

## Glengarry Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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); Cllr Andrew Baldrey (AB); Cllr John Grafton (JG).

Apologies: Cllr Liz Saggars

Present by invitation: Kenneth Knott (KK), Black Sheep Farms.

2. KK was present to answer questions that had been raised by glen residents in relation to the new farming venture near Inchlaggan. In response to expressed fears that reports of a rare breeds centre there would involve increased tourist or farming traffic on the road, he said that the operation was not a rare breed centre or a full commercial operation. Only two employees are involved. As yet, there are no buildings planned, though he confirmed to PM that the operation would involve lambing. He confirmed that, as far as possible, established vegetation such as bluebells and seedling oaks would be protected. He also said that bracken would be controlled by crushing and that any bracken within the new fence that impaired visibility along the road would be controlled. He acknowledged that some traffic to the site might have an impact on passing places, and said that one passing place sign had fallen down within the fence. He said that he will try to regulate the use of passing place by vehicles over which he has control. KB noted his understanding that passing places must be marked with the approved sign and CD said that she would write to Highland Council (HC) Roads Department about this. KK confirmed that he has given his phone number to CD, and that she may pass it to anyone who wishes to speak to him about road usage issues. NS referred to the old drove pen wall that had been removed from the site. KK said that the removal of such features is allowed if they appear on published maps. He said that some artefacts had been found on the site, including a well and a quern stone which he understood was to be donated to the Heritage Centre. He said he would be interested to be shown the old coffin stones by the road. CA thanked KK for his input.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved: proposed NS, seconded LMacN

### 4. Matters arising

- (a) Building regulations issue: CD reported that she had attempted to ascertain from HC whether the building complained of had been erected in accordance with all relevant regulations. She had been advised by the HC Planning Department that the proper way forward is for a note of objection to be made online. She said that she is uncertain whether GCC has the standing to do this, given that it is understood that the parties involved have already made representations about the situation, and that there may be legal issues in relation to title deeds. AB said that he would take the matter forward.

- (b) Playground equipment: The situation remains as before, because the specification for the works has still not been received from HC. AB said he would pursue this. KB noted that the donor had asked not to be named, and that this should be respected.
- (c) Recovery of GCC email address: LMacN has this in hand.
- (d) Zoom equipment: AB said that applications for funding can still be made. LMacN will carry this forward.

5. Financial report

The council noted the monthly financial report, which had already been sent to members by LMacN. One commemorative wreath remained to hand. The village officer meets his own liability insurance cost. LMacN was thanked for arranging the Christmas tree lighting.

6. Post Office lease

KB has not yet received a reply from the solicitor. Intimation to the tenant of the decisions made at the last meeting was yet to take place.

7. Any other competent business

- (a) Coire Glas Liaison Group (CGLG): CM has attended a Zoom meeting recently. Alan Greenwood has been succeeded as coordinator by Jade O'Hara. The liaison committee has asked communities for suggestions about how the community funds should be used. Spean Bridge Community Council (SBCC) has replied; and CM was asked why Glengarry has not. There is a tourism sub-committee within the liaison group, which includes Glengarry residents. It is understood that SBCC obtained a report from a consultant giving details of possible projects, and that an application was made on the basis of the report. It was decided that GCC should apply to the Glengarry Trust (GT) for the cost of obtaining such a report. CGLG is understood to be contacting GT; and it was agreed that GCC should investigate further, including obtaining the names of possible consultants and the cost of a report. JG said that he would be attending a SBCC meeting and would ask for suggested names then.
- (b) Senior citizens' Christmas meal: Those attending were appreciative. 32 meals were provided at the Community Hall and four were delivered. The cost of the meals was met by GT; GCC has met the costs of refreshments (£120), various sundries including raffle prizes, crackers and sweets (£143) and the hire of the Hall (£25).
- (c) Presentation to Amy Hunter: GCC made a surprise presentation of a token for £100 and a bouquet of flowers to Amy Hunter, the former school crossing officer, at the Community Hall. She was surprised and delighted.
- (d) Wild boar: The incursions of wild boar or feral pigs into croft land, farms and gardens were discussed at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December attended by LMacN with representatives of NatureScot (NS) and Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) Lochaber, rangers and a culling contractor. A site visit was made to Mandally and Ardochy. It was acknowledged that the current Scottish Government position on the issue is one of non-intervention, except near pig farms or if there is a reasonable concern about the spread of swine flu. It was suggested that a count

could be made along the A82 by thermal imaging. It is seven years since that was last done. FLS could provide the equipment for it. It would be possible to institute a cull using a baited trap, as has been done near Fort Augustus. Graeme Taylor (GT) of NS will apply for a grant for cameras and a trap, if GCC will take responsibility for the equipment and make it available to other Community Councils. This offer was noted with gratitude; it was also noted that the contractor dealing with the culls is out of pocket for his work and it was agreed that GCC should try to obtain funds for him. LMacN will contact GT in relation to all of this.

- (e) Blocked drain on A82: KS reported that there is a blocked drain causing dangerous flooding on the A82 just before the Bridge of Oich car park. AB will take this up with the Roads Department and BEAR, as necessary.
- (f) Use of C1144 to Kinlochourn: It was reported that a large tour bus operated by Shiel Buses, followed by a number of other vehicles, got into difficulties near the Quoich Dam on Boxing Day, and was stuck there overnight. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to erect an advisory notice about the accessibility of the road. AB will discuss this with the Roads Department.
- (g) KB reported that there had been no relevant planning applications.

#### 8. Next meetings

The next meetings will be on 6<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.