

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Meeting

held on 8th January 2024 2023 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

1. Present

Kevin Sutherland (KS), chair, Lea MacNally (LMacN) treasurer, George Cross (GX), vice chair, Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD) secretary, Philippa Maltby (PM), Gillian Carruthers (GC), Cllr Andrew Baldrey (part). One member of the public.

2. Constitution document

It was agreed that the Constitution set out in the HC Scheme for Community Councils should be adopted. GX will produce a completed copy of the document for signature.

3. Planning issues

Consideration of two planning matters has been waiting for the formal constitution of GCC. An informal undertaking has been obtained from the relevant bodies that a late submission of GCC's views will be acceptable. There was discussion of how planning matters should be processed in the future. It was noted, particularly in relation to large infrastructure projects, that earlier consultation with the community would be desirable. There was also discussion of how best to canvass the community's views about projects. Notices about forthcoming planning issues have been placed on the village noticeboards; but there has been little response.

(a) Cullachy wind farm

A public notice inviting views from the community has been put out, to which there has been no response. After discussion, it was agreed that a submission in general terms should be sent to the Energy Consents Unit.

(b) Coire Glas scheme: Kilfinnan road proposals

An email had been received from members of the Kilfinnan Road Group. It was agreed that a meeting with them should be arranged as soon as possible.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd October 2023 were approved. Proposed: KS
Seconded: LMacN

5. Matters arising

(a) Playground equipment

AB reported that Highland Council (HC) has agreed to bear the cost of installation and also to provide a 'hamster wheel'. In answer to questions about whether the roundabout had been purchased and where it was stored, KB said that he did not know whether it had been delivered, and that he had been told that though the donor had ordered it, they had later cancelled the order owing to the reported cost of installation. LMacN said that GCC has sufficient funds to purchase the roundabout and that this would be a good use of funds. GX made a formal

motion to that effect, with the additional proposal that the HC offer to supply a 'hamster wheel' and to install both pieces of equipment, should be accepted. This was agreed. KB said that HC would require the equipment to be sourced from an approved supplier. CD is to contact HC for a list of suppliers and to ascertain the current cost of a roundabout as a matter of urgency.

It was further reported by GC and NS that other works are needed at the playground, including: the proper reinstatement of the ground following its use by the school works contractors; and the replacement of the goalposts. They also noted that HC had repaired the broken swing and a broken plank in the climbing frame.

(b) Road issues including speed limit in village

The apparent difficulty of obtaining a speed limit of less than 40 mph in the village was acknowledged. KS and GC confirmed that there is general perception of danger from excessive speed. The speed limits in other villages such as Spean Bridge and Fort Augustus were mentioned by way of comparison. KB recalled that supporting papers in respect of planning permission for aspects of the Coire Glas operation refer to a suggestion that contractors' vehicles might be compelled to keep to a lower speed limit on certain roads and to be badged for identification. He will copy the relevant documents to members for information. It was agreed that CD should write to SSER and SSEN about both the Coire Glas and the forthcoming Skye Reinforcement Line works about this possibility. It was also agreed to make further attempts to obtain a light-controlled pedestrian crossing.

LMacN mentioned an email from Cllr John Grafton about the C1144, which he will copy for information.

GC reported that complaints have been made about potholes on the Mandally road.

Scrub cutting is taking place along the C1144; it is understood that this work will continue at least as far as the overgrown rhododendrons at Loch Quoich.

(c) Loch Fearna pumped storage

It was noted that a public meeting had taken place in the Community Hall about this. It was agreed that a representative of Gilkes Ltd should be invited to speak with GCC.

(d) RSPB and Glengarry SSSI

KB reported that an application has been made by a consortium for grant funding in relation to the SSSI and that some works have started.

(e) Matters deferred for further discussion

The following topics were deferred for further discussion: Post Office lease; GCC website; offer of assistance from Mars Projects Ltd.

6. Any other business

(a) Community Plan survey

It was noted that an opinion survey is being coordinated by Glengarry Community Woodlands in relation to a proposed Community Action Plan. Papers have been sent out to local organisations including GCC, the Heritage Group and the Upper Glengarry Infrastructure Group. Papers are to be sent out to all addresses within the community. It was agreed that participation in the survey should be encouraged. The form sent to GCC will be circulated to members for consideration at the next meeting.

(b) Derelict house in village

NS enquired whether GCC can become involved in encouraging the renovation of an empty fire damaged property in the village which may be hazardous. This was thought to be unlikely; but KB undertook to receive information about the ownership of the property and its state.

8. Date of forthcoming meetings

The next meeting will be held on 5th February at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th May.