**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 24th February 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)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

**Apologies:**

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

Jean Davis - Councillor

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 27th January 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by JM and seconded by PY.

1. **Presentation by Scottish Canals**

Christopher Breslin and Mark Smith attended and gave a full and detailed presentation about the plans for the renovation and future use of MacVeans. The site is hoping to be open by Jun/Jul, planning submission has been submitted and tender documentation was put on the Public Procurement Scotland site on 22 Jan with a closing date for 15 Mar. Work on the site to commence Apr to be ready for Jun at a cost of £1.2M. Currently seeking a grant from SSE for £100K, however the venture is not dependent upon receiving that grant.

Within the building on the ground floor there will be a Visit Scotland Desk with tourist information, a museum, 4 business/retail concessions, a café/restaurant and on the first floor 7 rooms for overnight stays only.

Parking at the front is defined by Planning but the aim is for one parking space only (disabled).

The Old Canal Centre will remain tourist related, a possible use as a pop up event space or retail use. It will not become office space.

The aim is to also place interpretation points with information boards at various sites around the village to tell a story of the history of the canal and lock system. The setup of the museum has yet to be decided but confirm that they are happy to involve local schools. The intention is to have the site open all year employing approximately 26 people.

DM raised the issue of the community being against any opening being adapted from the building directly onto the A82 by the bridge due to both health and safety and congestion issues. CP stated that she intended to seek resolution on the point but did not wish to hold up planning. Mark Smith stated that they would not proceed with the entrance/exit until the matter had been settled.

1. **Broadband**

Felix Spittal and Sarah Jones from the Digital Scotland programme attended and gave a verbal presentation of Community Broadband Scotland scheme.

As part of the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband roll out an optic cabinet will be sited outside the Richmond Hotel so effectively Fort Augustus will be covered but not further out. The further away from the cabinet the slower the service will be. A working group has been formed with the next meeting in March. There is a need to set up an operating group as the whole thing will be owned by the community.

CP asked for updates and will be added to the mailing list of minutes post their next meeting.

1. **Matters Arising and Action Reports**

Health Centre - CP. Drop in sessions for updates have been organised for Fort Augustus on Thursday 25th February and Saturday 27th February and also at Invermoriston on Tuesday 1st March. It was confirmed that the CC supported the Community Company project to re-build the medical practice with their funds.

1. **Police Report**

PC N104 Jones provided the Police Report for February (attached). Request made to remember to report to BEAR Scotland any road defects on trunk roads in the area in order to make road journeys as safe as possible. Similarly, any defects on other roads to be reported to Highland Council.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

There was no movement on the account therefore the balance remained as previously stated in January of £8,525.30.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**
2. School Fields. Ongoing.
3. Defibrillators. No update, ongoing.
4. Buses. Ongoing.
5. Home Carers. Liaison with NHS, Health & Social Care Fort Augustus, trying to organise a meeting with locals for Friday 25th March. PY advised that there was a question as to who would pay for the Disclosure Scotland certificate and any uniforms. Four people have been called forward for interview - concentrating on Glen Moriston.
6. Roads. Potholes between Invermoriston and Fort Augustus.
7. Fish Farm Meeting - Glen Moriston. Keith Gibson from the Highland Council was to look at siting a bus stop as part of a planning condition. However, there was a question as to whether a bus stop would be necessary if buses are going to be re-routed. Community suggested that if the fish farm provides access to their mini-bus they would support not having to put the bus stop in place. Matter to be considered.
8. **Renewable Energy**

Update provided by CP (attached).

DM to approach Bhlaraidh windfarm and ask for link from their site to CC web site which would greatly assist community in finding up to date information. Also to request paper updates/notices for notice boards.

1. **Planning & Licensing**

16/000698/FUL - application for two storey extension, Bun Loyne Farm, Glenmoriston.

No comment.

16/000264/FUL - erection of dwelling west of Heather Cottage, Dalchreichart. 3 bed house with large conservatory. Aim to be carbon neutral and introduce plants not normally grown in Highlands - compares self to Eden Project.

Noted objections received, discussed at some length, CC has nothing to add.

16/000132/FUL - creation of serviced house plot next to Torgoyle Cottage, Glenmoriston (renewal of permission granted in 1997).

No comment.

16/000402/FUL - Alterations to MacVeans shop - Scottish Canals.

CC concerned re: pedestrian access, appreciate it is a fire exit but query how it can be managed.

15/04724/PIP - Application for Farm shop and café - north of Netherwood Farm (Archie MacLellan)

Update on applications previously commented upon:

15/03891/FUL - Install a Biogas CHP - Glenmoriston Arms, Invermoriston. No decision made yet, no further documents on site.

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

1. **AOB**

There was no further business. The meeting was then closed. Next meeting Wednesday 30th March at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus.