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

**held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 on webcam**

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

**Also present on webcam**: Kenny Rodgers (NHS Highland from 7.00pm until 7.55pm), David Lawson and Jonny Currie (Eneco from 7.00pm until 8.10pm) and three members of the public.

**Apologies**: Community Council member Joe Stewart and co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville. We also received apologies from Cllr Liz Kraft.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone. He reminded members of the public that although our meetings are not public meetings, they were still very welcome to attend Community Council meetings even on webcam and take part in the discussions under his guidance (see section 12 of the Constitution). Those who can’t attend our meetings can, as always, write to the Secretary by post or email with any issues they wish raised. Our website [www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict/](http://www.community-council.org.uk/garveanddistrict/) continues to receive 150-200 visitors per month (out of a community of around 270 people).

The community was shocked and saddened to learn that Paddy Davidson and Hazel Allan were both killed last week while travelling on the A9. Our thoughts are with the families at this very difficult time.

Best wishes to former Community Council member Marion Taylor who has been unwell and to Harry Leslie Melville who has been through the wars!

Our Chairman was unable to attend the Garve Christmas lights being turned on last Saturday evening but Community Council members Bob Moir and Joe Stewart did attend with families in tow along with Cllr Kraft. At least 80 people attended, some couldn’t get into the Garve Public Hall as it was so busy. The Lord Lieutenant was unable to attend. The raffle and donations to help pay for the lights raised around £400.00. Reports suggest it was a very good night.

**Declarations of Interest** – Community Council member Bob Moir is a Garve Public Hall Trustee and a Friend of Garve War Memorial. The Treasurer and Community Council members Bob Moir and Sadie-Michaela Harris are all members of the Traffic Calming 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 1 November 2022 via webcam were proposed without amendment by Bob Moir and seconded by Caroline Gamble, unanimously agreed. 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. A summary report of the meetings is available in the local newsletter and in the An Carrannach. Minutes will be signed by our Chairman and Secretary in due course via post.

**Matters arising** – Kenny Rodgers, District Manager for NHS Highland Mid Ross District attended this meeting.  His area covers Dingwall and Seaforth out to Garve & District and the Black Isle, a population of around 25,000 people.  He wanted to talk about health and social care services in the area and hear from the Community Council members about what works well and what doesn't work quite so well.  He would also like to harness local enthusiasm for the future model of care at the Ross Memorial Hospital in Dingwall.  The Hospital is one of the oldest buildings in the NHS Highland estate and covers various departments including district nurses, physiotherapy, social work as well as independent care homes and care at home services.  There are 9 beds in the Hospital but 14-15 beds are generally in use across Ross Memorial and Invergordon.  X-ray, ear, nose & throat, bone density, pill camera are all services available as outpatient services at the Hospital.  The building will be 150 years old in 2023 which will be celebrated. The elderly building brings its own set of issues under current infection control rules and fire regulations, especially at night, the voids in the ceilings which modern buildings don’t have is an extra concern, challenging fire management arrangements.  Extra staff are on shift at nights to support the fire risk assessment however these staff are not required for clinical care.  Funding to modernise the building is not available at this stage but Mr Rodgers has escalated this within NHS Highland that a strategy for the long-term future of Ross Memorial is required.  Questions for Mr Rodgers: Food in the Ross Memorial at times is poor and cold as it is transferred by road from Inverness as the Hospital’s kitchens are closed due to funding.  This will be highlighted to the catering service by Mr Rodgers.  Puffin Pool – a new contact is now in place to secure its income as it is a service appreciated by so many in Ross-Shire.  The two charge nurses in general ward and HRU are retiring next year and the Minor Injuries unit (MIU) is temporarily closed but under the proposed redesign, a new senior nurse and advanced nurse practitioner will be appointed to cover the whole Hospital which means the MIU can then re-open.  Concern was raised at our last ordinary meeting about flu jabs and covid jabs and their role out and Mr Rodgers was asked to comment on this.  He noted that jabs used to be done at a more local level (GP Surgery) but the contract was moved to local health boards by the Scottish Government around 2018 with a full transfer only happening this year due to the covid outbreak.  Mr Rodgers acknowledged there had been teething problems with the new system but local clinics outside Inverness were now coming online.  In the Q&A session, it was noted that some people in Garve who were called to Strathpeffer arrived to be told there were no jabs left.  Vaccines must be kept cool so if a batch “goes off”, the whole clinic has to be cancelled.  Staff shortages are an issue and concerns/complaints about the online booking system have been raised (again here tonight) and that you can’t cancel a booking, only rearrange.  A couple in Achnasheen were sent to Gairloch and Inverness for jabs.  Achnasheen is on the border of an NHS district area which might explain this.  One person was expected to go to Helensburgh for a jab!  A question about covid jabs – what if you can’t have the version you are being offered and no other version is available?  Mr Rodgers advised feedback this point to the NHS Highland website - [https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/contact-us/your-opinions/complaints/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk%2Fcontact-us%2Fyour-opinions%2Fcomplaints%2F&data=05%7C01%7Ckenny.rodgers%40nhs.scot%7C417e0412b53f4b0b0fce08dad8fbc817%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638060873150191726%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SRTqkfBxP5QnANckdoEGnUeWMhSd41mhcFJy8jU1pgg%3D&reserved=0)  Concern was expressed about those with low immune systems having to use the clinic in Inverness and it was also noted someone from Ullapool was advised to go to Golspie for a jab.  Can Village Halls not be used as local clinics as was suggested before?  It was noted that covid was something that had to be dealt with quickly and if time had allowed, perhaps more local venues could have been planned/considered.  Concern was also expressed about welfare of staff, no staff canteen for instance.  Mr Rodgers has raised this with NHS Highland and he noted Dingwall Community Council have also raised this particular point.  Mr Rodgers suggests Community Councils raise concerns directly with him. There is a national shortage of GPs with many working part time and some Doctors prefer to work in acute hospitals rather than general practice. Space, be it in local surgeries or Ross Memorial can also be an issue, especially if social distancing rules are in place.  Rheumatology department has been redesigned (staff/patient led) and has been seen as a success and Mr Rodgers was thanked for a big part he played in that.  It was noted that it is good to hear more services are returning to Ross Memorial.  Mr Rodgers made several pages of notes during this meeting which he will feedback accordingly for us.

Mr Rodgers was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.55pm.

**Proposed Battery Storage facility** - <https://meetings.ili-energy.com/lochluichart-energy-storage-project/> no news since our last meeting.

**Infinergy** - [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/) Nick Sage from Infinergy has been in touch to say the planning decision has been further delayed until January 2023 NPAC meeting, due to take place on Wednesday 25 January 2023. Our thanks to Nick for the update.

**Eneco update** - David Lawson and Jonny Currie from Eneco joined us and were thanked for their patience while we heard from our previous speaker.  David has been with Eneco for about seven years.  Eneco has four other sites in the UK and four solar PV sites.  They are based in Inverness although Eneco is a Dutch company.  Jonny recently joined Eneco, previous to that he was with SSE and RAF.  2022 has been a good year production wise at Lochluichart windfarm due to strong winds meaning the production value for the year is already +15%.  This compares to -10% for 2021 and +9% in 2020.  Siemens has the contract to maintain the turbines (or the “spinney turners” as the local school children called them when the site opened) and their yearly maintenance.  Seven local technicians service Lochluichart from Siemen’s base in inverness.  The turbines have performed well over the years but like a car need attention from time to time.  The winter period can cause problems accessing the site but a contract is in place for snow clearing so turbines can be accessed if they need attention.  There is currently one issue on site, damage to a blade and a new blade may need to be delivered to site.  If this happens, the Community Council will be kept updated with traffic movements.  A main bearing (three metres wide) may fail in the next 12-18 months.  Siemens are monitoring the issue and will advise accordingly.  Again, if police escort is needed to Newcastle, the Community Council will be informed.  Eneco and Infinergy are in discussions about the proposed extension to the windfarm, subject to planning permissions as noted above.  Community Council members had no questions.

David and Jonny were again thanked for their patience and for attending and left the meeting at 8.10pm.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **Trees in The Avenue** – work begun on Monday 7 November 2022 lasting around five days. Six dangerous leaning trees were cut down, some were 150-200 years old (our Chairman was out counting their rings). Other trees have had some surgery work with a general tidy up taking place on Friday 25 November 2022. The Lord Lieutenant and Cllr Kraft visited The Avenue after Remembrance Sunday service along with our Chairman and Community Council member Bob Moir to see the work for themselves. Other Community Council members have visited when passing. It has also been confirmed that there is no update with regards to a replanting schedule yet, probably further news in the spring 2023.

**White lining in Garve** – this is on the list along with the white lines on the A832 as you approach the Gorstan Junction from Corriemoillie and the white lines as you leave Little Garve and travel up to the main road. We note from Kyle Community Council minutes that budget agreement for white lining in the whole of ward five is yet to be agreed.

**Potholes at the Garve Recycle Bins** – have been filled in along with potholes on the **A832 at Lochluichart** on Friday 11 November 2022, thanks to all concerned. **Offlets** on the A832 at Lochluichart have been cleaned out.

**Fence on the riverside path in Garve** – Cllr Kraft, the Lord Lieutenant, our Chairman and Community Council member Bob Moir inspected the fence after Remembrance Sunday service. The fence post is completely rotten. It was also felt that the fence needs to be extended west along the riverside. Cllr Kraft has spoken to the Education Department and the Seasonal Access Officers to see what can be done as this is the safe route to Strathgarve Primary School. In related news, The Treasurer noted the following report online about the work of **the Seasonal Access Officers** - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14905/a_busy_season_for_access_rangers_in_wester_ross_strathpeffer_and_lochalsh>

**Speed survey for the A832** – at The Highland Council economy and infrastructure committee meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2022, it was agreed that early adoption of 20mph zones in line with Scottish Government policy will be considered at various locations throughout the Highlands including in Achnasheen, Achanalt, Grudie (including Mossford and Lochluichart), Gorstan and Garve Village. Speed survey work on this project will be carried out in spring 2023. Our thanks to Cllr Kraft for her support on this matter and those on the traffic calming group for their regular direct contact with us. We note from TG&DDC minutes that the traffic calming webpage has had around 800 visitors this year.

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 – £140,000 overnight resurfacing works on the A835 Rogie to Tarvie.** Essential surfacing improvements are set to be carried out on the A835 Rogie to Tarvie, located north of Contin. The £140,000 investment by Transport Scotland, which will see a 423m stretch of carriageway resurfaced, will ensure the A835 continues to operate safely for years to come. Starting this coming Sunday 11 December 2022, the works will take place between 8.00pm and 6.00am for three nights. This update has already appeared on our website, on social media and shared with neighbouring Community Councils. *(Post meeting note - these works have now been postponed until next year due to the current weather conditions).*

**Concealed exit sign for Little Garve** – Cllr Kraft has written to Transport Scotland and is awaiting a reply.

**Hedge cut/Killin Farm railway crossing works/barriers east of Garve** – Flora Smith at Killin Farm has updated us to say she has met with Calvin from BEAR. The barrier which is to extend from Killin to the check rail corner and the two hard standings for the level crossing have been put on hold as there is no money left in this year’s budget so the works won’t be before April 2023. Calvin has promised to get the beech hedge cut over the winter possibly before Christmas and/or before the next bird nesting period. Our thanks to Flora for her update.

**Speed survey for A835 through Garve** – the survey started on Wednesday 26 October 2022 and was completed about a week later. Cllr Kraft is trying to get the results for us. Perhaps Contin’s survey results could be shared with us to compare?

**Faults on the Trunk Road (A835)** should be reported via [www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/](http://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/) Community Council member Bob Moir reported three areas on the A835 at Tarvie (out with our area) where it appeared small sections of the road had been cut out, repaired but then sunk on Sunday 6 November 2022. These were attended to on Tuesday 15 November 2022, our thanks to all involved. The Treasurer noted flooding on the trunk road at Silverbridge and Garbat on social media which was attended to by BEAR and has reported a pothole at Blackbridge.

**Garve Biosphere signs** – we have been asked if/when these signs will be installed. Both Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) and Kathleen Steventon at the Biosphere group have confirmed that they are awaiting an update from Transport Scotland. It has been suggested we partly pay for the signs; costs are estimated at around £250 per sign. We have asked the Biosphere group directly why they aren’t paying/contributing to these costs themselves, only our local Development Company, awaiting a reply … It was agreed we don’t have any money to contribute and Biosphere should pay for their own signs. Sue Tarr wasn’t sure if the Biosphere was making a contribution but would find out for us.

**Garve Public Hall** **refurbishment** – in order to prepare prior to contractors starting work on the refurbishment of the Hall, the Hall will close on Saturday 31 December 2022. At present, the Hall Trustees anticipate reopening August/September 2023 but this will depend on various factors. Bob Moir (with his Hall Trustees hat on) informed us that two tenders had been received. Both companies wanted to start in January but funding needs to be secured and in place first before work begins. An end of year closure also gives the Trustees time to empty the Hall of items they want to keep, especially the historic items such as Mrs. Bell’s clock, benches etc … and store them properly. Bob noted things have come together very well in recent weeks including with the lawyers and the car park outside the Hall which will be needed for parking and to access the community owned land. Both contractors are willing to work with the community and the school which was important in this project. Community Council members welcomed the news as this has been a major priority for the community over the years and their wishes are now beginning to be fulfilled. Best wishes to all involved in the refurbishment, lots of hard work getting to this point!

**Wades Bridge** – The Treasurer was speaking to Murdo Maclennan from Forestry & Land Scotland a few weeks ago and he was going to chase the company involved to see when they’ll be starting the cleaning. She went for a walk this afternoon and no work has started yet.

**Cold weather payments** – we looked into this issue last year as concern had been raised that Achnasheen is linked to the Aultbea weather station however, cold weather payments have been devolved to the Scottish Government this winter and are now called the winter heating payment. Unlike the cold weather payment, winter heating payment does not depend on how cold the temperature gets. It's a yearly payment that’s paid out if you are on certain benefits. Full details can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/winter-heating-payment> This update has already appeared on our website, thanks to Cllr Kraft for updating us. The Treasurer asked about those on **oil systems**, is there any help for them? She thought perhaps £100 was being offered. Community Council member Bob Moir noted the following website - <https://www.cpsfuels.co.uk/news/update-on-100-government-support-for-home-heating-oil-users>

**Remembrance Sunday** – a service took place at the Garve War Memorial on Sunday 13 November 2022. It was a mild dry day, our Chairman was joined by the Secretary who had travelled especially from Alness to join us and all other Community Council members except the Treasurer who was unable to attend. He was also joined by Cllr Liz Kraft, the Lord and Deputy Lord Lieutenant and around 35 members of the community. It was particularly lovely to see our former Treasurer Eliza Lelie Melville in attendance. The Secretary laid the Community Council wreath on behalf of the community. The Memorial itself will be 100 years old in 2024. A photo of the occasion was presented to the Secretary a few days later in recognition of her many years’ service to the community.

**Dingwall Medical Practice** has asked for a representative from the Community Council to attend a meeting. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris had attended such meetings for us in the past, date of meeting tbc.

**TG&DDC** **AGM** took place on Tuesday 9 November 2022 via webcam which our Chairman attended. Sue Tarr and Andrew Biddlecombe were both re-elected to the board. There are still three vacancies, contact the Development Company directly for more details. During the Q&A session, it was confirmed that further work into costs associated with the building on the community owned land were being looked into and further consultation with the community would take place when more is known. **In other news,** Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) has confirmed that both Contin Community Council and “Peffery Way” have already been approached to write letters of support for “On ya Bike”, Shopmobility may be able to collect people in Contin, enquiries are ongoing and the community lunch idea needs thought as the company cannot provide food unless they adhere to certain criteria – registration under the Food Safety Management Scheme. Community lunches do take place in Contin in their new Hall, perhaps they can advise accordingly.

**GALE (Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum)** <https://galeactionforum.co.uk/> who are a Development Trust based in Gairloch have an AGM coming up this Thursday.  They are proposing changes to their Articles of Association so their operating area is more clearly defined - IV21 and IV22 which would then include Achnasheen.  We have not been consulted about this and have asked how this will work when our own local Development Company already covers Achnasheen as funding bodies don’t like funding groups who overlap.  Our Chairman has suggested to GALE that the vote be deferred until the people of IV22 are consulted fully.  Janet Miles replied to say the benefits are very broad and like any Development Trust cover a wide range of social, economic and environmental activities.  In addition, those living in the operating area can become members of the company and help manage its activities and shape the direction it takes in the future.  However, the proposal to clarify their area of operation is currently only a proposal at this stage which will be put to their members to vote on.  Janet also confirmed that she would raise our concerns at the AGM.  Neighbouring Community Councils and organisations have also written directly to GALE raising concerns/seeking clarification about their proposals.  Sue Tarr informed the meeting that Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) had written to GALE asking for more information.  Sue went on to give the example of TG&DDC having to go through the process of updating their Memorandum and Articles of Association by revising the postcodes defining the Garve & District boundary as it was a requirement if they had wanted to undertake the process of a Community Asset Transfer.  Sue also thought those other postcode areas that GALE is proposing to include should be consulted.  *(Post meeting note - the AGM took place but the vote was deferred).*

The **LCT AGM** was held in person in Garve Public Hall on Tuesday 15 November 2022 which our Chairman attended.  25 members of the LCT attended along with Carol Smith (LCT Secretary) and Alpin Stewart (LCT Solicitor), 10 members attending had already voted by proxy so didn't vote again at the meeting itself.  20 other members voted by proxy.  The accounts were adopted for 2021/2022.  Around £747,000 was awarded in the last 12 months to various projects. Janice Ross, Karen Grant and Marion Taylor were elected to the Board at the AGM.  Turnout was 41.6%.  The other four candidates did not receive enough votes.  Two seats remain empty on the Board, contact LCT directly for more details.

**A joint meeting** of local groups is proposed for January 2023. We will contact Carol Smith at LCT. No agenda items were suggested at this meeting. We still await notes of previous joint group meetings so we can share them accordingly.

**At our AGM** in June 2022, we agreed to introduce a **14-day rule** for proposing amendments to draft minutes with a review to take place at this meeting tonight. The Secretary felt it had worked very well and should remain in place. The Chairman agreed and other Community Council members raised no objections to the rule remaining in place. Our Chairman suggested this rule be sent to The Highland Council for consideration in the next review of the scheme.

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 would like 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** – PC Kieran McDonnell has now become our latest police liaison officer. No formal report received but 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, dashcam or photo evidence is also welcomed, indeed encouraged by the Police.

Press reports inform us that a **two-vehicle collision** took place on Monday 21 November 2022 at the Gorstan Junction. The collision happened at 7.25am. Traffic had been restricted in both directions. There were no details on any injuries. It was noted there was freezing fog in the area at the time of the incident. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris reported their weather station recorded -6.3c in the small hours, some change from +16c just over a week earlier!

**Fire service** – as reported in the press and raised at The Highland Council, there is concern that a number of local units across the Highlands may not be able to attend incidents going forward due to lack of volunteers as so many firefighters have retired/resigned. More details can be found at <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call-firefighter-recruitment/on-call-firefighter-volunteer-duty-system/>

**Emergency Planning**- Met Office Weather Warnings - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings#?date=2022-11-04>

Met Office Weather Ready [https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.metoffice.gov.uk%2Fweather%2Fwarnings-and-advice%2Fweatherready&data=05%7C01%7CDouglas.Crawford%40highland.gov.uk%7Cfbb7753c0fb745967f5408da92448b9b%7C89f0b56e6d164fe89dba176fa940f7c9%7C0%7C0%7C637983120364705982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xTl%2BBKjO3MnOEl8DbDnzclfh1pgO0LY4WvrqjHo3kG0%3D&reserved=0)

Floodline Scotland [https://floodlinescotland.org.uk/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffloodlinescotland.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7CDouglas.Crawford%40highland.gov.uk%7Cfbb7753c0fb745967f5408da92448b9b%7C89f0b56e6d164fe89dba176fa940f7c9%7C0%7C0%7C637983120364705982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s%2BToZ0tlePviLh7Cdm4p2WsBGTGuuaxjuOc%2FLzsTqE4%3D&reserved=0)

Ready Scotland – preparing for emergencies [https://ready.scot/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fready.scot%2F&data=05%7C01%7CDouglas.Crawford%40highland.gov.uk%7Cfbb7753c0fb745967f5408da92448b9b%7C89f0b56e6d164fe89dba176fa940f7c9%7C0%7C0%7C637983120364705982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zyOTtn7Vl1TRF5JMsVy3RAXxw%2B1QRs0gKPb7WSW6fPc%3D&reserved=0)

**Treasurer’s report** - £35.00 Date Protection renewal by Direct Debit is due around Saturday 31 December 2022. Bank balance is the same as last time - £2,035.62. The Treasurer will get a breakdown of the figures for us. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

**AOB from Community Council members** – our Chairman noted that **passenger numbers on the trains** in this area are rising again after covid, especially at Achanalt - <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/rail-passengers-number-still-well-down-on-pre-pandemic-level-294511/> He was asked recently what is the **population of Achnasheen**. It is around 35 people … with 45 streetlights to help you find them all!

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received notice of one consultation about proposed future UK parliament constituencies. The deadline for comments was yesterday. Community Council members were informed via email and an update was posted on our website. More details at <https://www.bcs2023review.com/> If the proposals are accepted, Achnasheen and Achanalt would be in a different constituency to the rest of the Community Council 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** - there is one new building warrant currently being shown on The Highland Council website for our area. 22/01996/NDOM5 is the conversion of barn to rental cottage below Dos Mucheran, Achanalt. This related to planning application 21/03869/FUL.

No previous planning applications have been determined by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting but at last month’s ordinary meeting we noted 22/04265/PNO, phase five peatland restoration project at Strathvaich. The case officer has now determined that prior approval is not required.

There is currently one planning application awaiting determination by The Highland Council for our area.

No new planning applications have been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting but they have received two Prior Notification Orders. 22/05442/PNO is the proposed formation of private way on land 1350m South of Luibfearn and 22/05443/PNO is the proposed formation of private way on land 330m South of Sruthan-Na-H'earba, Garbat.

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)

There are no new licensing issues for us to consider this evening.

Before our Chairman moved to the last item, he had to note Community Council member Joe Stewart has been unable to attend Community Council meetings since April 2021 due to work commitments which take him away from us and his family. Joe has also been unwell. Under 11.2 of the scheme, our Chairman had to ask Community Council members for agreement for Joe’s continued absence. Community Council members, proposed by the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer unanimously agreed Joe’s absence and noted his input via text and email is very much welcomed and appreciated therefore, no further action need be taken at this time. It was also noted that Joe did attend Remembrance Sunday with us and the lights in Garve last Saturday night and would probably like to be more at home if he could.

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

January 2023 – no meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 4 April 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 2 May 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 6 June 2023, **AGM** followed by an ordinary meeting, 7.00pm, webcam

July 2023 – no meeting

Tuesday 1 August 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 5 September 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 3 October 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 7 November 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

Tuesday 5 December 2023, 7.00pm, webcam

As usual, our Chairman started to draw the meeting to a close by asking all present if anyone had any final questions or thoughts on anything they had heard the evening, a question he often askes throughout the meeting too. Nobody had any final questions or thoughts. Although our meetings are not public meetings, members of the public are still very welcome to attend Community Council meetings and take part in the discussions under the guidance of the Chairman (see section 12 of the Constitution). A copy of our Constitution is available in the library section of our own website and hard/electronic copies are available from the Secretary.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.  He also thanked Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris for hosting the Zoom webcam session and as this was the final scheduled meeting of 2022, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked Community Council members for their work over the past 12 months. Community Council members wished each other well. The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

*At 1.00pm on Sunday 13 November 2022, Garve resident Alex Illingworth, Cllr Liz Kraft, Community Council Secretary Jennifer Haslam and the Lord Lieutenant Mrs Joanie Whiteford laid wreaths at the Garve War Memorial. Thank you to Alan Ross, Garve for letting us share his picture …*



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