**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on Wednesday 29thJune 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Peter Yair (PY)

Steven Smith (SS)

Helen Clay (HC)

**Apologies:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 27thMay 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by DM and seconded by SS.

1. **Matters Arising and Action Reports**

Home Carers: MD has arranged a meeting for the proposed Fort Augustus scheme on Friday 1st July at 3.30 p.m. Glenmoriston scheme have sent off the documentation for the Police checks for the new staff. The £500 donation towards costs (Uniform - £129.54, PVG - £174 and Training £450) was forwarded to the West Glenmoriston Community Company to oversee.

Broadband: PY advised that a circular has been prepared for people on the open electoral register but has not yet been issued. Copies of the document will be available for collection from various places for those not on the open register.

Medical Centre: No update, the move to Scots Kitchen is unresolved.

Telephone Box: No update.

Defibrillators: JM spoke with Ross Cowie who advised that ‘donations’ towards defibrillators start at £2,000 which includes: training and wiring in the kit. Suggested that the group contact local windfarms to see if they could assist. Accordingly, windfarms, SSE and the Community Company are to be approached for donations. PY to approach the Resilience Centre regarding funding towards one at Dalchreichart.

Roads: No progress on the issues surrounding the A87, the road behind the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel and the gorse which has not been cut back for visibility. Issues with pot holes on the straight mile, sunken manholes outside Police Station and pavement deterioration on Fort William Road opposite Girvans Hardware Store causing difficulties for pedestrians, buggies and mobility vehicles.

Website: CP and PY to discuss issues further. However, advised that the website is currently live again.

Torgoyle: BEAR have put grit into the pot holes but not expected to last.

Bus Stop: Seat provision at the bus stop in Abertarff was escalated, it is understood that the seat was being installed today?

Road Deterioration at Kilchuimen Cemetery: Reported by IM

1. **Police Report**

PC N0104 Jones provided a report presented by DM.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

JM stated the balance as at 9th May 2016 was £5,603.10 also that a cheque for £500 had been received from ETAPE.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**

Buses: No update, ongoing.

Pavements: DM to contact Tommy Deans at BEAR Scotland.

Canalside road: No update.

Speed Signs at Jenkins Park: Ongoing.

Roads - Torgoyle: Both the state of the roads and the speed of traffic were raised at the Bhlaraidh Community Liaison Group meeting. Advised that the contractor’s vehicles have trackers and drivers are spoken to if necessary. Concerns over lack of passing places to be raised at next meeting. Also footpath surface and kerbs are ready for an overhaul.

Parking at Abertarff Place: concerns raised by member of community regarding potential inability of any emergency vehicles being able to access properties in Abertarff Place due to the number of vehicles and lack of parking available. Discussions about potential solutions including residents parking permits and parking on road by Police House? Difficulty with residents permits due to number of presidents with more than one vehicle.

Abandoned vehicle: concerns raised over safety of purple Galaxy people carrier at Abertarff Place which has been left for several years, currently without wheels and sitting on jacks which may slip.

Abertarff Place: Path between 14 & 212 at Abertarff Place impassable as vegetation overgrown.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

**Consented Projects:**

Beinneun Windfarm: project manager to meet with CP and PY. Progress on target.

Bhlaraidh Windfarm: Progress on target. Road traffic signs seem to have been rationalised slightly but further discussions will be held with Bear Scotland. Next meeting on 17 August to discuss transport plan relating to delivery of turbines. Work progressing on connecting residents to mains water supply.

<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/Bhlaraidh/>

<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/Beinneun/>

Stronelairg Windfarm: Awaiting outcome of appeal against outcome of judicial review (July 2016). No further work being done on the site. John Muir Trust have lost their application for protected costs in respect of the appeal.

Auchterawe Substation: Liaison group meeting held on 8th June where it was stressed that if people have queries or concerns about plans they should contact Neil Anderson direct on 07500 912506 or neil.anderson@sse.com. A petition had been circulated before the meeting which had unfortunately contained inaccurate information about what was being included in the planning application. Further group meetings on 27th July, 21st September and 2nd November.

SSE organised a drop-in session at the Memorial Hall prior to the Community Council meeting regarding the Skye Tee Line. They advised that four people attended and no issues were raised. Confirmed that Phase I will commence at the end of July 16 and that Phase II should be completed by May 17. Planning application to be submitted to Highland Council.

**Non-consented projects:**

Millennium Windfarm 10 turbine extension. Public enquiry held in March at the Lovat – not heard the outcome.

Moriston windfarm - The NO Moriston windfarm group circulated an email to say that E.ON have withdrawn its proposal for a windfarm as it no longer regards the scheme as economically viable. E. ONs website states that E.ON following a detailed review …. has considered the site unsuitable for a wind site development.

<https://www.eonenergy.com/About-eon/our-company/generation/planning-for-the-future/wind/onshore/moriston>

No communication from EON direct.

Dell Windfarm. Awaiting decision from Highland Council. No update but developer may be relying on Stronelairg to be consented to “reduce” the impact of Dell Windfarm.

Culachy Project - 13 turbine site - RES developer. Application refused by Highland Council 18th December for adverse impact on cultural heritage Corrieyairick Pass and adverse visual impact for recreational users of Great Glen and Corrieyairick Pass and land to the north and cumulative impact. Appeal lodged. No update available.

1. **Planning**

16/02517/FUL -renewal of planning permission for erection of Met Mast for further 3 years to allow for additional measurements to be carried out. Tomchrasky Estate.

16/02530/FUL - formation of temporary site construction compound and associated accommodation at Torgoyle Bridge coal yard by Inchmore Salmon Hatchery between June 2016 and May 2018. Former Balfour Beatty compound for Beauly Denny Line (it may be contaminated land and need a report to ensure site suitable for redevelopment).

16/02784/SCRE - Screening application for 33kv connection for Ceannocroc Hydro Electric station – for information only.

16/ 00847/FUL - erection of 2 holiday cottages at Shorelands. Awaiting decision.

16/01477/FUL - Use of coffee van on Canal Fort Augustus. Granted.

Breach of planning lodged (FS4252146) regarding Caravan Park on Fort William Road.

1. **Correspondence**

Closure of Invermoriston Post Office on 14 September.

Concerns over reports that an ambulance had to wait 10 minutes for the bridge to re-open (see below).

DM received a response from Ailsa Andrews (Scottish Canals) regarding the length of time the swing bridge was open. She advised that the minimum amount of time that the bridge takes to swing to the fully open position (with the road closed) and then close fully again (with the road open) is 6 minutes, this does not take account of any time taken by the boats manoeuvring in or out of the lock chamber. The lock keeping team in Fort Augustus take care to ensure that all boaters are advised of the importance of manoeuvring through the bridge safely and speedily in order to minimise the impact on road traffic and village activities but moving a full locking of 6 boats inevitably takes a little longer and the bridge can be open for 8 or 9 minutes. They regularly minimise the number of times that the road bridge is swung in a day by ‘crossing over’ the boats heading in and out of the bottom lock chamber. This means that bridge is open for longer - generally between 11 and 13 minutes but halves the number of times that the road has to be closed to traffic and the consequent impact that has. In emergencies the ambulance control centre usually calls the canal office in Inverness and ask for the bridges to be held until the ambulance has passed and the bridge keepers then update each other of its progress. In situations where an ambulance arrives during a swing the bridge keeper will take whatever action would re-open the road as soon as possible.

1. **AOB**

Report that the flower bin at lower bunoich brae is obstructing the view of drivers pulling out there. To be put to the HC.

Parking. Free parking requested for residents in the village car park. MD to be asked to raise with Council again as Fort Augustus is the only place in the Glen which charges for parking.

Signage outside Richmond House Hotel and along that road, up to seven signs which are blocking pavements. Matter to be passed to MD.

Request for brown bins for garden waste? To be put to MD but unlikely due to cost to HC to provide initially provide the bins and then ensure regularly emptied.

Grass cutting at Jenkins Park for the Albyn Housing properties. Residents have to pay a fee on top of their rent for grass cutting and query costs when only cut 2-3 times annually. To be advised to seek redress with Albyn Housing in the first instance.

Query over responsibility for cutting the grass at the corner of Jenkins Park where the bus collects school children. Community Company have cut but say not within their boundary. MD to check with HC who is responsible for maintenance.

Fee’s for school bus to and from Jenkins Park. £1 per day per child. There is no pavement from the Community Hall to Bunoich Brae, to query whether a grant is available?

The forestry road at Jenkins Park has been reported as being overgrown.

Convent Wood -

DM contacted Community Company who have resolved the problem of glass on beach at the pier. They enquired as to provision of another bin at the pier.

Litter being blown out of the litter skips at Torgoyle DM advised person in charge is Steve Bracken at Marine Harvest and not Tommy Deans at BEAR Scotland as previously reported.

Sandwich Boards on A82 reported to CC and police who asked all the businesses to remove them and to apply to HC for advertising.

Dog fouling. No Dogs Allowed signage to be requested at Abertarff green/play area.

The meeting was then closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 31st August at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus at 7.30 p.m.