

## Glengarry Community Council

### Minutes of meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 19.00 by Teams

1. Present: Catriona Menzies, Chair (CM), Lea MacNally, (Treasurer) (LMacN), Neillie Stewart (NS), Andrew Baldrey (AB), Ken Brown (KB), Councillor Allan Henderson (AH), Councillor Denis Rixson (DR), Cecilia Dyckhoff, Minutes Secretary (CD); Guests present for item 5 only: Derek Hearn (DH) and Sally Cooper (SC) of SSEN.
2. Minutes of last meeting  
The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved nem con, NS proposing and LMcN seconding.
3. Matters arising
  - (a) Post Office door repairs: CD reported that she had had no reply to her emails and telephone messages to Ronald Stewart and Alasdair Fraser. She would try again, though it appears they may be busy. NS said he would be able to approach them personally if necessary.
  - (b) Playpark roundabout: NS has been in touch with Jean Young and David Lamond at Highland Council, and has obtained the details of suppliers of playground equipment. Though the deadline for applications for funding to Play Space has passed, there will be another opportunity to apply to this very competitive source next year. However, the Glengarry Trust may be prepared to support the proposal to upgrade the equipment. The next dates for an application will be in March and June. NS will obtain brochures from the suppliers and report on the likely cost, which may be as much as £20,000.
  - (c) Letter of support to Glengarry Community Woodlands (GCW): LMcN confirmed that the draft letter which he had circulated to Council members had been approved and sent to GCW.
  - (d) Presentation to Douglas Stewart: AB undertook to take this matter forward.
  - (e) Glengarry Old Bridge: KB circulated a paper setting out the difficulties of the ownership issue. There was discussion of whether the Scottish heritage community would be likely or able to become involved. KB noted that the Glengarry Estates trust has transferred some of its heritable interests to a limited company - Aberchalder and Glengarry Estates Limited – and that details of the property involved could be found on its Companies House web entry. He said that the bridge is not included in this property.
4. Coire Glas  
Alan Greenwood had previously intimated that he would have nothing to add to his presentation under agenda item 5.
5. SSEN Issues  
DH of from the SSEN Coire Glas project team made a presentation about the current state of the pumped storage project. He said that the project, which is for a 1296MW installation, is governed by the terms of their statutory agreement. It is in two phases, with the first connection to be made in December 2027 and the second

in October 2029. The first will involve works at Coire Glas and the second will not, as it will deal with linking the scheme into the Beaully-Denny line at Auchterawe, by Fort Augustus. SSEN will only be involved in the first phase. He described the four elements of the project: an Air Insulated Switching Station (AISS) which is the interconnection between the SSE Renewables project at Coire Glas and SSE Transmissions; a 400KV overhead line from the AISS to a substation near Loch Lundie; a rationalisation of the overhead lines stepping up the current from there to Auchterawe; and a final connection at Auchterawe. The possible routes must take into account environmental, technical and cost criteria, including issues relating to existing dwellings and land use, and heritage and wildlife considerations. 3.5kms of line are involved from the Coire Glas AISS to Loch Lundie, and a further 8.5kms from there to Auchterawe.

At present, the preferred option for the route from Loch Lundie to Auchterawe is within the footprint of the existing pylon route. It has not yet been determined whether it will be possible to arrange for the Skye line to carry the load from Loch Lundie. If this can be done in the context of the timing and engineering constraints already involved in constructing that line, it would have the advantage of removing the need for a parallel second line. The route from Coire Glas to Loch Lundie also has to be finalised. In both instances, the lines are to be overhead on pylons similar to those of the Beaully-Denny line. The heights are likely to be either 56m or 27m, according to the location.

The AISS above Invergarry, which will receive the transmission cable from the Coire Glas tunnel, is expected to have a footprint of 165 x 94m. A building 21.5 by 13.5m and 6 - 8m high will be on that site, which will include the other necessary switching equipment including a busbar about 12m high. DH explained that this size of AISS installation is required because there is no gas insulation alternative on the market.

The AISS compound above Loch Lundie is to be 323.5 x 257.5m, including a building 29.5m by 15.2m, the building and the busbar having similar heights to those at the other location.

DH showed a plan and an aerial representation of the location. He said that the route is to be pulled away from the village and from other locations such as the camp site at Faichem. The project team is working to reduce the visual impact of the sites. They are planning to make use of existing forest tracks for the construction works.

The project team is still working on the interface with the Skye line, rationalising the interconnection at Auchterawe, and making an environmental assessment. The current phase consists of moving into the detailed design stage, arranging public consultation in early Spring, and moving on to the planning application after that.

Allowing twelve months for the planning process, it is expected that construction will start in early 2024 and will continue to 2026 before commissioning in 2027.

To sum up, the next steps will be finalising the route, followed by engagement with stakeholders, including local communities and Community Councils, making assessments of the works access routes, and preparing for and making environmental impact assessments.

In response to questions, DH confirmed that he would send a copy of his presentation slides to CM. In relation to the camp site that he had mentioned, he confirmed that he was referring to the Faichemard site and not to any projected camp for site workers. The workers will be travelling to the site, and traffic assessments will be made about this. SC confirmed that any further questions can be sent to her and she will provide an email link for this.

6. Representative to Glengarry Trust: this matter is deferred to the Council's May meeting.
7. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): the current position with regard to responsibility for the Post Office building was reviewed; the proposal that a legal entity distinct from the Community Council should be set up to own and administer it was discussed. The present position in relation to title to the land was noted as being a bar to this for the time being. (But cf item 3(e) above.) It was decided to explore the possibility that existing local organisations other than the Council might be willing to add the building to their responsibilities. LMcN was asked to take this forward.
8. Planning applications: none noted.
9. Treasurer's report: LMacN presented the report and noted two typographical errors: the entry in relation to the Village Officer should have been dated November; and the funds stand at £2,263.63.
10. Secretary: KB's proposal was noted. CM has spoken to Voluntary Action Lochaber and as a result questioned whether a correspondence secretary is necessary. It was agreed that the present arrangement is adequate: CD to prepare Minutes and other actions of the Council to be handled by such members as are instructed to do so.
11. Any Other Competent Business:
  - (a) DR reported that the Spean Bridge Community Council is being revived. There may be certain issues of joint interest.
  - (b) LMacN explained, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Council does not employ anyone. The Village Officer is a contractor paid by funds from the Glengarry Trust, not directly employed, and arranges his or her own insurance.
  - (c) AH reminded the Council that a wind farm at Culachy is being proposed. There will be community benefits attached to this project, and the Council should be alive to the possibilities these may offer.
  - (d) CM confirmed that she will arrange for copies of the minutes to be displayed at the Post Office and the filling station.

- (e) LMacN raised the question of whether skips should be ordered for this summer, and it was agreed that he should arrange for this.
- (f) LMacN reminded the Council that an application for funds for the Village Office should be applied for by June. It was agreed to defer this matter until then.
- (g) It was discussed whether future meetings should be in person or online and whether it would be feasible to arrange a hybrid format so that those who have to continue shielding will be able to do so. It was noted that members of the public who have the right to be present at meetings might find it easier to do so in person. It was agreed that technical advice about the possibility of using a hybrid system, at reasonable expense, should be obtained before a final decision is made.

12. Next and forthcoming meetings: 7<sup>th</sup> March by Teams; 4<sup>th</sup> April; 9<sup>th</sup> May; 6<sup>th</sup> June (AGM, requiring 21 days' notice).

The meeting ended at 21.00.