**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall on Wednesday 27th January 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

Peter Yair (PY)

**Apologies:**

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Julia O’Neil (JO)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 25th November 2015 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by JM and seconded by RH.

CP advised that JO has tendered her resignation from the Committee.

1. **Police Report**

PC N111 Mathieson provided a verbal update for the reports for December and January (reports attached).

1. **ETAPE Loch Ness - 2016**

Malcolm Sutherland gave an overview of the event taking place on Sunday 24th April 2016. The event will start 5 minutes earlier the only other change from previous years will be the full closure of the road between Dores and Inverness. Visit Inverness/Loch Ness are in partnership with ETAPE. A Royal Mail post drop to properties along the route has been arranged. Advance signage will be in place from Fort William, Spean Bridge and the A9 via Transport Scotland electronic boards. Funds raised last year totalled £240,000 with £170,000 going directly to MacMillan Cancer Support. Donations were also made to communities around Loch Ness and the charities chosen by marshals supporting the event. A donation was made to Fort Augustus Fire Brigade.

1. **Matters Arising and Action Reports**
2. School Playing Fields - No update.
3. Defibrillators - JM to pursue with provider, Ross Cowie in Skye to obtain a further defibrillator and determine level of donation as provided through the charity Luck2BHere.
4. MacVeans - Scottish Canals are to provide an update to the Community Council at February’s meeting as to their plans for the site.
5. **Treasurer’s Report**

The balance as at 13 December 2015 was £8,525.30. Highland Council monies in the sum of £1,239.18 were lodged on 16 Nov 15. £2,500 has been allocated to resurfacing/repairs to Church Road from behind Fort Augustus Village Hall to Auchterawe Road.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**
2. Roads. No update. Requirement for Bear Scotland are to fill Grit Bins on the Highland Council road by Redburn Café which is a school bus route. The road behind the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel is in a very poor state due in part to water damage. Advised Highland Council doesn’t grit Dalcataig Road which is used by school children. DM to action.
3. Home Carers. PY is aware that a meeting was held on 27th Jan and advised that a new organisation is to be set up in Drumnadrochit to run the 4/5 carers who wish to undertake the scheme. There will be a leaflet drop to let people know in Invermoriston. MD has a meeting in February to discuss the situation in Fort Augustus which ex-nurses will also be attending.
4. Health Centre. A meeting held by the Community Company in which ideas were put forward for the new Doctors surgery was well attended. The proposal to use Community Company monies to help re-build the surgery was a preferred option amongst those attending.

CP gave outline of relationship between Community Council and Community Company and their different powers and functions. The Council considers the views of the community and comments on planning applications for windfarms, makes objections etc. When applications are consented, the Council is a member of any liaison group and may be in a position to decide who should distribute any community benefit funds. The Community Company was set up to distribute such funds and has the power to decide how the community money is split. The money is distributed by the Company who are regulated by statue and the charity regulators OSCR. The Community Company cannot be involved in decisions on planning applications and the Community Council cannot be involved in any decision on distribution of the funds.

Some members of the community voiced concern over the process and whether the Company was within its rights to hold a vote. Advised that the purpose of the meeting was more a straw-poll to ‘test the wind of public opinion’ about the proposal. People with concerns were advised to contact the Company direct. JM also to contact the Company and advise.

1. Broadband. PY attended the meeting as did MD. BT was to investigate where fast broadband could and couldn’t reach but this has not yet been done. HIE are trying to fill the gap and form a committee to take forward. PY to attend future meetings for reporting purposes only. There is a need to sort out mobile coverage also. An announcement is expected shortly from Finance Secretary John Swinney regarding this.
2. Buses. DM attended meeting. Service between Inverness and Glenmoriston is now reduced. MD and DM to discuss further and the matter is ongoing.
3. Deer Management Group. No one from the CC attends this meeting as there is no requirement to do so, it is a matter for the estates.
4. **Renewable Energy**

Update provided by CP (attached).

1. **Planning & Licensing**

Update provided by CP (attached).

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence has been received.

1. **AOB**

There was no further business. The meeting was then closed. Next meeting Wednesday 24th February at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus.