**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 26th October 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Helen Clay (HC)

Peter Yair (PY)

Steven Smith (SS)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

**Apologies:**

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

Jean Davis - Councillor (JD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 28th September 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by RH and seconded by JM.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Shooting Club**: CP to arrange an early evening/afternoon visit to view site.

**Invermoriston Playing Field:**  MD to ascertain if Council able to paint posts, if not CP to see whether village officers in a position to do so?

**Turning Space - Oich Road:** Advised the sign is now facing road again. General discussion surrounding health and safety issues of buses dropping passengers on main roads. Watching brief, decision to carry forward to March 2017 at the start of the season to express concern to tour companies of the safety of their users and other visitors to Fort Augustus and surrounding areas.

**Road Closures - A887 West of Torgoyle Bridge:** PY advised that he has contacted both Bear Scotland and Transport Scotland.

1. **Police Report**

Monthly report read by CP. Road Traffic - Five drivers have been offered conditional notices for speeding offences, two have been reported for speeding. One driver has been reported for careless driving and one for dangerous driving. There were no public protection issues. Fraud - further reports have been received from victims of the card fraud - enquiries are ongoing.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The account balance as at 2 September was £5,326.52.

Cheques to be issued in November for Children’s Christmas Parties. Letters seeking funding requested from Liz Proudlock for Fort Augustus and CP/RH for Invermoriston.

Cheque to be raised to PC Fort Augustus for £75 for annual website fee.

Cheque from Etape Loch Ness to be paid in.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**

Fort Augustus Car Park: Informed that monies raised through the car park charges go towards the upkeep of the toilet block.

Telephone Box at Torgoyle: Chief Executive of BT to be contacted to ascertain why the component parts of the phone box were removed so long before intended decommissioning?

Passing Places: No progress with clearance of overgrowth on A887 at Invermoriston. CP to approach MD to assist.

Abbey Gardens: No resolution to pot hole and/or drainage issue as yet.

Ramp: The ramp at the bottom of Canal side onto the beach is badly eroded and missing in places. CP has spoken to MD who advised that the Community Council write to Scottish Canals as it is clearly their responsibility for its upkeep (to cc MD for info).

Verge: The verge opposite the Redburn Café is badly eroded.

Dalchreichart Burial Ground: Advised that wild boar have now entered the burial ground, sadly there is no protection offered against this.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

**Consented Projects:**

Beinneun Windfarm: 25 turbines 75 - 85MW. CP asked for a meeting about Community Distribution but no dates yet confirmed. Meeting planned with Community Company Directors, Blue Energy and some members of the Community Council. It is the developer’s decision and everyone needs to listen to their proposals.

Bhlaraidh Windfarm: 108MW. CLG going fairly well. There are still a few large loads to be delivered. Discussions about lack of co-ordination of road movements and general frustration expressed. Residents still not on mains water but content that SSE have done what they can and that now up to Scottish Water. A planning application has been submitted for a temporary wooden pole. The directional drill is not working as intended, trenching has been undertaken to assist but if drilling doesn’t improve they will have a temporary pole to get the cable over the burn which would also involve some felling of trees.

Stronelairg Windfarm: Site moving quickly with plans, they hope to get power going before March 18 in order to qualify for funding. Their connection to the grid will be via Malgarve not Auchterawe. General concern about the direction of travel for the plant, until the traffic plan has been released for discussion that aspect cannot be addressed. If movement is to be via Fort Augustus that will need to be reflected in the community benefit division. Liaison group to meet late November, JM to discuss with DM potential swap of seats on Stronelairg and Auchterawe CLGs.

Auchterawe Substation: Last CLG meeting on 21st September. Issues arising since that meeting concern the parking of contractors’ vehicles in the passing places and turning site traffic in residents’ accesses.

Skye Tee Line: No update.

1. **Planning & Licensing**
	1. Caravan Park, Fort William Road - 16/02988/FUL: Change of use from vacant land to form an extension to a Holiday Park involving the siting of 3 additional Holiday Lodges -Refused.
	2. Glenmoriston Arms Hotel - 16/02776/FUL: Installation of Bio Mass CHP unit running in-line with existing Biomass Boiler. Information about noise available, people who made objections have time limit in which to respond. No response has been received by the CC regarding their note of concern.
2. **Correspondence**

Letter read out from DM regarding the CC and the Medical Centre’s planning application. CP advised that it was correct that some members of the community had mentioned their concern to the Community Council about parking. Previously CC members had been invited to attend a training course on planning at which time they were advised that the CC as a whole do not have to agree with each other and can therefore put in a ‘comment’. The only planning issue the CC could raise about the Medical Centre was about parking, it was not an ‘objection’ merely a ‘concern’. The planning application was granted by THC and the concerns from some members of the community were duly raised by the CC. Parking is reduced at the venue but nothing can be done due to the footprint of the new building. Members present at the meeting found no reason for the CC to have to vote on such issues.

DM asked about staffing the Service Point in Fort Augustus. A memo has been received from Tina Paige at THC advising that the person previously recruited had left but that someone has now been appointed and they will start on 31st October.

An invitation was received from the Rural Inverness Communities Convention to attend the inaugural multi agency convention on Tuesday 8th November from 3.00 - 6.00 p.m. at Smithton Church. The purpose of the group is to provide guidance and information on: childcare, community assets, community energy; community resilience, constitutional matters, home care, transport and broadband. CP to attend. PY suggested that issues and difficulty with bureaucracy and third sector effectiveness be raised.

Letter of thanks received from ITV for allowing filming in Fort Augustus of their series Loch Ness. Thanks especially to Sharon Ferguson of the Community Company. The series is due to be aired early in the New Year.

1. **AOB**

Website: comments for renewables, information is not in date. SS to make enquiries to recruit someone to maintain and update the CC website. To be further considered at the next CC meeting.

OAP Bus to Fort William: there is a subsidised shopping bus from Glenmoriston. Query raised about why the bus was not available to all. It is the Community Company who subsidise it not the CC. Other groups are free to approach the Community Company with applications for similar funding.

Dates for CC meetings next year agreed to remain on the last Wednesday of each month, except July and December. Dates and venues as follows:

Wednesday 25th January Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus

Wednesday 22nd February Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

Wednesday 29th March Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus

Wednesday 26th April The Old School, Dalchreichart

Wednesday 31st May Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus

Wednesday 28th June Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus

Wednesday 30th August Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

Wednesday 27th September The Old School, Dalchreichart

Wednesday 25th October Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus

Wednesday 29th November Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

The meeting was then closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th November at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston at 7.30 p.m.