

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Meeting

held on 2nd October 2023 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

1. Present

Catriona Menzies (CM) chair, Lea MacNally (LMacN) treasurer, Kevin Sutherland (KS) vice chair, Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD) secretary, Philippa Maltby (PM). Apologies: Cllr Liz Saggars (LS). Two members of the public were present.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 4th September were approved. Proposed: LMacN
Seconded: KB

3. Matters arising

(a) Speed limit on A87: CD reported that BEAR Scotland has advised that the proposal to create a 20mph speed limit applies only to roads on which there is an existing 30mph limit. After discussion, at the suggestion of KS, and with additional input from KB, who noted the increased activity at the Community Woodlands site, it was agreed that CD should write again to BEAR, noting that the existing speed limit through the village is often exceeded, and requesting a 30mph limit there.

(b) Roundabout: KB reported that there has been no change in the position.

(c) A87 road markings: PM noted that the marking at the A82/A87 junction are still completely erased. This is to be noted again to BEAR.

(d) Public meeting about scoter SSSI beside Loch Garry: KB and CD had attended. KB had reported in writing to members. It had been expected that details would be given of a proposed extension to the SSSI, of which KB had been made aware in private conversations; but no reference was made to this at the public meeting. Nor was any reference made to the potential financial and practical benefits to the community, which GCC had been advised about at its last meeting. Some scientific reports were presented; and it had been stated that RSPB was to be making an application for a grant to improve the scoter habitat. During the meeting, CD had asked the RSPB representative about the potential benefits to the community and had been told that these would be environmental benefits. In discussion with the representative afterwards, she had been told that there was no plan to extend the SSSI to the watershed. It was agreed that CD should write to NatureScot, which is the relevant statutory body, to ask for clarification. KB referred to the principles which are applied by NatureScot in relation to exclusion zones and other measures around SSSIs; he will provide details to CD to assist in drafting the letter. It was also agreed that CD should write to RSPB to ask for details of their application for funding. Kenneth Knott, a member of the public representing a glen landowner, also referred to the NatureScot rules.

(e) Intimating GCC interest to SSE: CD confirmed that she had written to SSE to record GCC's keen interest in projected electrical transmission, distribution and

generation works, and to ask for contact details of the appropriate officials in the different SSE branches. She has received a helpful reply from two officials. The correspondence is recorded in the GCC email folder.

- (f) Bench: KS confirmed that he had obtained local timber for the bench repair from Glengarry Community Woodlands, and had prepared it for installation, which he will undertake forthwith.
- (g) Roadside scrub along C1144: it was reported that Highland Council (HC) is to be using a flail to control the scrub. CD is to ask the Roads Department which areas are to be dealt with.
- (h) Remembrance Day event: LMcN and NS will check the availability of pipers. LMacN has ordered wreaths. In response to a question by KB, it was confirmed that residents who had undertaken military service for any country are encouraged to attend. The Village Officer has started to tidy and organise the memorial area. NS will lay the GCC wreath.

4. Financial report

LMacN produced an interim report, which he had prepared to be held in readiness to assist the new Council after the forthcoming elections. He had received advice from Dot Ferguson (DF), the HC Area Manager, in relation to this. She confirmed that it is in order for the account to run to the end of August, as the bank statement for September is not yet available. She also advised that it does not need to be independently checked. It was noted that the interim report is in a new spreadsheet format, which LMacN prepared with the assistance of a relevantly qualified resident. DF has confirmed that his having helped in the initial setting up of the system would not disqualify a person from undertaking any necessary formal checking of the accounts in the future. The cheques which are required to pay the Village Officer and for skip hire will be signed before LMacN's authority to do this expires. Following a question from NS, LMacN confirmed that the last skip of the year will be collected in a week's time. It was also noted that extra cost for the previous skip had been incurred because an unknown person had left three mattresses in it.

5. Planning applications

- (a) Communications mast at Kinlochourn: a response drafted by CD has been approved by members and sent to the Planning Department;
- (b) Housing at Ardochy: after discussion, during which members indicated that they would be submitting personal responses to the application, it was agreed that GCC would not comment;
- (c) Modification of power supply to emergency services (formerly BT) mast beside Loch Quoich: it was agreed that no response would be made.

6. Any other competent business

- (a) Road works on C1144: CD advised that she has been contacted by Stuart Bell (SB), a senior engineer for Arvikaconsult Ltd, who have been instructed by HC to develop and manage some road schemes on their behalf. She has forwarded his email to GCC and residents along the road. It states that HC, with local partners, has secured grant funding under the Scottish Government Timber Transport Scheme to improve the C1144. Structural repairs will be undertaken, as well as

- passing place improvements, major patching and overlay, and drainage improvements including culvert replacements. During operations such as patching and overlay, the road will have to be closed. The maximum period of closure would be two hours, and the contactor has asked for a formal Temporary Traffic Order to be made to allow this. It is said that efforts will be made to keep delays to a minimum. It has been noted that school transport timings and health care workers' movements will need to be accommodated. CD confirmed that she has received some comments from glen residents, which she has passed to SB, who has also made his email address available for residents to use. She is waiting for his response to these comments. KB asked if CD had been contacted because of her connection with GCC or in relation to her other contact with HC in relation to infrastructure on behalf of Upper Glengarry residents, and she said that she did not know. She will confirm to SB that GCC has a formal interest in the project.
- (b) Loch Fearn pumped storage project: KB referred to the pumped storage project proposed by Gilkes Ltd at Loch Fearn above Loch Quoich. A public meeting for residents in the upper glen has taken place and it is understood that a larger meeting for the whole community is to be held in due course. Glen residents have expressed their concerns about the effect of the project on the landscape and the use of the road. KB, who introduced discussion on the subject, said that he was concerned that the community should make representations as soon as possible about the possible uses of what might be substantial financial benefits. He said that he understood that there are a number of suggestions already being discussed, and referred in particular to the two bridges along the lower Garry that are in need of repair. He was concerned that the community would be ignored in the competition for financial reward. CD was instructed to contact Gilkes to intimate its serious interest in the project and the application of any benefits, to indicate its wish to be involved in the project at the earliest possible stage, and to propose a meeting between Gilkes' representatives and the new Council. It was noted that this would be for the incoming Council to arrange if they wished.
- (c) Senior citizens' party: LMacN reminded the Council that plans for the senior citizens' Christmas party would need to be started before the new Council is convened in late November. The caterer has provided some possible dates; but the date cannot be confirmed until the Community Hall management committee has met. The cost of catering will be met by the Resilience Group. In the past, GCC has provided £400 for prizes and some refreshments. It was agreed that in view of the fact that GCC's input in the past has been largely financial rather than organisational, LMacN would continue to make the arrangements with the usual assistance from other members of the community, and that £500 should be earmarked from GCC funds, to be drawn down as required by the new Council.

The meeting closed at 21.00.