

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Held on 7th November 2022 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

1. Present

Cllr Andrew Baldrey (AB), Chair; Catriona Menzies (CM); Lea MacNally (LMacN); Neillie Stewart (NS); Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); Kevin Sutherland (KS); Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD). Apologies: Cllr Liz Saggars, Cllr John Grafton

2. Election of Officers

Chair: CM, proposed CD, seconded KB; elected unanimously.

Vice Chair: NS, proposed PM, seconded CD; elected unanimously.

Secretary: CD indicated she would be prepared to take the Minutes, as previously; and it was agreed unanimously that this offer should be accepted, and that correspondence should be undertaken by members on the basis of their knowledge of issues.

Treasurer: LMacN, proposed CM and adopted unanimously.

The ordinary business of the Council proceeded thereafter, following the informal Agenda previously circulated, CM being in the Chair.

3. Financial Report

LMacN said that now that the Council is again operational, he will be in a position to present the Annual Report to Highland Council (HC). He presented an interim financial statement, which he had circulated in advance, and noted that a grant of £3,500 had been received from the Glengarry Trust towards the employment of the village officer, whose efforts are much appreciated. He noted that he will be taking steps to set up the bank accounts in the names of the present GCC officers. He is preparing a report to Greencat Renewables, who administer the fund for Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), giving details of the expenditure of the £2,706.39 grant from the forest hydro received in the last financial year. GCC uses its grant for the village officer and the hire of skips, among other things. He also said that FLS holds further funds for distribution to community projects. There has been some comment about the type of projects that should be supported. He suggested that a FLS representative should be invited to the Council's next meeting to discuss this, and it was agreed that he should do so on behalf of the Council. In the meantime, it was decided that the community's ideas about appropriate projects should be canvassed by members.

4. Playpark equipment

KB reported that matters are moving slowly. The equipment is being painted and is expected to be delivered very soon into the hands of the sponsors; but there has been some difficulty in relation to the installation work, as HC, which insures the equipment, requires it to be undertaken either by its own staff or by another approved installer, and none of these are available. HC has now agreed that KB may source an installer working to HC's specifications, which have not yet been provided.

AB undertook to make urgent representations to the works department if KB has not received the specifications within a week. KB said that there is a possibility that another sponsor may be available to cover the cost of installation.

5. Old Bridge

The information provided by KB to the Council's last informal meeting was noted as follows: the owner of the river bank and the fishing has put the property on the market, stating in the particulars that he is not the owner of the bridge or responsible for it in any way. It is nevertheless of considerable importance in relation to any use of fishing rights and therefore to the valuation of the property. Four parties are said to be interested in the purchase. A surveyor has been instructed (it is not known by whom) to report on the state of the bridge and to comment on the possibility of its reinstatement. It is understood that the report indicates that a complete rebuilding or replacement would be required to make it safe for vehicle use; but an engineer's report would be required to confirm this. Two of the potential buyers are said to want to know the view of the community in relation to the bridge: should it be a vehicle crossing or a pedestrian one, and should it be replaced as a reproduction of old engineering? Leaving it as a ruin was also mentioned. Since the last meeting, it is understood that two sections of the river have been sold.

LMacN said that he had raised the issue at a recent meeting of the Access Forum as the bridge is part of the core path. The access officer is looking into it.

AB said that the HC's erection of fencing on the bridge should not be taken as an admission of liability to repair it.

The views of the community are still not known, and would be welcomed. It was noted that the lack of information about ownership and liability is preventing any action.

6. Post Office site

The information provided by KB to the Council's last informal meeting was as follows: the Registers of Scotland online site now shows that the Aberchalder Estate boundary at the Post Office site exactly follows the line of the building's walls and the south side of the layby. After discussion, it was decided, in view of the significance of the site for the village and the community, to defer consideration of the implications to a formal meeting of GCC, and to invite HC to become involved in a public meeting.

7. Post Office lease

As noted at the last informal meeting of the Council, the Post Office lease is due for renewal on 3rd January 2023. The lease will be renewed automatically unless altered. It was decided on LMacN's suggestion that KB should contact Johnny Bell of Twin Deer Law for advice in relation to this.

8. Public Transport

It was noted that there is a new organiser of the Dalchreichart project to start a community bus service. KB will contact her and will report.

9. Christmas party

LMacN reported that this has been arranged for 19th December and that the chef is available, as are volunteers to help. The Community Hall has been booked. The Resilience Fund will be sufficient to pay for the costs of the party.

10. War Memorial Service

Calum McColl is to be the piper. Wreaths have been ordered for the British Legion and the community. LMacN will lay the community wreath. Refreshments will be available afterwards at the Community Hall.

11. Fred Olsen Renewables

Members of the Council attended the exhibition in the Community Hall about the proposed Culachy windfarm. It was noted that some changes had been made to the proposal in order to reduce some of its impact, though the masts would be taller than previously indicated. The main impact for Glengarry will be the transport of blades and other elements through Invergarry.

12. Any Other Business

- (a) Road markings: it was noted that the road markings at the junction of the A82 and A87 are nearly obliterated. AB undertook to take this up with HC and Bear.
- (b) School crossing patrol: it is understood that the post will not be renewed following retirement. This was very strongly regretted, owing to the volume and speed of traffic in Invergarry, in spite of the 20mph speed restriction signals. KS reported having seen instances of dangerous overtaking at speed whilst the signals were operating. AB will write to the chair of the Education Committee.
- (c) Grant to Heritage Centre: LMacN advised that a proposal had been made that GCC should assist the Heritage Centre with its telephone bill. He and CM withdrew whilst this was discussed. It was agreed that the Heritage Centre is a local asset and that a grant of £500 should be made.
- (d) Proposals for grants by GCC: it was agreed that the community should be advised that the Council may be able to assist projects with grants.
- (e) Planning applications: KB noted that a planning application had been made in relation to a proposed house at Balmaglaster. It was noted that there has been some difficulty with obtaining emails from HC about this and other matters.

13. Date of forthcoming meetings at 19.00 in the Community Hall

Monday 5th December 2022

Monday 9th January 2023

The meeting closed at 21.00.

