

## Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Note of informal meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at 19.00

1. Present

Catriona Menzies (CM), Lea MacNally (LMacN), Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), Phillipa Maltby (PM), Kevin Sutherland (KS)

No apologies were received

2. Topics raised, discussed and deferred for consideration until formal meeting (to be arranged):

(a) Playpark roundabout: The roundabout is to be delivered. An estimate of £12,000 for its installation has been received – very much more than we had been led to understand. KB will investigate alternatives and report.

(b) Old Bridge: KB is aware that the owner of the river bank and the fishing (Paul Williamson) has put the property on the market, stating in the particulars that he is not the owner of the bridge or responsible for it in any way. It is nevertheless of considerable importance in relation to any use of fishing rights and therefore to the valuation of the property. Four parties are said to be interested in the purchase. An engineer has been instructed (it is not known by whom) to report on the state of the bridge and to comment on the possibility of its reinstatement. It is understood that the report indicates that a complete rebuilding or replacement would be required to make it safe for vehicle use. Two of the potential buyers are said to want to know the view of the community in relation to the bridge: should it be a vehicle crossing or a pedestrian one, and should it be replaced as a reproduction of old engineering? Leaving it as a ruin was also mentioned. Discussion of how to ascertain public opinion was deferred to the next formal meeting.

(c) Post Office site; and information about Aberchalder Estate boundaries in the village: The boundaries of the Aberchalder estate properties in Invergarry can now be seen on the Registers of Scotland online site. At the Post Office site, the boundary exactly follows the line of the building's walls and the south side of the layby. After discussion, it was decided, in view of the significance of the site for the village and the community, to defer consideration of the implications to a formal meeting of GCC, and to invite Highland Regional Council (HRC) to become involved in a public meeting.

(d) Public transport in the glen: A Dalchreichart resident has contacted KB to enquire if residents of the GCC area would be interested in joining a project to start a community bus service in the area, following the inauguration of such schemes at Ferrintosh, on the Black Isle and elsewhere. Apparently, there are indications that wind farm community benefit funds might be available; the next date for applications for such funds will be August 2023. Highland Transport and HRC are said to be supportive, though no funds are available from them. It was noted that

the development of affordable housing at Ardoch, and the evolution of social and economic attitudes, might favour improved transport infrastructure. The possibility of lobbying for a bus stop on the A87 near Ardoch and Daingean was mentioned. It will be important to gather the views of all households in the area. The matter is to be carried forward to the next formal meeting.

- (e) Post Office lease: The Post Office lease is due for renewal or review. This matter was deferred to the next formal meeting.
  - (f) War Memorial service: This will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00. Details in relation to the wreaths and the piper were deferred to the next meeting. In the meantime, NS will enquire for a piper.
  - (g) Christmas Party for seniors: The party is always well received, and the efforts made during lockdown to deliver Christmas meals were much appreciated. Glengarry Trust still has Millennium and hydro funds available. LMacN said that the catering, drinks and volunteer helpers all need to be organised.
3. Meeting with representatives of Fred Olsen Renewables (FOR) about proposed wind farm at Cullachy  
Kirsty Leiper (KL), FOR head of communications, Julie Aitken, senior project manager and Nathan Liddell, assistant project manager attended by invitation. Some complaints had been received. As a result, FOR has decided to reduce the size and number of the proposed turbines, and to reposition them. The plan is now to install eight turbines providing a total of 37 megawatts. The link to the grid will be made to the Auchterawe sub-station. The details of the route for that are still to be determined. The potential community benefit from the project will amount to about £280,000 per annum for 35 years. There have been questions about access and representations have been made about the significance of the Wade Military Road. It was confirmed that the parts of the Road of most heritage significance would not be used at all, and that protective coverings would be laid on the parts used. Land management plans are being made to address such issues as compensation planting, the welfare of ground nesting birds, and landscape restitution. FOR are alive to questions about the green credentials of turbine manufacture and recycling processes. More surveys are to be done and it is expected that the project will be submitted for planning permission in 2023. An exhibition and public information session will be held in Glengarry Community Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> October from 11.00 to 19.00. FOR are keen that people should attend. KL said that it is important for people who support the project to make their opinions known. If only objectors respond, there is an incomplete picture of a community's views.
4. Next meeting  
CM will contact Dot Ferguson, who has the authority to arrange a meeting and temporary Chair.