

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council

Draft Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 24th February 2021

Members Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)
Stuart Findlay - Treasurer (SF)
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Mike Anderson (MA)
Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)
Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)

Apologies:

Robert MacDonald (RM)
Rachel Hayes (RH)

Note Taker: Samantha Cornelius (SC)

1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27th January 2021 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by HC and seconded by DM.

Presentation by Scottish Water: Kelton Bennett (KB) gave a quick update on their projects: including the canal crossing, A82, Jenkins Park, Raw Water Intake and the Great Glen Way pipework. Lovat Terrace and the Fort Augustus Service Reservoir are all complete. The booster pumping stations main works will take place over the next 8 weeks, performance testing on 7th May. There will be lights on the Auchterawe Road whilst works resume there. A planning application will be submitted for a 'top up tap' outside the Scottish Visitor Centre.

2. Matters Arising

Invermoriston Toilets: No update.

Scottish Water: Monthly report provided.

3. Police Report

Incidents between 27 Jan and 22 Feb 21:

The police have dealt with a small number of basic road traffic incidents which did not involve any criminality.

Police continue to monitor local compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines. There were 3 reported incidents over this period advice was given on two occasions and on the other the people involved were forced to leave the area and return to their home address.

Following what appears to have been an accidental incident of a dog attacking sheep in a field in Drumnadrochit. Local police request that all dog owners in close proximity to farm animals/cattle etc

keep their dogs on a lead or under proper control at all times. They are fully aware that sometimes accidents can happen but if dogs are kept under proper control, then this will minimise the opportunities and ensure the welfare of the animals.

4. Treasurer's Report

The balance as of today is £5,735.96.

5. Community Amenity Issues

Car Park: All in order and with the solicitors. CC to invite Shane Manning (SM) to meet and discuss charges at Bunoch and overnight parking. DM to contact SM to arrange a meeting with DM and SF to discuss final parking issues around the village.

The Riggs: MD to write to every household, commercial vehicles can be parked in the car park and will be free from enforcement from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. so will be free year-round. MD to discuss with Shane Manning about weekends and whether passes could be issued for vehicles.

Dog Fouling: There have been lots of complaints about dog fouling and people leaving bags of dog mess at Canalside, Convent Wood and the Golf Course. It is deemed to be local people due to the ongoing lockdown. An article will be appearing in the next edition of Ness News.

Roads: DM to email John Taylor and Alan Johnstone about the state of Canalside and the road verge on the Ardachy Road which is giving way, the road is cracking and falling off. The pothole at Glendoe has been repaired.

Sheltered Housing: Emma Micklethwaite (THC) has advised that the houses will be ready by the end of summer and that anyone interested should apply by the end of March. All applicants will also have to be on THC housing list.

Kilchuimen Cemetery: No update.

Ness News: The magazine is currently with the printers. Royal Mail will deliver copies of the Ness News to 850 properties in mid-March consisting of 24 pages.

6. Renewable Energy Projects

Fiodhag Windfarm: No update. Project Manager: Nick Forrest.

Cloiche Windfarm: No update.

Glenshero: Waiting on the outcome of the appeal.

Corrie Glas: Scoping for a sub-station at Invergarry into 400kV lines.

Dell Windfarm: No update.

Tomchrasky Windfarm: CC submitted comments

Loch Liath Windfarm: CC put a comment on their scoping application.

Bhlaraidh Extension: Online public consultation taking place on 24-26th Feb.

Fort Augustus Substation: Notice of weekend working until the 25th April with revised hours Sat 07:00 - 18:00 and Sun 07:00 to 17:00. SF to write to complain and seek compensation. Next meeting Wednesday 17th March at 7.00 p.m. by Teams.

7. Planning & Licensing

21/00310/FUL - Erection of meteorological mast, instrumentation. Land 2210M NW Of Tomchrasky Farmhouse, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston.

No comment by CC.

21/00478/FUL - Retrospective application for the formation of two screening bunds and associated landscaping. Electricity Sub Station Auchterawe, Fort Augustus.

No comment by CC.

8. Correspondence

Provisional event to be held at Dundreggan on 1st May. The theme being spring celebration, linking into the traditional Gaelic festival of Latha Bealltainn. Activities such as bannock making over a fire, storytelling, guided walks (spring flowers/birds etc), natural crafts and some sort of breaking ground ceremony for the rewilding centre.

Free Cash Machine: a free cash machine can be installed outside the toilets or car park, DM to check to see where it can go.

Bhlaraidh Extension wind farm virtual exhibition. The exhibition will run from noon on February 24 until March 12 and display the latest information on the proposed development. There will be an opportunity to take part in live chat sessions with members of the project team from 2 - 4 p.m. daily from February 24 to February 26 and also to provide feedback via email.

Christmas lights project for Fort Augustus & Invermoriston. Costs for the erection of the Christmas lights are prohibitively high. The Community Company are happy to keep the lights at the Village Hall but won't pay the £800 to turn them on. CC to find out about the four missing lights from THC. SF asked whether the lights can be kept up all year round so as to then only incur costs in having them switched on each year?

9. AOB

Members of the community of Glenmoriston contacted JD to raise numerous access issues who will be sending a detailed list of these issues to MD for the Access Officer.

Broadband: Community Company are to advise that they will not be able to take on the issue of broadband due to the demand on time with other ongoing projects. MD advised that the R100 Project of the Scottish Government will deliver fibre to premises as a standard although unsure how long the roll out will take. JD to raise with Community Company to ask when they will be able to discuss as a small community group would not be able to work with UK Government, Openreach etc and whilst the Community Company have people who could do it whereas the CC does not.

MD to email Colin Watson (BEAR) regarding road issues. DM has taken photographs of all issues and will contact David Devine to complain that no representative has yet attended a CC meeting and to

ask him to delegate someone to attend for 5 - 10 mins a month. Issues include the road to Inverness especially at Invermoriston and the stretch of road opposite Girvan's Hardware Store. Other issues raised for the HC are potholes at The Riggs; Canalside; the bollard at Tarff Bridge and the state of the Ardachy road.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 31st March at 7.30pm via Teams.