

Glengarry Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall on 5th December 2022 at 19.00

1. Present and apologies

Present: Catriona Menzies, chair (CM); Lea MacNally, treasurer (LMacN); Cecilia Dyckhoff, secretary (CD); Neillie Stewart (NS); Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); Kevin Sutherland (KS).

Apologies: Cllr Liz Saggars

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed: KB; seconded: NS; accepted nem con.

3. Matters Arising

Playpark equipment: KB has not yet received a specification of works from Highland Council (HC); he will ask Cllr Andrew Baldrey (AB) to help with this. Neither has he yet received confirmation that the equipment has been delivered to the donor.

4. Financial Report

LMacN's monthly report was noted as previously circulated. He explained that there was an extra cost for the poppy wreaths owing to a discrepancy with last year's order. It was noted that there is £7,000 in the bank account. It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £500 should be made for the children's Christmas party. NS proposed that a gift should be made to Amy Hunter, the retiring school crossing officer, to mark her retirement. It was agreed that we should give her a gift token of £100 and flowers, and that LMacN and PM should arrange this. LMacN presented the report that he will be making to the Shinty Club in respect of the expenditure of the club's annual grant to GCC. LMacN is preparing the annual accounts for HC.

LMacN has been in contact with Malcolm Crosbie of Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), in relation to their grant. KB pointed out that the charities regulator deprecates the passing of grants from one charity to another.

The possibility of asking for HC funding to provide Zoom or Teams facilities at the Community Hall for the use of GCC and other organisations was considered. The benefits and problems of such a system were discussed. It was suggested that the cost of the equipment should be determined. It was noted that online access might encourage the attendance of Councillors at GCC meetings.

In relation to the use of GCC funds, KB proposed that suggestions for extraordinary expenditure should be made in writing to GCC in advance of meetings, in order to allow for the possibility that individual councillors might need to recuse themselves.

5. Post Office site lease

KB circulated his request to John Bell (JB) of Twin Deer Law for advice. No reply has yet been received. It was agreed that the following alterations to the terms of the lease should be intimated to the tenant before its automatic renewal: (a) in relation to the prohibition of uses other than as a Post Office, there should be a condition that any other proposed use should be subject to approval by the landlords; (b) in relation to maintenance, it was noted that GCC's responsibility is to maintain the building wind and watertight and that security is the responsibility of the tenant; but it was agreed that GCC might undertake cosmetic works, such as painting the external walls, on an ad hoc basis, no more than once a year; (c) after discussion, it was agreed that the rent should remain at the present level; (d) after discussion, it was decided that the present use of part of the premises by Royal Mail as a sorting office should be regularised by granting a six months' licence for that use, following which the position should be further formalised. KB will liaise with JB about intimating these decisions to the tenant.

6. Public transport

KB has been in communication with a Dalchreichart resident about the possibility of small scale public transport being introduced in the area. The original proposer being no longer in the area, it is understood that the suggestion has been abandoned.

7. Road markings

It was noted with approval that the worn out road markings in the village had been refreshed the day after the last meeting, and that no intervention had been necessary.

8. School crossing

CM reported that she had spoken to the HC Education Department and been told that the post of school crossing officer in Invergarry is to be advertised, given the traffic danger and the lack of an automated crossing in the village. The position will be open for job sharing, and training will be given. Cllr Andrew Baldrey was thanked in his absence for his assistance.

9. Any other competent business

- (a) KB noted that HC's intimation of planning applications is still sent to an email address to which GCC at present has no access. He undertook to check for applications and to advise councillors. It was agreed that it is important for GCC to respond to planning applications, even if no formal comment is made.
- (b) In relation to the question of the GCC email address, LMacN said that he would discuss its retrieval with the former Secretary.
- (c) LMacN confirmed that he would arrange for Christmas trees at the church and in the Hall as soon as possible, and make arrangements with HC workers for putting up the lights on the outdoor tree.
- (d) NS said he has seen HC safety inspectors at the playpark and has been informed that one tree is to be regularly monitored. It was agreed that KB would ask Cllr AB to check what the inspection programme will be.
- (e) Residents of Garry Bank have indicated their appreciation of the Village Officer's tidying works there.

- (f) It was noted that there has been some concern amongst residents about whether one of HC's departments ought to have been involved in evaluating whether a building project in the village made correct use of the permitted development rules, in particular in relation to access to a house. It was agreed that GCC would ask HC to confirm that the development is in accordance with the rules.
- (g) It was noted that Kenneth Knott, of Black Sheep Farms Ltd, has offered to meet GCC to answer any questions that residents may have about the new farming operation between the Tornacarry bridge and Inchlaggan. KB said that Mr Knott had offered to attend today's meeting, but was prevented from doing so by unavoidable difficulties. It was agreed that CD would write to him.

10. Next meetings

The next meetings will be on 9th January and 6th February 2023 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall.