

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Meeting

held on 8th April 2024 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

1 - Present, apologies and conflicts of interest

Kevin Sutherland (KS), chair, Lea MacNally (LMacN), treasurer, George Cross (GX), vice chair, Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Philippa Maltby (PM), Gillian Carruthers (GC); one member of the public - Mars Projects Ltd (MPL) representative Kenneth Knott (KK). Two members of public for item 7 on the agenda.

Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), secretary - apologies were received.

No conflicts of interest were intimated.

2 - Minutes of 4th March 2024

The minutes of 4th March 2024 were adopted. Proposed: GC; seconded KB.

GX informed GCC that the management of community councils was being changed by Highland Council and that there is now a new generic email address and other contacts to be used. Dot Ferguson, whilst still involved, is no longer our direct contact. GCC thanks Dot for her support over the years.

7 - State of U1207 from Coire Shubh to Kinlochhourn

With the permission of the Chairman item 7 of the agenda was taken. John Gordon (JG) explained the issues regarding the poor state of the road down to Kinloch Hourn and that he was here to represent all those working and living at the end of the road. There have been a number of accidents and burst tyres caused. Postal and other deliveries were subject to delays and flooding was an issue. In response, KB asked if there were any police reports but this was unknown. He went on to explain the possibilities of 'planning gain'. GX suggested JG and Harriet Gordon (HG) should be able to get involved in the prospective SSEN Community Liaison Group (CLG) for the Skye Replacement project, that is currently dealing with road works. KS gave a contact within Highland Council (HC) who is involved in roads. KB and KS will send relevant information to CD for onward transmission to John and Harriet. GCC are supportive of this very remote community and encourages HC to fix the road. John then covered a second matter, that of the possibility of funding for energy production, as the end of the road is 'off grid'. He explained the circumstances, with new solar panels and batteries with back up generator etc. Connection to the grid has in the past been considered but the complexity and expense being prohibitive a possibility is wind generation. Initial costings suggested about £40k would be needed. KB mentioned the thrust for decarbonisation and Foundation Scotland. Again, KB would forward the relevant information to CD for JG and HG. LMacN, mentioned possible funding avenues via groups such as the Glengarry Trust. JG and HG thanked GCC and left the meeting.

3 - Matters arising

- (a) Playground equipment: NS explained that HC had a new finance system but that there would soon be an invoice issued for the roundabout, at £8245. NS mentioned Councillor Baldrey and that there seemed to be some doubt about the hamster wheel, but NS remains hopeful that this too will be forthcoming.

- (b) Derelict house: GX covered the information CD had previously circulated from HC Environmental Health. It was noted that ownership is available on the land registry and that Building Control intended to carry out an inspection under their 'dangerous buildings' remit. GX also mentioned another possible route is for the neighbour to request a fire risk assessment from the Scottish Fire Service. GCC felt that there is no more to be done by them at this stage.
- (c) Post Office: GX requested agreement to the previously circulated terms of reference for the Post Office sub-committee. There was discussion regarding whether it was the 'post' or the 'named individuals' and it was agreed, given there is a time limit on the sub-committee, that it would remain as the named individuals. KB noted that the most pressing issue related to the lease and asked if that was within the remit. It was agreed that all matters related to the post office was part of the 'management' as at item 3 of the Terms. The Terms of Reference were agreed.
- (d) GCC website: After discussion it was agreed that the website previously circulated to the group could now be formally published online. The difficulty of dealing with domain names was covered and, although there is some doubt if this can be achieved, GX will attempt to gain access to the old glengarrylife.co.uk domain name and, working with KB, attempt to resolve backlinks. GX noted that the proposed glengarrycommunitycouncil.co.uk domain name was a better fit to what GCC is trying to do now.
- (e) Trees at school: GC reported that a representative from HC had visited to look at the tree problems. GCC requested any further issues be reported back.
- (f) Communications mast in Glen Quoich: In noting that there are several applications for masts, GX informed GCC that 23/05742/TPNO application had been granted using delegated powers. KB then covered application 24/00712/FUL that was validated on 21/3/24. LMacN suggested the local landowner would strongly object to the proposed mast at Allt Beith. The tension between a proliferation of masts in the natural environment against the needs of mobile communication was discussed and led to the understanding that the community 'objects to masts unless and until the residents are prioritised for coverage'. KB will formulate a response. To do so, the difficulty previously experienced in sending a GCC planning response from personal email accounts was discussed. GX circulated a proposed letter template that could be completed and attached to an email to any planning department, hopefully avoiding the problem. GX will circulate the letter template. The appropriate GCC address was discussed and, subject to GX further discussion with CD regarding 'serving notices', a mail box attached to the outside wall of the Community Hall was thought to be a good idea. LMacN will seek approval from the relevant hall groups.
- (g) LMacN had contacted Bowmans who had a long list of forbidden items for skips. After discussion, including reference to a similar arrangement in Fort Augustus, GCC agreed to continue providing this valuable service to the community, at a cost of over £500 per skip. GX and LMacN will create signage making it clear what is 'disallowed' and that any abuse will lead to the loss of the service. GCC agreed that LMacN should request funding, as done in previous years, from the Glengarry Trust.

4 - Financial report

LMacN had previously circulated a report:

Community Council a/c.

Income: £0

Expenditure: £429.30 Senior citizen's
£399, Village Officer
£5665.20, Feral pig trap
£97.20, GCC Insurance

Closing balance: 28/2/24 £22917.09

Less un-cashed cheque; £15

£22902.09

Note Ring fenced sum: £2808.03

Available funds: £20094.06

Post Office a/c

Income: £43.33

Expenditure: £0

Closing balance 4/3/24: £1620.54

Available funds at bank: £1620.54

On request from NS, LMacN will in future circulate the works done by the village officer. GCC agreed LMacN may again apply to the Glengarry Trust for costs associated with the village officer.

In response to a query, LMacN, whilst noting insurance is in place, will ensure it is appropriate for the pig trap. KK, in asking via the Chairman, requested sight of the terms of usage for the pig trap. LMacN will so provide when he has confirmation of them from Nature Scot.

LMacN reported that KS, LMacN and CD are now signatories to the main account. But that, despite repeated trips at his own expense to the bank in Fort William, the PO account is still not finalised. He reported that it should be resolved very soon. GCC felt that the mileage costs incurred were a legitimate expense and LMacN should make a claim, based upon a suitable rate, perhaps as used by HC. There was no dissent to this proposal from KB and LMacN will look to make such a claim.

GCC unanimously agreed LMacN's proposal that John Henshall be appointed independent examiner for the annual accounts.

5 - AGM Date: GX explained that GCC had in error managed to publish two different AGM dates. After brief discussion, including from LMacN saying that previously the AGM had been in June, GCC agreed that the **AGM will be on 3rd June 2024**. NOT 13th May

6 – Defibrillator at Kingie: It was noted that, whatever stage this is/was at, the related road project is currently delayed. No action at this time. GC reported that a Defibrillator is due to be placed on the wall of the shinty hut.

7 – see above

8 – Planning Applications: KB went through the items from the HC weekly applications list. No action required from GCC.

GX noted a large number of ongoing major projects often with interlinks that can be confusing. GCC discussed the following:

Coire Glas – item 1: GX noted that Carol Masheter is invited to the next GCC meeting to discuss the initial thoughts with GCC regarding funds distribution.

Coire Glas – item 2: GX reminded GCC that there is a CLG public meeting on 29/4/24 and suggested we need a representative in the same way that GX and LMacN are on the proposed Sky Reinforcement project CLG. KB will go and report back to GCC.

Coire Glas – item 3: KB briefly talked through planning application 24/01058/SCRE that regards cable routing. KB will respond on behalf of GCC using the new letter template.

Skye Reinforcement Project: GX informed GCC that he had contacted Maren Ebeling of SSEN to place her contact details on the new website, calling for the public to get involved in the CLG.

Bunloinn Wind farm: GX noted that the Bunloinn wind farm, overlooking Loch Loyne, had been given consent by the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

Loch Fearnna – item 1: The ECU has given a 21st April deadline for GCC response to the initial scoping for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). There was significant discussion regarding blasting, instability of the land and landslips, the quarry and lorry movements, access via the proposed new road, the natural environment and SSSI's. GX will draft a response letter to the ECU and circulate for comment, prior to sending.

Loch Fearnna – item 2: The Inverness Courier has asked GCC for comment, particularly with reference to the landslip. After discussion it was agreed that a 'press release' should be issued. GX will draft and circulate for prompt response. KB noted that a hydropower project for Loch Fearnna had been refused in 2017 and the reasoning in that application may be useful.

9 - Any other competent business

- (a) GC suggested that we may consider a 'pros and cons' meeting to discuss the proposed Lochaber National Park. LMacN reminded GCC that there had already been an open meeting on this topic and KB mentioned a Facebook group for 'Lochaber says No'. No further action at this time.
- (b) GC informed GCC of a Primary School Craic on 26th April. It's an open invitation as the children had previously enjoyed meeting other glen people.
- (c) GX had been approached regarding the Kilfinnan Burial ground. It is in very poor state of repair and the heritage group were asking for support to fix it. GCC agreed to support where and when they can. GX to liaise with heritage group.
- (d) GX circulated a community risk register document and LMacN informed GCC of their meeting in Fort Augustus regarding Community Resilience. GCC should expect further contact into the future but the intention is to create local resilience hubs at community halls to give greater local resilience in emergencies.
- (e) NS requested a contribution from GCC for the children's Easter Egg hunt. Previously one or two members of the community had funded this but the success of the event means this is no longer possible. It was noted that the previous fireworks fund would be an ideal financial resource. GCC unanimously agreed this should be funded on the basis that the event will be promulgated to attract all children in Glengarry.

- (f) The 20mph speed limit past the school was discussed and GC asked if we could request a police presence from time to time. KS mentioned he had requested a speed trap van but was told, although it could change, at that time they had other priorities. Other calming measures were briefly discussed and it was agreed a good avenue to request possible funding would be via the prospective Sky Reinforcement CLG. KS will enquire about a Police Liaison Officer presence.
- (g) LMacN read an email from a resident, who had become frustrated by delays from HC, that asked for GCC to get involved in the light pollution from Halcyon Manor on Loch Garry. Although some lights appeared to go off later, not all did and they did not seem to be security lights. KK, in requesting to speak via the chairman, represents the owners of Halcyon Manor and he believes the lighting scheme had been 'signed off' by the HC Planners and Nature Scot. He also believes at least some of the lights are timed to go off at 10.00pm. KK will talk to the owners and formally feedback to GCC for the next meeting.

10 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 13th May 2024 in the Community Hall at 19.00

As an endnote, KB said he could give some form of online/hybrid meeting, providing not too many people signed up, to support the proposed meeting with Carol Masheter.