

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting and business meeting
held on 5th June 2023 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

AGM

1. Present for AGM
Catriona Menzies (CM) outgoing chair, Lea MacNally (LMacN) outgoing treasurer, Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), Philippa Maltby (PM), Kevin Sutherland (KS), Andrew Baldrey (AB) Highland Councillor, who took the chair. Three members of the public were present.
Cllr Liz Saggars sent apologies; no intimations of conflict of interest were made.
2. Minutes of AGM of 6th June 2022
The minutes of the AGM were read and approved by the members who were present then. Proposed: KB; seconded: LMacN.
3. Chair's report
The report by the chair was read and approved. Proposed: CD; seconded: KB.
4. Treasurer's annual report
LMacN reported that he could not present the annual accounts as the auditor had been unable to check them. He will present them to the next business meeting.
5. Election of officers
Chair: CM - proposed AB; seconded CD.
Vice Chair: KS – proposed AB; seconded LMacN.
Treasurer: LMacN - proposed NS; seconded CM.
Secretary: CD - proposed CM; seconded AB.
6. Date of next AGM
The next AGM will be held on Monday 3rd June 2024 in the Community Hall at 19.00.

Ordinary Business Meeting

1. Present: As for AGM.
2. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 9th May were approved. Proposed: LMacN; seconded: NS.
3. Matters arising
 - (a) Playground equipment: AB confirmed that Highland Regional Council (HRC) has £6,000 earmarked for the cost of installation. KB expressed concern that it had taken so long for this to be established; he will contact David Lamont to finalise

matters. It was hoped that if the actual cost of installation is less than £6,000, other equipment such as a seesaw and goalposts could be provided, as previously discussed.

- (b) Email account: LMacN has continued to monitor the email account. Payments are regularly made in respect of the Glengarry website. The website appears to be rarely used. LMacN will enquire and report about the implications of closing the website, including whether it would be prudent to keep the domain name.
- (c) Zoom equipment: LMacN has recently taken part in a Zoom meeting and noted the difficulties of controlling such meetings and the complexity and cost of the necessary equipment. It was discussed not to take the matter further for the time being.
- (d) Feral pig control: LMacN said that a new contact person has taken over at NatureScot and he will be meeting them shortly. As a consequence, there has been delay in obtaining the pen. It was confirmed that when the equipment has been received, it will be available for other community councils to use, subject to overall control by GCC.
- (e) Post Office: KB had circulated a note of his correspondence with Ms Fraser of McPhees solicitors, giving an estimate of the cost of obtaining advice about the terms of the lease. It was agreed that the review should be instructed as soon as possible in view of various time constraints. LMacN confirmed that the quoted fee of £700 plus VAT could be borne. It was agreed that KB and CD should discuss the details of the instructions and move the matter forward before the next meeting. It was noted that any legal advice in relation to the sorting office use of the building would be likely to incur a higher fee.
- (f) Glen road: Kristen Tait (KT) of HRC Roads Department has replied to CD's email. Some work has been done on the drop-offs in the recently resurfaced part of the road, but KT has now been told that the material used is sub-standard. The annual inspection of the road is due to take place in September. KT has advised that placing boulders within three metres of the edge of the surfaced road could give rise to civil liability on the part of landowners in the event of road accidents.
- (g) Firework fund: LMacN confirmed that he has made a payment into the account to keep it active.
- (h) Coire Glas works: KB reported that the land at Loch Lundie had been acquired for the switching station; but that details of the transfer are not yet available as the land registration process is currently taking place. No further feedback has been received from residents about the works.

4. Financial report

LMacN had circulated his report and noted that there had been a very welcome payment of £10,000 from the existing Forestry and Land hydro schemes. The wages

of the village officer and the cost of skips had been met. It was noted that these costs amounted to about £1,000 more than the grant from the Glengarry Trust.

5. Planning

KB had circulated a note of a planning application by the Shinty Club in respect of a new storage shed. After discussion, it was agreed that GCC should intimate that no comment is to be made.

6. Any other competent business

(a) Loch Garry SSSI and Garry Catchment Area: KB reported that he had taken part in the RSPB scoter count within the Loch Garry SSSI, and had been advised that an application could be made for funding from the Scottish Government's Natural Restoration Fund to restore habitat in the new Garry Catchment Area which would extend to Loch Loyne. He suggested that Dr Alison MacLennan, the conservation officer of RSPB in Inverness, would be able to explain to GCC the process of partnering in making an application. The involvement of a community as a stakeholder group in making such an application is said to be a significant factor in successful habitat improvement. Landowners are also involved. KB is to invite Dr MacLennan to speak at the next meeting and will intimate that GCC wishes to become a stakeholder in the Garry scheme.

(b) Glen road (C1144): CD advised that local forestry owners and HRC have successfully applied to the Scottish Government's Strategic Timber Transport Fund for a grant towards improving the passing places and the surfacing of the C1144.

(c) GCC constitution: LMacN reported that funders including the Glengarry Trust and windfarm companies have asked for a copy of the GCC constitution, which is in the standard form provided by HRC. KB undertook to supply a copy.

(d) A82 visibility at entrance to Glengarry Castle Hotel: KS has been approached about the state of the ground opposite the hotel entrance, which was cleared many years ago and is now becoming overgrown to an extent that visibility there is impeded. AB undertook to make representations to BEAR.

(e) Traffic through village: KS raised the issue of the speed of traffic through the village and asked if it could be further reduced from 40 mph to 30 or 20 mph, or if calming measures could be created. LMacN recalled that the Invergarry village road had been included in a recent list of roads where the speed limit is to be reduced to 20 mph. AB undertook to remind BEAR of the importance of this proposal. It was noted that emergency vehicles had recently been seen speeding through the village to an incident at the Viewpoint.

(f) Other issues in relation to roads in the village: CM said that the street lights are alight for 24 hours a day. It was also noted that drainage gullies in the village street are sinking. AB will also take these issues up with BEAR.

(g) Grant to Community Hall: LMacN had written to GCC on behalf of the Community Hall management, applying for a grant of £1,000 to cover recent unexpected expenses. He and CM declared an interest in the issue and left the meeting. The members were minded to approve the grant but at KB's suggestion decided to defer making the decision until the next meeting, by which time the community in general would have been advised that GCC has funds for such grants.

7. The next meeting will be held at 19.00 on 3rd July 2023 in the Community Hall.