**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 25th November 2020

**Members Present:**

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)

Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)

Stuart Findlay - Treasurer (SF)

Jeff Dymond (JD)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)

Apologies:

Robert MacDonald (RM)

Mike Anderson (MA)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

**Note Taker:** Samantha Cornelius (SC)

**1. Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 30th October were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by SF and seconded by JD.

**Presentation by Scottish Water:** Gavin Steel (SW) gave a further update. The Auchterawe road around the road crossing some defects have now been completed to the satisfaction of THC, the road still needs white lining there is also remedial work at the Village Hall Car Park. Reinstatement work in three of the landowner’s fields which has all been agreed with them. The booster pumping stations on the Glendoe road we looked at the traffic management plan and a question raised about whether the traffic lights would operate simultaneously, that will not happen as the booster stations will be installed consecutively so there will only one set of lights at a time. Timescale will not take place until the New Year, specific dates tbc. Tree removal planning conditions apply to the lower pumping station, SW are to agree with the Council Tree Officer a plan to seek to minimise the numbers of trees to be removed and compensatory planting to replace those that need to be removed for the pumping station to be built. The monthly update was then discussed. The river and canal crossing is now complete apart from the final reinstatements, an important element is schedule with Bear Scotland will take place next week which is the tie in to take place by Girvan’s Hardware Store on the A82 there will be traffic lights there for 2-3 days whilst that takes place, Girvan’s have been advised. There is a by-pass arrangement which means there should be no impact on water supplies. The pipe work at Jenkins Park pipework won’t come into service immediately when the tie in takes place but later in the New Year, the new river and to turn on the canal crossing into service using the existing water supply. Invermoriston at raw water intake; commissioning activity put in the permanent power supplies for both sites particularly the water treatment works. Discussions were had with Forest Land Scotland about the permanent power supply in running the cable down the Great Glen Way, unable to install in the very edge of the track and not one that FLS are keen on therefore it will have to be in the centre of the track. Installation will be undertaken over weekends for approximately eight working weekends. SW will write to all residents in Invermoriston to make them aware of this work, the path will be open through the week but closed at weekends. Operating with temporary power supplies until the permanent power supply is installed at the Water Treatment Works (WTW) and Raw Water Intake Pumping Station (RWIPS). It is technically problematic to stop start commissioning works hence the generators to keep a continuous flow of water. SW to also contact residents and outline the use of generators currently operating at the RWIPS being extended in order to allow commissioning to commence. SW will be proposing that they are able to operate the generators from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (12 hours a day 7 days a week) hopefully completing the project by the end of March and having them fully in service. Service reservoir at Fort Augustus is proceeding well. SF asked if permission had to be obtained from THC for 7 day working, GS advised that because of environmental health issues as long as there is engagement with community and measures are taken to minimise noise, effectively there should be a maximum level of 5dB above background noise to the nearest property hence further site measurements being undertaken. MD queried 7 day working as the village has had to endure lots of construction work over the last few years and Sunday is the only construction free day and also asked if it was possible to minimise the current noise as far as possible including quieter generators. The plant has to run 24hours in order to commission the works. Question raised about the pooling of water on the new road in Jenkins Park which SSE say was caused by SW. GS to investigate and update SF and DM.

**2. Matters Arising**

**Invermoriston Toilets:** there will be a meeting to discuss the Millennium Hall becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

**Scottish Canals:** No update.

**Glen Moriston Estate:** No update.

**Scottish Water:** Monthly report provided.

**3. Police Report**

Between 28th Oct and 25th Nov 20:

Police issued 10 tickets to members of the public for speeding offences. This was in response to reports from members of the local community of persons speeding in the area. One person was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving with no insurance. Police also stopped and provided advice to numerous drivers in the area in relation to the Police Scotland winter safety campaign.

Police continue to monitor local compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines. There have been no reported incidents over the reporting period.

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

The balance at the end of November is £5,815.96. A cheque for £72 was issued to purchase the Remembrance Day wreaths for Fort Augustus and Invermoriston.

**5. Community Amenity Issues**

**Ward Boundaries:**  Discussions surrounding the proposed change to the current ward boundary. SF of the view that it would be disastrous for the village and will draft a CC letter to the Boundary Commission and MD. The revised boundary would no longer branch at Loch Tarff but go straight down to the Abbey, removing properties throughout Glendoe. CC to argue against it as the community of Stratherrick would be moved into Ward 15, an urban community council within Inverness. MD to put a briefing out to all CC’s.

**Car Park:** The old charging points are to be removed and be replaced with three new ones on the edge of the new extension. The car park extension was being held up within the legal section at THC, MD aware and continuing to monitor, it is hoped that as the site will be hardcore as opposed to tarmac it may be possible to work throughout the winter.

**Roads:** DM wrote to David Devine (DD) about the blocked culverts at Aberchalder, the ongoing problems at Ar Daichaidh with water crossing the road, the water pooling outside Cedar Gates, between Pier House and Invermoriston and the quarry works north of Fort Augustus. No update has been received on the state of Tarff Bridge or the lack of ‘road narrowing’ signage at Torgoyle. DM to invite Colin Watson (BEAR) to attend a CC meeting. MD to contact David Devine.

Andrew Herd from Transport Scotland has confirmed that CCTV will be installed and directed towards the swing bridge. There is legislation in place permitting its use to protect property.

The flashing 30 mph sign now working.

**Convent Housing:**

The Community Company has asked that if anyone is interested in taking on the new houses to get in touch with them direct.

**Cemeteries:**

MD visited Kilchuimen cemetery and agrees that the road is falling away; it will be a large project which will require civil engineering. IM has spoken with both SSE Transmission and SSE Distribution and given both the name of the relevant contacts at THC. MD to follow up.

Invermoriston cemetery fence is now repaired and safe.

**6. Renewable Energy Projects**

Fasnakyle: will be changing the name of the project to Fiodhag Windfarm as it is closer to a Loch by that name than it is to Fasnakyle.

Cloiche Windfarm: No update. Nature Scotland are objecting because of peat disturbance and wild land. Will hold up for at least 6 months.

Glenshero: Virtual session by the Reporter at Scottish Government waiting on a result.

Corrie Glas: Application at Loch Linnie has been approved.

Dell Windfarm: No update.

Tomchrasky Windfarm: E-power is the applicant for 29 turbines. An application has been lodged for scoping, CC to comment re: visual amenity, size of turbine and cumulative impact due to number of windfarms in the area.

Bhlaraidh Extension: Consultation took place the preferred route for the transmission line over the hill from Glen Moriston.

Fort Augustus Substation: The next meeting is 13th Jan 2021. There were technical difficulties for everyone trying to join the meeting. No representative from the CC could join and only one property finally managed to connect. SSEN are going to apply to THC Environmental Health Team to allow them to operate a 7 day week until March 2021. CC agreed to submit a letter of protest to THC that we don’t agree with 7 day working, MD advised to contact David Mudie, Area Manager. HC is to join as second member from the CC. The second transformer will be delivered on 8th January not the end of November as previously planned.

**7. Planning & Licensing**

20/03468/PIP - Land 85M West Redburn Café, Glenmoriston. Erection of house and garage.

*No comment by CC.*

20/04401/FUL - Development site at Old Military Road, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus. Erection of house.

*No comment by CC.*

**8. Correspondence**

Email received from THC entitled “Worrying About Money” providing signposting for advice and assistance.

**9. AOB**

Road signage. No update.

DM to source Christmas trees for the two villages as done previously. Last year the village officers erected the trees and THC removed them after the festive season. The village officers will do this again this year and THC will also take the trees away but will make a charge for doing so, cost currently unknown.

ETAPE is now planned for 25th April 2021. It will run with slightly reduced numbers and social distancing in place there will also be 8 - 10 additional aid stations but cyclists will be asked to be more self-sufficient. The event will start 15 mins earlier, so although roads will close 15 mins earlier, they will re-open at the same time.

There will be an Aird and Loch Ness CC meeting on 3rd December, agenda to cover Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan Boundary Commission public consultation and CC issues.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm via Zoom.