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

**held on Tuesday 7 February 2023 on webcam**

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

**Also present on webcam**: Cllr Liz Kraft, Nick Sage (Infinergy from 7.00pm until 7.15pm) and two members of the public.

**Apologies**: Community Council members Joe Stewart and Jennifer Haslam (Secretary).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and as this was our first meeting of 2023, wished everyone a belated Happy New Year. 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 us 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).

About ten days after our last ordinary meeting our Secretary took ill.  With the unanimous agreement of Community Council members following consultation with The Highland Council, our Chairman is covering the Secretary's work for now so everyone is encouraged to contact us through our usual channels. This update has already appeared on our website. Community Council members were very shocked and concerned on hearing the news about the Secretary and send her our best wishes. The Secretary has been very touched by all the good wishes received both from within the community and from further afield.

Our Chairman wished to thank Cllr Kraft for her regular contact since our last meeting on various issues.

We were sad to hear Rhoda Urquhart of Lochluichart passed away about 10 days ago. She will be missed by many in our community. Our thoughts are with John and the family, the funeral will be held this Saturday.

Best wishes to Ilse Jack of Strathgarve who has been unwell.

**Declarations of Interest** – co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in the Infinergy project. 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 6 December 2022 via webcam.

Sue Tarr wrote to us about the GALE item saying she felt what appeared in the draft minute was not quite what she had said, and unfortunately the meaning of what she did say has changed as a consequence. Sue was happy to confirm in writing the points she made at the meeting and also clarified she generally attends as a member of the public therefore the text … “*Sue Tarr (with her development hat on) noted changes in legalisation regarding the community asset transfer process means this proposal may be genuine*.” should perhaps read … *“Sue Tarr informed the meeting that Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) had written to GALE asking for more information. Sue also 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”*. Sue is content with the proposed amendment. Community Council members agreed the amendment and as no other proposed amendments had been received within the 14-day rule (or since), the draft minute with the amendment was then proposed for approval by Sadie-Michaela Harris and seconded by Bob Moir, 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. A summary report of the meetings is available in the local newsletter and in the An Carrannach. Under 2.1 of standing orders, our Chairman is to sign approved minutes but he also likes a second signature. As the Secretary is on sick leave, he asked if the Treasurer could countersign until the Secretary returns to work, proposed Kenny Maclean, seconded Bob Moir, unanimously agreed. Minutes will be signed by our Chairman and Treasurer in due course via post.

**Matters arising** – **Infinergy** – co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville declared an interest in this project and took no part in the discussions. [www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/](http://www.lxxwindfarm.co.uk/) The planning application went before The Highland Council’s North Planning Applications Committee on Wednesday 25 January 2023 (21/02985/FUL, Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II Redesign - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 40 years, comprising of 5 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height 149.9m (from the consented height of 133m), access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure). The planning committee unanimously approved the amended design.  The meeting can be viewed on The Highland Council website, no major issues were raised at the meeting. Nick Sage informed us that Infinergy will now be working on a construction plan but the Section 37 (which is the application to connect to the National Grid) is yet to be determined so that needs to be in place before construction begins. Nick hopes construction will begin before the end of this year but discharge of planning conditions must also be in place first along with the S37. Our Chairman asked why has it taken 18 months for this amended planning application to be determined? Nick felt a number of factors such as NatureScot wanting updated surveys, staff shortages etc had all contributed. Our Chairman also noted that one of the planning conditions requires a “Community Traffic Liaison Officer”. Will this be on a smaller scale than the EDF liaison meetings? Nick thought probably as only five turbines are being constructed. A construction manager needs to be appointed first. Sue Tarr asked about community benefit. Nick confirmed there will be community benefit but those discussions wouldn’t be until next year, one option would be to use existing mechanisms, but Infinergy would seek guidance from the Community Council as a starting point. Nick went on to tell us he is resigning from Infinergy and is moving onto pasture new. Fiona Milligan remains in post. Nick has very much enjoyed his visits to our meetings which he has found entertaining but also very informative, he has learnt a lot from us! Our Chairman thanked him for his kind words and wished him well.

On Monday 19 December 2022 we received the latest update from **EDF Corriemoillie windfarm education and training fund.** One applicant from our area received £1,000 to fund travel costs relating to skills for work: Motor Vehicle SCQF Level 4 and another applicant from our area received £1,000 to contribute to costs relating to MSc Physics and Astrophysics (year two award). More details as usual at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/corriemoillie-education-training> Our thanks to Marion McDonald at Foundation Scotland for the update which has already appeared on our website.

Nick Sage was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.15pm.

**Highland Council updates** – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) – **Trees in The Avenue** – no news about the replanting plan is expected until the spring.

**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 that budget agreement for 2023/24 for white lining in the whole of ward five is yet to be agreed.

**Fence on the riverside path in Garve –** no news, Cllr Kraft to chase up. Will the Seasonal Access Officers be employed again? Perhaps a job for them? Cllr Kraft noted the suggestion but was not sure if the 2023/24 budget (still under discussion) allows for them and some of their original funding came from NatureScot via covid funds.

**The Highland Council winter maintenance program** can be found at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/107/winter_road_maintenance> Press reports inform us that a woman was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital following a crash on the A832. The crash, which took place at around 9.30am on Tuesday 20 December 2022, happened on the A832 just east of Achanalt. The crash took two Range Rovers off the road. The Achanalt to Garve road was said by some to be covered in black ice at the time of the incident. As soon as we received word of this incident, our Chairman contacted Cllr Kraft for an update as to when the road had actually been gritted last and had it rained since washing the grit off the road. Cllr Kraft wrote to Ian Moncrieff at The Highland Council after the accident for an update but did not receive a response. Cllr Kraft did wonder if the Police were investigating but now doesn’t think they are. Perhaps an issue for the upcoming joint Community Council meeting. It was also noted that you need traffic to work the grit into the ice/snow. Cllr Kraft also noted that some constituents have asked why the gritters and ploughs don't have the blades down to the road surface. Cllr Kraft has been advised that there is a risk that the blades would damage the road and quickly wear out if this were the case along with the rubber strip on the bottom of the blade. In addition, having the blades on the road surface could affect suspension and steering of the lorries.

**Potholes** - the snow left us a number of potholes throughout our area, especially on the A832 at Achanalt. All potholes on Highland Council roads should be reported directly via <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/road_faults> We note the roads teams are doing the best they can to get around to all the issues, the Silverbridge team were at Achanalt yesterday, the Lochcarron team were on the A890 south of Achnasheen last week. Co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville noted two bad potholes at Corriemoillie and was surprised a serious accident had not already occurred because of them. He thought the road (in places) looked like a quilt as it was so patched up. Kim Bannister, a local resident emailed today to tell us of potholes outside her house at Mossford which resulted in her husband being injured after loose stones hit him on the head. She has reported the potholes several times directly to The Highland Council. Several concerning photos of the A832 have appeared on social media. Cllr Kraft confirmed the Silverbridge team are spending this week patching the A832 and they have the hotbox with them so hot tar can be used but that is dependent on the weather. Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris asked Cllr Kraft if she could obtain clarify on the following points … 1. Is there still a difficulty getting hold of the product for resurfacing as was the case in the Summer 2022, please can we have an update? 2a. Is it the case that if an issue has already been logged but not repaired and causes damage to a vehicle, is it the case that the owner of the damaged vehicle can claim compensation from The Highland Council or BEAR, whichever is the responsible party? 2b. If this is the case - how much compensation has The Highland Council paid out in the past 12 months? Cllr Kraft explained emulsion has been difficult to get and some are not so good in cold climates. Cllr Kraft confirmed resurface is a capital budget project but budget discussions for 2023/24 are ongoing. Cllr Kraft was unsure how many payments had been made or the total sum paid out by The Highland Council due to potholes but would ask. The roads are a top priority for all Cllrs in this ward and the police have also raised safety concerns. Cllr Kraft confirmed that no levelling up funds came to The Highland Council for roads but they have applied to another fund. It was agreed that everyone must report to The Highland Council any issue and keep a note of the reference number. Cllr Kraft is happy to pass issues on directly to the roads department and often sends them photos of the roads while out travelling in the ward. She has found them to be very helpful. Our Chairman can’t recall the A832 so bad after a spell of heavy snow, especially as the road, in places, is less than 30 years old. Has NC500 been a factor?

The Treasurer reported directly to The Highland Council on Wednesday 21 December 2022 the **very icy road surface on Wades Bridge** and asked for grit boxes, none received but grit was dumped at the road end. Cllr Kraft will chase this up along with grit boxes for Strathgarve.

**Wades Bridge** **clean-up** – no further news due to staff on sick leave but we did note STV weatherman Sean Batty was filming in the Garve/Little Garve area during the recent heavy snowfalls. It is thought he was staying next to the Garve Hotel. <https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/sean-batty-chasing-the-snow-to-garve-in-the-highlands>

The **Achnasheen public toilets** closed about a week before Christmas. We asked Cllr Kraft for an update who confirmed that the site closed due to a burst pipe, Scottish Water were dealing with this along with staff in The Highland Council’s property department. Cllr Kraft also noted Skye Cllrs have been asking about the toilets following concerns raised to them by their constituents, clearly a popular stop! We thank Cllr Kraft for the update. Our Chairman updated our website and neighbouring Community Councils as some social media reports suggested the toilets were permanently closed for other reasons. The men’s and disabled toilets reopened on Wednesday 11 January 2023 but further works were required in the ladies which opened a few days later.

**Speed survey for the A832 –** no news yet, not expecting any developments until the spring but The Highland Council has confirmed that Matheson Road and Stirling Drive in Garve are being considered as 20mph zones on a full-time basis. PC Craig Allan notes that to the best of his understanding, there is basically an accepted percentage of speeders, everywhere all day every day. It is his understanding that 15% is the number so anything over 15% could be seen as a local issue. These are usually reflected in the results after the survey. We thank PC Allan for his insight and who will, if staffing is available, try and get out with his speed gun again. Is this 15% of all speeders or 15% above a certain speed?

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** – **speed survey for A835 through Garve** – the survey started on Wednesday 26 October 2022 and was completed a week later. We formally requested the survey results which shows around 23,000 vehicle movements took place that week. The results can be found in the library section of our website. We have also passed the report onto the traffic calming group via Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC), our thanks to her. A further survey summery which we have not shared yet shows some vehicles were travelling at speeds over 40mph in Garve but it is not clear how much faster. When we asked for more details, we were told this wasn’t suitable data to publish. We have therefore requested such key data via a freedom of information request, awaiting a response.

**Concealed exit sign for Little Garve** – our Chairman spoke to BEAR roads men on Thursday 19 January 2023 who didn’t feel more signs were required. The Treasurer still felt it to be a dangerous junction, especially when the ferry traffic is flying downhill heading east.

**The Hedge** at the east end of Garve was completely cut down last Wednesday. Our thanks to Flora Smith for the update. Flora feels it will make a big difference for sight lines when using the Killin Farm railway crossing.

**Killin Farm railway crossing works/barriers east of Garve** – no further news.

The postponed **resurfacing works at Tarvie** are due to begin tonight. Advance notice was put on our website and social media also carried the news of the overnight closures along with roadside signage. Neighbouring Community Councils were also given advance warning. Sue Tarr noted men were on site tonight putting out signs. We also note patching works will be taking place this week between Contin and Braemore Junction with stop/go boards.

Although not in our area, we have been made aware that BEAR Scotland are planning to undertake essential maintenance works between February and May 2023 on the **A835 Ardcharnich bridge**, located five miles South of Ullapool. The works will involve removal and replacement off all surfacing and bridge decking, waterproofing, concrete repairs, local widening of carriageway over structure, improvements to bridge parapets and installation of approach vehicle safety barriers. These works are being carried out to maintain the structure and improve vehicle safety in proximity to the bridge.

Again, although not in our area, the **A9 Kessock Bridge** has been closed several times in recent months due to police incidents.  This seems to be happening more often resulting in some of our own residents taking four hours to get home from Inverness via Beauly.  Our Chairman has been asked by local residents what measures will be taken to address the issues? Our Chairman understands that a working group has been set up with local organisations including BEAR Scotland, Transport Scotland, NHS Scotland, The Highland Council, Emergency Services, Mental Health Groups and related charities.  They are working together to consider various short, medium and long-term solutions at the bridge and approach routes to the bridge and a feasibility study has already been initiated. The range of measures under consideration by the group includes (according to press reports) improved CCTV cameras on the Kessock Bridge and physical barriers for people’s safety. Lovat Bridge over the River Beauly and Clachnaharry Bridge over the railway are often pinch points when traffic is diverted via Beauly because of the narrow bridges being managed by traffic lights. The A862 is a Highland Council road and Cllr Kraft has already spoken to Cllrs in these wards who share our concerns over the whole situation and have asked what can be done to improve traffic flow over these bridges. Our Chairman suggested the traffic lights be re-phased to allow more traffic over at a time.

**Faults on the Trunk Road (A835)** should be reported via [www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/](http://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/)

**Garve Biosphere signs** - Tina Hartley (Community Engagement and Development Officer, TG&DDC) has written to us to say that her suggestion that we may wish to contribute to the costs of new signs was really based on the work the Community Council does to support traffic calming in Garve & District and that this project would be a nice way of a joint working effort between the three organisations involved – Development Company, Wester Ross Biosphere and ourselves.  At TG&DDC request, Kathleen Steventon at Wester Ross Biosphere has been researching appropriate signage and liaising with Transport Scotland.  Tina confirmed again that the Development Company have no problem at all paying for the signs in full and that this was agreed in the beginning with Kathleen.  We thank Tina for the update.

**Support for oil heating users** – following on from discussions at our last ordinary meeting, the Treasurer noted more information regarding payments for people who use oil or LPG to heat homes, it seems this has been doubled to £200 via a statement by Jeremy Hunt. More details at <https://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/22874398.westminster-criticised-100-heating-oil-payment/> and <https://blog.boilerjuicecloud.com/blog/how-do-i-get-my-100-heating-oil-payment/> This update has already appeared on our website. Community Council member Bob Moir noted he had received an email today on this very subject, the £200 will be administrated via electricity account.

On Tuesday 23 January 2023, Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris and our Chairman attended an online presentation organised by TG&DDC regarding **community transport**.  Speakers from the Community Transport Association (CTA) gave some background to their work supporting community transport groups.  Ferintosh Community Council and Badenoch and Strathspey Community Connections presented various initiatives in their communities.  Representatives from Garve, Contin, Ullapool and Shieldaig also attended along with Cllr Kraft. CTA knows of 353 schemes across Scotland. Of these, around 24% are door to door services like Shopmobility, 30% group vehicle hire while only 11% run community buses.  CTA are funded by Transport Scotland and member subscriptions.  They felt inclusion, reduce isolation, reduce carbon emissions and sustainability were key points when thinking about setting up a scheme. Badenoch and Strathspey Community Connections are funded by The Highland Council, Scottish Government, NHS, fundraising and grants and felt without funding they could not run, there is also the pressure of funding cuts. Their three vehicles serve their area of 14,000 people. They have one paid driver and the rest are volunteer drivers. They suggested each community will have its own needs and suggested we publicise what services exist now as a starting point.  To this end, our Chairman has supplied our local newsletter with all the existing train/bus/car services available to be summarised in the next issue. There are currently eight trains a day Monday-Saturday and eight different bus/car services available. It was noted the poor turnout at the meeting by local residents and the very few (max six) using Shopmobility but people in Contin should also be able to use the Shopmobility bus soon. Cllr Kraft confirmed that she was been in discussions with Tina Hartley, Ewan Bush (TG&DDC local energy officer) and Contin Community Council on this matter along with Highland Council officials but to get funding for several areas is not straightforward. Cllr Kraft felt people had a right to transport and perhaps a demand/response service would be best but a section 19 licence would be required. Bus/school bus contracts could be changed to meet demand but Cllr Kraft felt that should only happen after community consultation. Cllr Kraft gave an example in Dingwall where people couldn’t get to the health centre as scheduled buses didn’t go down their street. Funding was found so Shopmobility could collect everyone from their homes and take them. It was suggested Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon Community Council should also be involved and possibly Strathpeffer. The Treasurer noted that the Postbuses were a great loss to remote and rural areas as a method of community transportation. It was further suggested that some existing services such as the Conon Pharmacy (prescription) delivery service perhaps needs greater promotion. What other existing services are out there?

On Tuesday 24 January 2022, The Treasurer, Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris, co-opted member Hamish Leslie Melville and our Chairman attended the **joint meeting** of TG&DDC, LCT and Community Council which was held online.  The main issue of concern for the Development Company was their area of benefit and how it might be changed as their current article four states that their area has to be the same as the Community Council.  The issues at GALE also raised concerns.  It was suggested the Development Company take advice and reword their article four if necessary to ensure the current area remains the same for them in the future.  LCT reminded everyone that their area is tied in with their articles and also their legal agreements they have with the windfarms so can not be changed. In other points raised, there was a very brief mention of the Community Transport project (as detailed above) and Ewan Bush's funding was coming to an end but TG&DDC are seeking further funding. TG&DDC are currently looking to see who might be interested in a coal buying club. Notes of previous joint meetings are available in the library section of our website. When asked, Sue Tarr told us there were no further actions to report at this stage.

**GALE update** – their members vote on proposed changes to their articles (including Achnasheen in their area of benefit) was deferred. They will look at the wording again to see what can be done to address the concerns raised as reported at our last meeting. In a further update received yesterday, Janet Miles told us that they still haven’t made any changes to their articles and have not yet drafted any amended proposes either so no progress to report at this stage. Our thanks to Janet for the update. We also note the concerns raised on social media by Gairloch residents of both the proposed changes to the articles and of those who have had their membership requests declined.

**Police report** - no formal report received but we note the unmarked police car stopped several vehicles in the Achanalt and Achnasheen area on Friday 30 December 2022. 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.

**Treasurer’s report** – our direct debit payment for data protection of £35.00 was deducted from our bank account on Tuesday 3 January 2023, plus a £40.00 payment for fuel for our Chairman, leaving us an overall balance of £1,960.62 (balance was £2,035.62 at the last meeting). The breakdown of those figures is treasurers account - £422.17 and reserve - £1,538.45. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

**AOB from Community Council members** – Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted **old style Royal Mail stamps** can still be used until Monday 31 July 2023 - <https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps>

Both The Treasurer and community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris noted the deadline to apply for a **short term lets** licence had been extended until October 2023 - <https://www.highland.gov.uk/shorttermlets> Cllr Kraft explained this is a UK wide policy but the extension was granted by the Scottish Government. The Highland Council has employed eleven extra staff to deal with around 3,000 applications received, around 450-500 have so far been processed since the extra staff were taken on towards the end of 2022. Cllr Kraft noted the rules are much stricter in England in what was a non-regulated industry. In Devon for instance, council tax has quadrupled for holiday let properties (that can’t happen in Scotland currently). In Badenoch and Strathspey, they have taken the scheme a step further by introducing a control zone as a pilot where those who wish to let out their houses also need planning permission as there are already so many holiday lets. Another community in ward five have also asked to be part of a control zone but the four ward Cllr’s would like to see how the pilot in Badenoch and Strathspey goes first. A **form of tourist tax (levy)** is also currently being discussed by The Highland Council. Cllr Kraft is happy to help anyone in ward five that may be having difficulty applying for a short term lets licence as can Citizens Advice Scotland. Cllr Kraft also noted <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8395/CBP-8395.pdf> as a useful fair read on the subject. It was felt by some that this isn’t suitable for country locations, more city based (flats with shared entrances etc…) and the new rules have been foisted upon all, what neighbours do crofts have? More apt for city holiday rentals. Are pods needing registered per pod? (Cllr Kraft will check). Who will check if all businesses are registered? We, as a tourist destination don’t want to put people off if they have to pay a tourist levy (it was noted it is common place across Europe).

The Treasurer asked if we had any further update from **NHS Highland** following their presentation at our last meeting, no further news received.

Concern has been raised with our Chairman by local residents and neighbouring Community Councils about the lack of **dentists taking on NHS patients**. Cllr Kraft confirmed that she too was aware of such concerns and that she had a lot of dealings with NHS Highland and dentistry through Maree Todd MSP's office. The surgeries are struggling to recruit saying Brexit has hugely affected their ability to recruit.  The Scottish Government has put in measures but any change will not be instant. Cllr Kraft would advise individuals struggling to get NHS dental treatment to go directly to their MSP who can raise individual cases. Community Councils in the Lochalsh/Skye area are meeting online tonight to discuss the particular matter. Cllr Kraft highlighted that Maree Todd MSP will be holding surgeries in the ward in the coming weeks. Emergency telephone numbers are in place, again contact the MSP if needed, nobody should be in pain - <https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/your-services/all-services-a-z/dental-helpline-and-emergency/>

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

**Screening reports, scoping reports and consultations** – we have received one consultation from Scottish Forestry - Forestry Grant Scheme: 22FGS69776, Moine Thorranach Woodland Creation near Braemore. The deadline for comments is Friday 24 February 2023. More details can be viewed at

<https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/public-registers/register-of-felling-permissions-and-forestry-grant-scheme> Community Council members raised no objections.

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. 22/00552/DOM2/A is the construction of 1.5 storey house and garage with home office annexe above – amendment - revised house design, due to build costs and omission of garage /annex at North Hill Forest Cottage, Silverbridge.

We again note 21/02985/FUL - Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II Redesign - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 40 years, comprising of 5 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height 149.9m (from the consented height of 133m), access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure has now been granted planning permission. The planning application was discussed at our August 2021 ordinary meeting … a very long-time awaiting determination!

At our last ordinary meeting we noted two prior notification orders (PNO’s). 22/05442/PNO, the proposed formation of private way on land 1350M South of Luibfearn and 22/05443/PNO, the proposed formation of private way on land 330M South of Sruthan-Na-H'earba. The Case Officer has determined that PNO’s are not required for either application. This update has already appeared on our website.

19/01861/S36 - Kirkan Wind Farm - construction of wind farm comprising of 17 turbines (height to hub 104m, height to blade tip 175m), associated access tracks, borrow pits, compounds, substation and 104m high met mast – a reporter undertook a Public Local Inquiry between 22 and 24 March 2022. The report on the application had been passed to Scottish Ministers for consideration. However, following publication of revised draft National Planning Framework 4, the Onshore Wind Energy Policy Statement and the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, the Public Local Inquiry has been reopened to consider these documents. The hearing session to consider evidence on these documents was due to take place last week.

Two new PNO’s have been noted since our last ordinary meeting, 22/05783/PNO was the proposed peatland restoration works on Lochrosque Estate which was determined by the Case Officer on Tuesday 10 January 2023 (prior approval not required). 22/05554/PNO was the proposed peatland restoration project within the Ben Wyvis National Nature Reserve which is tagged to an address in our area but is in fact out with our area. This has already been raised with the planning department. The Case Officer determined no prior approval required on Thursday 19 January 2023. This update has already appeared on our website.

Four new planning applications have been received by The Highland Council since our last ordinary meeting. 22/05276/FUL is the proposed siting of a self-contained unit for holiday letting next to Glentawik, Little Garve. We passed this onto those in the Little Garve/Gorstan area via email to make them aware and noted the application on our website. In order to meet deadlines for any comments (Friday 30 December 2022), Community Council members viewed the plans online and raised no objections. This update has already appeared on our website.

22/05109/FUL is the proposed erection of 40m high tower and associated ancillary works on land 645M North of Oldtown, Achanalt. We passed this onto those in the Achanalt area via email to make them aware and noted the application on our website. In order to meet deadlines for any comments (Friday 13 January 2023), Community Council members viewed the plans online and raised no objections. This update has already appeared on our website.

23/00039/FUL is the proposed construction of house & garage to an amended design (21/05895/FUL) at North Hill Forest Cottage. We passed this onto those living in that area via email to make them aware and noted the application on our website. Community Council members viewed the plans online and raised no objections although Community Council member Sadie-Michaela Harris did note the amount of excavation on site that was once forestry land. This update has already appeared on our website.

23/00224/OHL is the proposed installation of 33kV overhead line at North Hill Forest Cottage. We passed this onto those living in that area via email to make them aware and noted the application on our website. Community Council members viewed the plans and raised no objections.

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 were no licensing issues to consider.

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

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 on request.

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 9.00pm.

Signed ……………………………..

Signed ……………………………..

Date ……………………………….

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

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