

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of Meeting

held on 7th August 2023 at 19.00 in Glengarry Community Hall

1. Present
Catriona Menzies (CM) chair, Lea MacNally (LMacN) treasurer, Kevin Sutherland (KS) vice chair, Neillie Stewart (NS), Ken Brown (KB), Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD) secretary, Philippa Maltby (PM); no apologies were received; four members of the public were present. As on a previous occasion, KB made a motion to record the proceedings; after discussion, he withdrew the motion, referring to his perception of animus (which was not admitted).
2. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 3rd July were approved. Proposed: KS; seconded: NS.
3. Matters arising
 - (a) The GCC website is no longer active, having been closed down just before LMacN met with the former secretary to discuss it. The data on the site has not been irrevocably lost. It was decided to defer taking further steps to instruct Stephanie Carroll until after the forthcoming election of Council members.
 - (b) The minutes of the special meeting held on 24th July to consider offers made by Mars Projects Limited (MPL) had been forwarded to members; and the minute of the public part of the meeting had been sent to Sharon Machado, the representative of MPL, who had not intimated any comments on it. It was decided that any further decision on possible projects should be deferred until after the forthcoming election. A formal record of the possibilities discussed in the private part of the meeting is not necessary because there would be no bar to present members of GCC bringing them to the attention of the new Council, either as members, if re-elected, or as members of the public. The minute of the special meeting was approved. Proposed: KB; seconded: LMacN.
4. Financial report for 2022 – 2023
LMacN had circulated and publicised the report. It was noted that KB had intimated some criticisms of the format and details of the report, as well as a corrected format, to members by email on 6th August. He had also corresponded with Dot Ferguson (DF), the Senior Ward Manager. His comments had referred to: the convention used for reporting the previous year's data; the recording of assets; and the recording of an uncashed cheque. It was noted that the conventions used, whilst not exactly those laid out in the 2019 Highland Council Scheme, had been used for many years, and that DF had indicated at the meeting on 24th July that she has accepted the format of the annual report. LMacN had spoken to DF after receiving KB's email and found her supportive. He also confirmed that he is to be receiving help in setting up the recommended Excel Spreadsheet format for future accounts. There was substantial discussion; it was regretted that the detailed criticisms had not been intimated informally in a manner that would allow amendment. CM noted the

difference between a financial statement and a formal account, the latter being drawn up by a professional accountant. After referring to two possible motions, CD proposed that the report be accepted, the criticisms being noted; seconded PM. Five members voted to accept and one to refuse, LMacN abstaining. It was confirmed that LMacN was authorised to sign the document, to return it to DF and to copy it if asked.

5. Monthly financial report

The monthly financial report had been circulated to members. The details of the grants received from the Glengarry Trust were noted with thanks. It was also noted that a one-off extra payment of £1,646.47 had been received as part of the funds from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) distributed by the Shinty Club in terms of the agreement made by them in 2015.

6. Playground roundabout update

KB reported. For the time being, a decision about the offer of financial assistance from MPL will be deferred until the existing donors have had an opportunity to deal direct with Highland Regional Council (HRC), with the assistance of Councillor Andrew Baldrey, in relation to the £6,000 funding held by HRC for the cost of installation. It was regretted that resolution of this matter has taken so long.

7. Planning applications

No planning or licensing applications had been noted in the relevant period. LMacN advised the meeting that a new password had been issued for the GCC account, which can be used by office bearers. It was agreed that he should continue to monitor applications.

8. Any other competent business

(a) Footbridge issue: CM had circulated an email from a resident about the footbridge known as the Black Bridge, near the Post Office. The email included a report prepared for FLS, which has an interest in the bridge. The report states that the bridge is in need of maintenance and that the number of people on it at one time should be limited. The bridge is a public right of way and part of the Core Path; it is currently receiving increased use owing to the re-routing of the Great Glen Way during logging works along Loch Oich. The HRC Access Office Stewart Eastaugh (SE) has been in contact with LMacN, who will circulate his email. Some responsibility for maintaining the bridge may fall upon HRC and FLS, though the funds available to both are limited. It was noted that the bridge is important for community access, including to the school. CD was instructed to write to FLS and SE confirming this.

(b) School crossing: CM reported that no school crossing officer has been appointed as no applications for the post were received. Informal arrangements have been made to supervise children crossing. It was agreed that this was unsatisfactory and that HRC should be contacted, with a copy to BEAR Scotland, asking that a pedestrian controlled crossing with lights should be installed. KS said that the Parent Council would probably support this. It was noted that the HRC plan to reduce the speed limit in the village to 20mph is still current. LMacN said that

HRC should also be asked to arrange for the school crossing lights to be turned off during the holidays.

- (c) Lamp standard in the Crescent: NS reported that a lamp standard in the Crescent is lacking the cover to its wiring compartment. HRC Lighting Department is to be contacted about this.
- (d) Road markings at A82 – A87 junction: it was noted that the white lines which have recently been repainted at the road junction have already been obliterated by passing traffic, perhaps by drivers cutting the corner. In view of the heavy use of the junction, including by tourist traffic, and the safety issue there, it was decided to contact BEAR Scotland requesting repainting in a more durable finish as a matter of urgency.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 19.00 on 4th September 2023 in Glengarry Community Hall.