**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus, Wednesday 25th January 2017 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Helen Clay (HC)

Peter Yair (PY)

Steven Smith (SS)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Apologies:**

Jean Davis - Councillor (JD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 30th November 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by DM and seconded by HC.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Shooting Club**: CP to arrange a visit to the site.

1. **Loch Ness ETAPE**

A presentation was given ahead of this year’s event. This will be the fourth year that it has been held and has grown considerably, in the first year there were 1,250 entrants and this year there will be 5,200 entrants. The road closures will be as per previous years, official escorts will be provided where needed and any movements will need to be agreed in advance.

There will be a Royal Mail drop at the end of March covering 31,000 properties. MacMillan has received over £200,000 as well as 33 other charities. Donations to each CC involved this year will increase from £500 to £750. Organisers will be looking for volunteers/marshals shortly and separate donations will be made to charities or organisations of their choice.

The event promotes tourism and brings income to the area. In the first year entrants were 96% Scottish, this year 83% Scottish with the rest being from England and overseas. Basic entrance places sold out within 50 hours and MacMillan entrants where minimum sponsorship £100 sold out within 10 days.

1. **Police Report**

Monthly report presented by PC N113 McGill. Road Traffic - no serious accidents, 6 minor road traffic collisions and 2 reports of poor driver behaviour. 4 fixed penalty tickets (2 for speeding) and two Road Traffic Offences resulting in a report. Public Protection 3 matters.

There were two incidents of note:

1. Reports of a suspicious person knocking on doors of older people within the village. Enquiries resulted in a female being traced and spoken to, not believed to be anything of a criminal nature in her behaviour.
2. There was a report of vandalism on the wall of the Old Convent. Enquiries are continuing, if anyone has any information please contact PC McGill at Fort Augustus Police Station.

Police recently gave a presentation to the Fort Augustus Youth Group concerning internet safety and cyber bullying.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The account balance as at 9 December 2016 was £5,566.52.

Suggestions sought for the Agenda as to distribution of 2016 Etape donation to CC of £500, also for remaining funds from Fishing Club for youth projects/activities.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**

Torgoyle Bridge. PY to check signage on the A887 approach the bridge and contact Bear Scotland for update.

E-mail from Colin Ross regarding Fort Augustus Road Improvements, DM to contact and advise no issues raised by CC.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

**Consented Projects:**

Stronelairg Windfarm: Still building the camp, more vehicular traffic to and from site at present but will reduce once camp built. DM to request that the next liaison meeting is moved from 23rd to 22nd March. The track from Glendoe to the windfarm is not in a very good condition. It’s approximately 20k long but not of a good enough standard so will need to be re-done. Dangerous for pedestrians at present, CF to speak to the access officer. Visit Loch Ness want to extend the path to Loch Tarff and join the South Ness Trail, they will be applying to the Leader and SSE for funding.

Beinneun Windfarm: Blue Energy has offered to meet to discuss community benefit arrangements. Neal Reid (Blue Energy) will be in the area on 7th February and available to attend a meeting that evening. Following discussion CP to forward Neil names and contact details of interested parties in order that he can invite all relevant groups and also offer assistance in arranging a suitable location.

Bhlaraidh Windfarm: The next liaison meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd February at 7.00 p.m. There are still problems with the water supply. Ideas sought for community projects that SSE could assist with (i.e. Glenmoriston Shooting Ground). Seven turbines completed and will commence building the second wave imminently.

Millennium Windfarm: Discussion about reduced benefit to the community due to a drop in generation. CC of the view that the windfarm would be compensated.

Auchterawe Substation: The next liaison meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st February at The Lovat Hotel at 7.00 p.m. Community Member Stephen Lanning has resigned. Neil Anderson has advised that SHET would like honest feedback on how the work has been done at the bund.

1. **Planning & Licensing**

Applications:

* 1. Land 375M West Of Kilchuimen Academy Station Road - 16/05526/FUL. Erection of eight visitor accommodation pods and services building (previous planning permission 13/04182/FUL).

Comment: To ask for them to be screened or sited farther back.

* 1. Land 130M SW of Mingulay - 16/05531/FUL. Erection of 6 accommodation pods and a services building (renewal 13/03020/FUL).

The CC had no comment.

* 1. The Lovat Arms Hotel - 16/05636/FUL replacement windows and door.

The CC had no comment.

* 1. Loch Ness Caravan Park Invermoriston - 16/05713/FUL. Change of use from touring caravan site to static caravans for holiday use only involving the siting of 30 new units.

Comment: Sewage/water, visual appearance from Loch, traffic issues, density and materials.

* 1. Cill Chuimein Health Centre Fort Augustus - 17/00089/FUL. Demolition & construction of new Health Centre.

The CC had no comment.

* 1. The Highland Club St. Benedict’s Abbey - 17/00091/LBC. Fire damage reinstatement with the cleaning of the internal exposed stone work and renewal of single glazed glass insets.

The CC had no comment.

Granted:

* 1. Glenmoriston Arms Hotel - 16/02776/FUL: Installation of Bio Mass CHP unit running in-line with existing Biomass Boiler on basis of 2 engines with an output of 10kw electric and 30kw heat.

Pending:

* 1. Erection of 60 foot mast at The Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort Augustus to provide 4G to Fort Augustus. No planning application yet lodged.

Appeals:

* 1. Caravan Park, Markethill - 16/02988/FUL: Appeal against refusal to be heard in February.

General discussion surrounding Scottish Canal properties within the village which are unoccupied and falling into general disrepair. Senior planners to be contacted who can take action against derelict properties under s179 of The Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. CP to contact Nicola Drummond.

1. **Correspondence**

Invitation received to attend Community Council Forum in the Townhouse, Inverness on Thursday 16th February.

1. **AOB**

A nurse, pharmacist and minister have left the local area and these issues need to be addressed. DM to contact Mhairi Law District Manager (NHS) and invite to the February or March CC meeting.

Additional agenda item of “Communication” to be added to monthly meetings. Web site to be discussed further. In the interim DM is to organise a CC Facebook page.

Fort Augustus Car Park. 20 minutes currently permitted although signage does not say that patrons can have up to 20 minutes free parking. MD to raise and CP to contact William Gilfillan at THC.

Toilet attendant has resigned and there's no cover currently in place.

Dog Fouling. Ian Wilson advised about fouling at the Riggs and canal areas.

Loading Bay at Canalside. A complaint has been received regarding vehicles parking in the loading bay opposite the Lock Inn which then cause vehicles to block the road when making deliveries to businesses. A larger loading bay would not prevent other vehicles from parking there, although as the time limit there is not currently enforced DM to contact Police.

Road at Jenkins Park. No update yet received from Ali Nairne.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd February at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston at 7.30 p.m.