

Glengarry Community Council

Minutes of meeting on 10th January 2022 at 19.00 by Teams

1. Sederunt and Apologies

Present: Catriona Menzies (CM), chair; Lea MacNally (LMacN), treasurer; Neillie Stewart (NS); Andrew Baldrey (AB); Maria MacRae (MMacR); Ken Brown (KB); Denis Rixson (DR), councillor; Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), minutes secretary.

Present by invitation: Alan Greenwood (AG) and Andrew Smith (AS), SSE.

Apologies: Allan Henderson, councillor; Sally Cooper, SSEN.

[Item 4 of Agenda taken first; see below.]

2. No conflicts of interest in respect of agenda items were indicted, apart from DR intimating that as he is now a member of Highland Council's Planning Committee he would not be in a position to comment on planning matters.

3. Minutes of meeting of 6th December 2021 and matters arising

CD intimated that she had written to Ronald Stewart and Alasdair Fraser about obtaining estimates for repair to the Post Office doors, but had as yet received no reply. She is to press them for a reply. Members were asked to suggest names of other possible tradesmen.

KB proposed adoption of the minutes and AB seconded this; they were accepted nem con.

4. Coire Glas updates

AG, (SSE Engagement Manager) and AS (SSE Renewables) were present for this agenda item in order to inform the Council of the present state of the Coire Glas pumped storage scheme works. AG reported that ground investigation works had been undertaken along the Kilfinnan road during November 2021, in order to evaluate the nature of the ground under the road, which would have to be made good for heavy traffic. These investigations involved the digging of trial pits and engaged no more than ten people at a time. The results are now being evaluated and reports on the soil samples are being made. More exploratory work will be done from June this year in the next phase of the work. In February, some tree felling will be undertaken in preparation for further exploratory works. In March there may be a public consultation in connection with a new river crossing at White Bridge and undergrounding cables, details of which have not yet been finalised. In May, the Great Glen Way will be diverted to a forestry track higher up the hill in accordance with planning permission, as its present route is to be used for access to the works. The exploratory works starting in June and continuing for 12 to 15 months will involve assessing the works site by drilling into the hill. In July, a planning application for the White Bridge crossing and the undergrounding works will be submitted.

AG and AS invited questions. MMacR asked if they were aware of the landslip on the Balmaglaister road; they said that they were, that it indicted an ongoing risk, and had taken pictures of it today. MMacR said that it was the first such slip on that side of

the glen, though the Corriegour straight on the other side is well known for such events. AG said that SSE would be considering making improvements to the road and would be in touch with Highland Council about this.

AG offered to make regular reports to the Community Council from month to month, if that is required. CM noted that this would be included in forthcoming Agendas. AG reminded the Council that SSE has a community liaison group and that he would send invitations to join this group if requests to do so are made. CM and KB have his email address.

AG and AS left the meeting, and business proceeded to the remainder of the Agenda, beginning with item 2 [reported above].

After they had left, DR mentioned that a beneficial legacy to the community is to be looked for from the Coire Glas works, and reminded the Council that it may be necessary to maintain pressure on SSE in due course in relation to this.

5. Planning applications

None have come to the attention of the Council.

6. Treasurer's report

LMacN said there was little to add to the report. An amount in respect of insurance premiums had been repaid to AB following his resignation from the village officer post.

7. Village Officer

AB and Ross Lynn have resigned the post. They were thanked for their work. Douglas Stewart has now taken it on and has already undertaken some tidying around the war memorial and work on the Post Office roof.

8. Any other competent business

- a) CM mentioned that funds from Highland Council are available for community projects. Applications must be in by 21st January. NS referred to the need for an upgrade to the playpark roundabout. He has spoken to David Lamont about this and has been told to apply to the Council for the specifications of an appropriate piece of equipment. DR confirmed that there is a fund for Lochaber which is always the subject of keen competition. Receiving a grant depends on the merits of an application. He urged NS to obtain a quotation of the cost and to make an application. NS will do this.
- b) CD intimated that owing to a conflict of interests arising from her membership of the board of Glengarry Community Woodlands, and the prospect of substantial responsibilities in that regard, her involvement in certain aspects of Council work might become difficult. She is happy to continue with the responsibility of circulating the agenda for Council meetings and preparing the Minutes. LMacN confirmed that Dot Ferguson had indicated that some Community Councils engage a secretary who is paid an honorarium. DR confirmed that there are supplementary funds available from Highland Council for this if they are

required. KB, who has professional experience of company secretaryship, agreed to formulate a draft advertisement for such a secretary and to circulate it to the Council.

- c) LMacN has received a letter from Tom Cooper of Glengarry Community Woodlands asking if the Council would support an application for public funding for GCW projects. A deadline of 19th January has been given. LMacN was asked to draft and to circulate an appropriate letter of support. CD said that she would not be able to comment owing to her conflict of interests.
- d) AB agreed to take forward the matter of a presentation to Douglas Stewart.
- e) The state of Invergarry Old Bridge was discussed. All agreed that it would be most desirable for it to be put back into use, though it was acknowledged that issues such as the ownership and the historic nature of the bridge might make repair difficult and costly to effect. MMacR suggested that SSE might be prepared to assist in funding repairs to the bridge as a community benefit. She suggested that the Council should join the Trust in speaking to Morven Smith about this. DR recalled that the issue of the ownership of the bridge and the river bank had been investigated by Highland Council some years ago. He confirmed that the bridge appears on the Historic Scotland record of the historic environment under reference MHG17194. KB is to check this and the Register House record of the bridge's ownership.
- f) MMacR asked if the Council is proposing AB as its representative on the Trust. It was decided to defer a decision on this until it has been discussed. MMacR confirmed that the Trust's AGM is in June, and a decision is not required before then.

9. Next meetings

7th February 2022

7th March 2022

4th April 2022

Th meeting closed at 20.15