Cllr Cockburn for his regular attendances at our meetings over the last ten years. It is sad to note that many current Highland Councillors are not standing again, some because of abuse from constituents. The Highland Council are urgently working on this issue to put appropriate safeguards in place. Cllr Cockburn noted that when he was first elected the country was in the middle of the banking crisis so it wasn’t a great time. Now Covid hasn’t helped matters either. He noted that it was good to have the roads budget increase, more localised decisions taken and to see some bigger projects getting done but money was, and probably always will be an issue. The Highland Council are looking at the bigger picture such as Hydro and Hydrogen and although we may look at our own area and have concerns, we all have to look at the bigger picture these days. Cllr Cockburn concluded his remarks by saying the Garve & District Community Council has been a good Community Council to work with and wished us well. Our Chairman thanked him and we gave the outgoing local Councillor a round of virtual applause.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.  He also thanked Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris for hosting the webcam session.  The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

*As reported on social media and on our own website, The Lord-Lieutenant of Ross & Cromarty (far right in picture) meeting some of the Community Council members and former Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Eliza Leslie Melville on Thursday 17 March 2022 …*



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

garveanddistrictcc@yahoo.com