

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Meeting

held on 4th September 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). Three members of the public were present.
2. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 7th August were approved. Proposed: PM; seconded: KS.
3. Matters arising
 - (a) Lamp standard: following correspondence with Highland Council (HC), the lamp standard in the Crescent has been repaired.
 - (b) A87 issues: CD has written to HC and BEAR Scotland about the pedestrian crossing in the village, and other issues in relation to the A87, and will pursue matters further with BEAR. It was noted that there is still no formal crossing supervision at the school.
 - (c) Black bridge: CD has written to Stewart Eastaugh, HC's Access Officer, and to David Robertson of Forestry and Land Scotland, about the importance of the footbridge to the village, and has received a sympathetic response from both of them. The issue is to be kept under review.
 - (d) Playground roundabout: KB reported that, after some delay, and following intervention by Cllr Andrew Baldrey, he has received a reply from David Lamont, to confirm that HC will arrange for the installation, and that this is acceptable to the funders.
4. Monthly financial report
LMacN had circulated the report. The income from the Shinty Club disbursement was noted, and the details of expenses. A balance of just over £25,000 is in hand. The Firework Fund was discussed. It was felt that public firework celebrations in the village were unlikely to be feasible in the future, owing to the current licensing arrangements, training issues, and health and safety regulations. LMacN has discussed with Glengarry Trust the possibility of repaying the grant of £1,200 which the Trust made to the fund some time ago. The balance of the Fund is from donations from various sources. It was agreed that the separate administration of this sum is disproportionately onerous, and that the balance should be transferred to the general account for use as a fund for celebrations when the need arises. HC has approved the accounts for the last financial year and has paid the annual grant, which has not yet entered the account.
5. Planning applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

6. Any other competent business

- (a) SSSI enlargement: the RSPB had intimated that a meeting on 5th September had been arranged to discuss the future of the River Garry SSSI. NatureScot is managing a Scottish Government nature restoration fund. KB said that what he understood to be wide ranging proposals could have a significant impact on the glen. The proposals have the support of some landowners in the glen and could bring more visitors, as well as requiring staff. It was noted by a member of the public (Kenneth Knott) with an interest in glen development that it would be possible for the community to make requests for certain types of investment. In discussion, it was also noted that there might be some members of the community who, whilst welcoming nature regeneration efforts, might regret an increase in tourist traffic. CD and KB indicated that they were intending to be present at the meeting and would report.
- (b) C1144 roadside vegetation: CD intimated that she had been made aware of the substance of an email sent to Glengarry Community Woodlands (GCW) by Kenneth Knott on behalf of Glengarry Timber, in which he complained that vegetation at the side of the glen road adjoining GCW had struck his vehicle. It was agreed that CD should write to him for further particulars and thereafter bring the situation to the attention of the HC Roads Department and Highland Councillors. It was noted that the encroaching rhododendrons beside Loch Quoich are still a hazard, and that this should also again be mentioned.
- (c) Piper for Remembrance Day: KB advised that a glen resident has offered to pipe for the Remembrance Day memorial event at no cost. This suggestion was received with gratitude, and will be taken into account in making arrangements. LMacN will also arrange for wreaths to be provided, as before.
- (d) 20mph speed limit in village: Cllr LS has circulated a statement about the proposed 20mph speed limit on the A87 through the village. GCC supports this plan; and CD was instructed to reply to the statement in those terms, referring to the fact that the limit is at present 40mph, and that a pedestrian operated crossing would also be desirable.
- (e) Community Council (CC) elections: applications for election can now be submitted. Notices about the election will be printed out and made public.
- (f) Continuity of CC operation during period before elections: LMacN said that he has received an email from Dot Ferguson, Lochaber Area Manager, about the continuity of service, including the payment of accounts, in the period before the dissolution of the current CC. He is preparing the account to the end of September.
- (g) SSE operations: Quoich Tee switching station: the importance of maintaining a CC presence at consultation meetings and on the list of stakeholders for all SSE operations, of whichever related undertaking, was accepted. CD and KB will attend the SSE Transmissions meeting on 20th September and report; and in the meantime, CD will write to the several undertakings to emphasise the CC's keen interest in the various works, both current and projected.
- (h) Communications mast at Kinlochourn: LMacN reminded members that intimation of this project had been sent out, and that there would appear to be a

general acceptance that such projects are likely to find favour, though their location may be regretted.

- (i) Broken bench: NS mentioned that a memorial bench in the village is damaged and unusable. KS is to investigate and consider options for its repair.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting, which will be the last of the present council, will take place on 2nd October at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall.