**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 30th March 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)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by JM and seconded by DM.

1. **Matters Arising and Action Reports**

Scottish Canals were granted planning permission at MacVeans and work has commenced. The side (fire) exit is currently blocked off and the final decision regarding it is unknown.

Broadband. PY will no longer attend the meetings as the CC will be kept informed by e-mail after their meetings and also as MD will be in attendance.

Health Centre. The Telford Centre was only to be a temporary measure, enquiries to find a suitable alternative site are ongoing but no further update has been provided.

Home Carers. MD to convene a further meeting in 2 - 3 weeks. As yet none of the five applicants for the Glenmoriston scheme have been interviewed.

Telephone Box. No update.

1. **Police Report**

DM read out the monthly police report. This consisted mainly of road traffic offences together with an incident of theft of heating oil from a tank in Fort Augustus. Attention was also drawn to new legislation which becomes effective in the summer regarding Air Weapons.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

As at 29th February 2016 the account balance was reported at being £8,445.30.

There was an outstanding invoice pending of £2,500 for the repairs to Church Road which has now been completed.

Annual reports are to be prepared for submission at the end of April.

Within the grant from the Highland Council £250 covers admin. The total figure this year has been reduced by 10%.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**
2. Roads. Bear Scotland are undertaking works in relation to drainage at three areas of the A82 due to commence w/c 18th April. MD has contacted them to advise that the timings are not ideal due to the large amount of roadworks on the south side of the loch together with the ETAPE event the following week end. There is one area at Alltsigh and two at Urquhart Castle.

Torgoyle. The section to the east will be improved in 16/17 the west is programmed for 17/18. Both are costing £350K, the aim is to widen and strengthen the edges before re-surfacing.

Pot-holes on the A82 at Port Clair and the A887 at Redburn. They are aware of the defects and are trialling a special material, although it only works on defects 1m2. MD suggested that the CC advise Tony Deans at Bear Scotland of where the deterioration has occurred over winter. DM to e-mail with information from JH and PY.

CP advised that the road behind the Invermoriston Hotel has really deteriorated. CP to log with Highland Council through their web site.

Gorse is hanging over the Church wall in Invermoriston causing lorries to go around it potential for traffic incidents. CC to advise Highland Council as likely that traffic control will be required in order to be able to cut it back.

West Canalside in Fort Augustus is also full of pot holes and with tourist traffic now increasing this could also cause issues. DM to advise Highland Council.

1. Defibrillators. No update, ongoing. Three are to be sourced, for Dalchreichart, Invermoriston and Fort Augustus.
2. **Renewable Energy**

Beinneun windfarm. Work has now started, there is no liaison group as Bhlaraidh will oversee it.

Bhlaraidh windfarm. There was a meeting in March and another fixed for 14th April. There has been a test run for the delivery of the blades. PY advised of the need to clarify the delivery system with the contractors including maps and timescales and that information should be posted on noticeboards. Also the roadwork signage needs to be removed as it has finished. PY & CP to action.

Stronelairg windfarm. JM was unable to attend the last liaison meeting on 17th March however CP and Stuart Findlay both attended. Scottish Ministers appealed the refusal and the case is to return to court in May. There were three issues, two of which are being dealt with by the Scottish Ministers and the third by SSE. It is listed for a three day hearing which will then be adjourned for 10 - 12 weeks deliberation. The earliest expected decision date will be July. There will be a further appeal date and a final decision in Sept. In the meantime SSE is prohibited from undertaking any work on site. The deadline for the fee-in tariff has now been missed so little point is rushing to complete in any event and now viewed as a long term project which they believe will get consent. The project plan is now being re-examined with a view to build as economically as possible. The cycle path which was one of the original planning conditions cannot start yet but the design is still being worked on in the hope that will be progressed quickly once planning granted. The same will apply to the proposed construction of the pavement at the west end. The eagle survey is to be undertaken again within 5 years of planning and the water vole survey is to be re-done. The liaison group will not now meet again until September.

Auchterawe Sub-station. There was a preliminary meeting on 30th March with a further one to be arranged within 2-3 weeks. The scope will be larger than other liaison groups, membership will consist of 4 residents from Auchterawe to Three Bridges, 2 CC reps and 1 HC. SSE to send reps including a senior manager and contractors. Other residents can attend but won’t be able to participate unless invited. There will be a point on the agenda for open questions. The majority of meetings will take place at the sub-station at 7.00 p.m. SSE will clerk and prepare the minutes. A chair person is yet to be elected. There are many items for the agenda but the priorities are: issues around the 132kV re-stringing; the Skye T section and noise. A transformer is due to be delivered on 22 May 16.

Millennium Windfarm 3. Extension refused. A public inquiry was held in the Lovat but no decision yet made.

Moriston Windfarm. EDF can’t get a connection in another area and may not go ahead with this planning application.

Dell Windfarm. Waiting to hear about Stronelairg.

Culachy. Appealed the refusal by Highland Council to Scottish Ministers. Further drop in session to be arranged.

1. **Planning & Licensing**

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

16/000264/FUL - Not decided yet but amended plans have been submitted. 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.

15/03891/FUL - Refused. Install a Biogas CHP - Glenmoriston Arms, Invermoriston.

16/00832/PIP Application for barn conversion at Dalchreichart. PY raised issues regarding the infrastructure, another development would result in more traffic more roads.

16/01037/FUL Change of use application at White House, Fort Augustus to a B&B.

16/01288/FUL The Bank House, Fort Augustus has applied to alter the garage and extend.

Query as to whether planning has been submitted for the Fort Augustus Caravan Park to construct log cabins. MD indicated that will already have permission as a caravan site but this would not cover permanent structures.

Owners recently refused access across site to local residents, MD advised they cannot do so as is a core path and to contact the Access Team at Highland Council for further advice and action.

Fish Farm, Glenmoriston. Planning has refused second entrance this will result in lorries having to reverse out of the site. The farm will create approximately 40 jobs.

1. **Correspondence**

Correspondence received from River Connections concerning projects along the Ness from Ness Islands to the city. Their questionnaire about suggested attractions was completed by CC for submission by 1st April.

A police questionnaire has also been received for all members of the CC to complete individually and return by 30th April.

A thank you card was received from Stuart Findlay for the meal following his retiral from the CC.

1. **AOB**

The CC web site is now up to date. Discussions were held as to how best to update the site with the various windfarm updates. CP to put proposal to Tina Page at the Highland Council and cc MD as to whether Jean in the Service Point could undertake the task in addition to updating with monthly minutes etc in return for a contribution towards the cost. Also to raise with windfarms as to whether they would contribute to the costs as have responsibility to update the community and would therefore be beneficial for them to do so via the web site.

MD to raise with Highland Council lack of seat at bus stop at Abertarff which is still outstanding.

MD to contact David Summers as no update yet received concerning specifically the early morning cheap bus route.

PY attended the deer management public meeting which now appears more linked to ‘Land Management’ issues.

Two residents attended and confirmed their desire to join the CC. Nine members are allowed in total and currently have six so on that basis, Steven Smith and Helen Clay were co-opted onto the Council.

The meeting was then closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th April at The Old School, Dalchreichart.