

## Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

### Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

#### 1. Present

Catriona Menzies (CM), chair; Lea MacNally (LMacN), treasurer; Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), secretary; Neillie Stewart (NS); Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); Kevin Sutherland (KS)

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting

CD advised that Jade O'Hara of SSE had asked for some adjustments to be made to the note of our meeting about the Coire Glas project: the corrected note would be circulated. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted; proposed: LMacN; seconded: KB

#### 3. Matters arising

- (a) Playground roundabout: having received from Councillor Andrew Baldrey (AB) a copy of an email from David Lamont of Highland Council (HC) Amenities Services, KB reported that he had written to them both about the cost of installing the roundabout which has been purchased. The cost appears to be unexpectedly excessive, and HC does not have the capacity to do the work. KS advised that his assessment of the cost was substantially less than that quoted by the manufacturers. Possible sources of grant funding for the work were discussed. KB and AB are to make their best efforts to resolve this longstanding difficulty.
- (b) GCC email issues: LMacN will contact Colin Grant (CG) for help in transferring the email account. There was some discussion about whether a new account should be opened, but it was pointed out that about 700 emails would have to be forwarded. It was noted that if a new account were set up, emails to the old account could be diverted to it. This will be considered by LMacN and CG. The desirability of establishing a GCC website was also mentioned.
- (c) Zoom equipment: KB noted that a forthcoming SSE meeting in the Community Hall would be using Zoom and that it would be interesting to see their equipment and how it is managed. After some discussion, it was agreed that whilst there are arguments for using Zoom for GCC meetings, there may be difficulties in connectivity and meeting management.
- (d) Feral pig control: LMacN reported that he is dealing with a procurement form from NatureScot (NS) and has spoken to his contact there. After studying the situation here and using thermal imaging cameras to determine the extent of the problem, NS will advise on the equipment required. LMacN said that there had been considerable discussion in countryside management groups throughout Scotland about wild pig control.
- (e) Post Office building: the use of the building by Royal Mail was discussed. PM asked if any modification to the building would be required if there were any formal changes to the usage, and it was agreed that this would probably be likely, though the cost is not known. After some discussion about the desirability of formalising the present informal situation, and noting the responsibility of GCC both to insure the building and to manage its assets with due consideration of

the appropriate financial return, it was confirmed that KB should make renewed efforts to obtain legal advice.

4. Financial report

The financial report was noted, including the necessary cost of clearing snow. LMacN said that grant applications would be made for skip hire and the cost of employing the village officer, whose work is much appreciated. A skip has been ordered for use by the Glengarry Highland Games (GHC) work party at the shinty field on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May. LMacN is in contact with Marit Behner-Coady of GHC about the size of skip needed and its location.

5. Planning applications

KB has noted and forwarded several planning applications since the last meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that GCC has no comment to make on any of them, and that KB should intimate this to HC. He will continue to monitor and circulate applications, and reminded members that, depending on the timing of applications and GCC meetings, it may be necessary for views to be sent to him by email.

6. Any other competent business

- (a) Displaying minutes: CM said that she had been asked by members of the community where minutes of these meetings are displayed. It was noted that in due course they will be put onto a website as well as being physically placed in the usual three locations in the village: the Community Hall; the Post Office; and the garage.
- (b) Coronation mugs: There was considerable discussion about whether to offer coronation mugs to children in the village. It was noted that there had been some controversy about a similar project in the past and it was agreed that there appears to be no consensus in the community about whether such an action would be acceptable.
- (c) Firework Fund: its use was discussed, it being noted that firework training would have to be renewed if any display were to be arranged. LMacN is to ask the Glengarry Trust whether the fund would be available to use for a similar project such as travel to an organised display elsewhere. Recent moves to regulate and control the safety of such events, and their falling into disuse, were noted.
- (d) State of the glen road (C1144): CD is to write to HC Roads Department about the very bad state of the road between Daingean and the slipway.
- (e) Subject of next meeting; and Coire Glas Liaison Group (CGLG): after discussion, it was agreed that members ought to be free to attend the CGLG meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, which coincides with the next proposed GCC meeting. It was also noted that Malcolm Crosby of Forestry and Land Scotland has offered to meet GCC on the same date, when he will be in the area. It was therefore agreed to defer the next full meeting of GCC, and to arrange an earlier time on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to meet him at a special meeting.

7. Date of next meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> April: at 18.00, meeting with Malcolm Crosby; at 19.00 CGLG; 1<sup>st</sup> May at 19.00 full GCC meeting.

