**Inaugural Meeting of**

**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Inaugural Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held in Fort Augustus Memorial Hall on Wednesday 25th November 2015 @ 7.30 p.m.

Margaret Davidson opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Nominations for the post of Chairperson were requested. Carol Pritchard was proposed by Deirdre MacKinnon and seconded by Johnny MacDonald.

The chair was then handed to Carol Pritchard who called for nominations for the posts of:

Secretary - Deirdre MacKinnon was proposed by Johnny MacDonald and seconded by Julia O’Neill

Treasurer - Johnny MacDonald was nominated by Julia O’Neill and seconded by Rachel Hayes

Two nominations for co-opting onto the Committee were proposed by the Chair:

Iain MacKnocher (IM) was proposed as Vice-Chair by Deirdre MacKinnon and seconded by Carol Pritchard.

Peter Yair (PY) was proposed by Carol Pritchard and seconded by Johnny MacDonald.

The Community Council was duly formed and the first meeting called to order.

**Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

Julia O’Neill (JO)

Peter Yair (PY)

Margaret Davidson – Councillor (MD)

**Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 30th September were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection.

1. **Matters Arising**

* Fort Augustus car park extension. MD confirmed she had met with the Roads Engineers who were in the process of undertaking a feasibility study, the results of which are expected in due course. An overflow car park had also been broached with Reay MacKay at Stravaigers Lodge.
* Invermoriston Car Park. SSE has offered to re-surface, in part if not in full, as part of community support for Bhlaraidh windfarm.
* School playing field. No update available as yet.
* Community Defibrillators. JM is currently trying to source containers to store them in, to progress with Ross Cowie on Skye. They do not charge to provide them but do seek a donation. One of the defibrillators is currently with the temporary surgery in Fort Augustus. PY to raise issue with West Glenmoriston Community Company for another one to be sourced and sited at the Old School House, Dalchreichart.
* Scottish Canals have purchased MacVeans and will be holding a drop-in session with small businesses on 3rd December. There is an open invitation for anyone to attend. MD advised she has had useful initial discussions to endeavour to secure jobs and income to the village. Further meetings are expected at which time Scottish Canals will formally advise of their plans.

1. **Treasurer's Report**

JM stated he had been advised that the payment from Highland Council had been made but could not confirm as no current statement had been issued by the Bank.

The balance in the Community Council account as of 24th September 2015 is £7,407.91.

JM proposed that £100 would be given to each village for their Children's Christmas Parties which was agreed.

JM raised issue of a donation to the Royal British Legion (RBL) for the Poppy wreaths following the Remembrance Services. The total cost for the 14 wreaths is £372, Jan Smith at RBL has sent a letter asking for a contribution from the CC towards those costs. It was agreed that the Council would make a donation in the sum of £100.

CP advised that the collection made at Invermoriston on Remembrance Sunday was donated to the RBL. The total sum raised this year was £266 which included monies raised at the Craft Fair Raffle the previous day.

RH queried why the Brownies, Guides etc never attend the Glenmoriston service. MD suggested they be asked to consider/organise.

A bottle of whisky was purchased for the retiring CC Chairman Stuart Findlay. It was also agreed that a meal would take place in due course at a local establishment as a mark of gratitude for his service to the community as a whole.

1. **Police Report & Community Amenity Issues**

**Police Report:** No Police Report had been provided in readiness for the meeting.

It was confirmed that there were now three police officers at Fort Augustus.

There had been an incident of theft of fuel from a residential fuel tank.

PY stated that residents at Dalchreichart were concerned by the volume of unknown vehicles on the road, due in part to the ongoing tree felling operations.

The new Hydro scheme has been broken into and a lot of property removed. One ‘gang’ have been arrested in relation and security is now in place on the site.

**Broadband:** PY and MD attended a meeting regarding fibre optic broadband in Fort Augustus. The locations it would be delivered to outside Fort Augustus were vague. However, Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) have asked BT and mobile operators to provide details of where they will reach. Community Broadband Scotland will assist where the downfall exists. MD advised questions remain about where the downfall will be and what will be required to resolve the problem.

**Bus Service:** There will be a meeting about the bus service on the 9th December at 4.00 p.m. in Fort Augustus as certain bus times to and from Inverness have been cancelled.

The bus leaving Fort Augustus at 8.15 a.m. is very busy as primarily it is used by school children but also others who wish to take advantage of the subsidised rate.

The meeting will include Stephen Graham and David Summers from the Highland Council and DM from the CC will be in attendance.

MD advised that the CC ask Stagecoach to re-instate the morning services from Inverness. Also that a general consultation paper be drafted about what services there are and what services are needed.

**Playparks:** Moira MacDonald has started a petition and has formed a group. Wicksteed advised that Ian Reed had submitted plans for this already. MD to contact Ian direct.

**Home Carers**: MD advised that the meeting held on Friday 20thNovember was well attended from throughout the area. There were two representatives from the NHS as well as people from Boleskine. A brief overview of the system at Gorthleck/Foyers was given, whereby people who needed care pooled their Self Directed Support payments. This enabled them to hire external care from Highland Homecare who employed and trained local people to offer the service and paid them.

Currently Invermoriston and Glenmoriston have no carers, whereas it is more complicated in Fort Augustus as there is one carer and the Telford Centre, lunch clubs etc. but this is still much less than is needed. There has been a huge decline in nursing hours over the past two years from 100 hours in 2013 to less than 45 hours in 2015. MD to contact Dr Jill Skeoch to arrange a further meeting.

It was confirmed that the former nursing carer (Ronald) would be returning to work in Fort Augustus.

**Road Condition:** No response has been received from Bob Mitchell (BEAR Scotland) who had been contacted about the pot holes along the road between Dundreggan and Dalchreichart. DM to contact.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

Community Liaison Groups (CLG):

* Bhlariaidh CLG. CP and PY to represent the CC. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 16.
* Stronelairg CLG. CP and JM to represent the CC.
* Auchterawe CLG. DM and JM to represent the CC. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 16.

**Energy Fund:** When windfarms are running a percentage of the income generated is given back to the community. There is a requirement to set up how decisions regarding that are to be made, how to liaise and how to get funding. Dalchreichart has its own Community Company who should deal with these issues. PY to action.

1. **Planning**

* Millennium Windfarm. At appeal.
* Bhlaraidh Windfarm. Work has started at the site but is weather dependant. The intention is to close for winter and re-start operations in the Spring. However, there is concern over site security during the closed period.
* Stronelairg. The judicial review is not yet determined. The sub-station application has been approved.
* Beinneun. Work has started CP to contact the Project manager to obtain regular updates on the site and the works in general.
* Culachy. There is a site visit planned for 11 Dec 15. DM to attend.
* Corrieyairack. Planners have placed conditions to the application about improving the signage. An application for the access road to be made permanent will be made by the Estate. RES had offered to do the signage if they obtained consent although that has not yet been granted. If RES do not proceed then the Highland Council will.
* Trees for Life. Have made a planning application on the Dundreggan Estate.
* Beinneun. Have submitted a windfarm screening request.
* Great Glen Trading Centre. Have submitted an application for alteration and extension to the shop.
* Planning in principle has been granted to land to the west of Dalchreichart. CC to seek a meeting with manager Allan Todd and request a visit to the site.
* Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. CP abstained from any discussion due to conflict of interest. An application has been lodged that the current Biomass heating system be removed and replaced by a Biogas installation. Concerns were raised by local residents who would be affected by such an installation. This planning application was discussed by the CC and after which it was decided to raise an objection with the Highland Council.

1. **Licensing**

Great Glen Trading Centre is requesting an earlier licence on a Sunday from 10.30a.m. as opposed to the current 12.30p.m. No objections were raised.

1. **Correspondence**

Apologies were received from Jean Davis (Lib Dem) and Helen Carmichael (Provost) who could not attend this meeting.

Enquiries have been received from two residents about the procedure to site a mooring or use an existing mooring in Inchnacardoch Bay. DM to advise individuals to contact the Police and the Service Point.

CC meetings are to remain the last Wednesday of the month (except in Dec and Jul when there will be no meetings).

Schedule: Jan - Invermoriston, Feb - Fort Augustus, Mar - Fort Augustus,

Apr - Dalchreichart, May - Invermoriston, Jun - Fort Augustus,

Aug - Fort Augustus, Sep - Dalchreichart, Oct - Fort Augustus,

Nov - Invermoriston

1. **AOCB**

* Steve Bracken (Marine Harvest) - enquiries to be made regarding size of workforce, how many recruiting and any housing requirements etc.
* Wraparound Facility at School. MD to progress.