**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 31st August 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Peter Yair (PY)

Steven Smith (SS)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Apologies:**

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Helen Clay (HC)

**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 IM.

1. **Police Report**

PC McGill presented the monthly Police report prepared by PC N0104 Jones. Advised that the Road Traffic Department had undertaken high visibility speed checks on the Auchterawe road, some drivers had been spoken to. The issue is ongoing and will be revisited in due course. RH and PY raised concerns from the community regarding tour buses stopping on the A887 to allow passengers to alight and take photographs of the Highland cows in the field opposite the Redburn Café thus causing an obstruction and danger to vehicles travelling either direction. Police will speak to various tour companies direct.

1. **Midgi-Death**

Alastair Smyth from the Forestry Commission advised that an un-licenced rave was anticipated to be held mid-September potentially the weekend of the 23-25th. Previously the event has taken place in an abandoned quarry which was blocked off, the venue then moved to another quarry which is now in use. There is no reason to believe that this will deter the organisers and that they will locate somewhere along the A887. Various agencies including the Highland Council, Forestry Commission, SSE and Police have attempted to engage the organisers to no avail. The presentation was to advise the community of the rave, if anyone has any information they can contact Mr Smyth at Smithton Forestry Commission Office 0300 067 6100.

1. **Trees for Life**

Joyce Gilbert gave a presentation about the above “Rewilding the Highlands” which will be launching the schools project on the 9th September. Two ponies will be travelling from Glenmoriston to Invergarry on the 10th and 11th September carrying a gift of native trees. Invitations are invited from anyone who would like to plant a tree in the area or alternatively have one in their own garden (treesforlife.org.uk).

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

No report available this month.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**

Shooting Club: Willie Lamont is seeking a letter of support in relation to his planning application to extend the club. He has offered Members a guided tour and explanation of his plans after the 15th September. CP, RH, MD and DM will attend.

Invermoriston Playing Field: following a query from a resident the Highland Council inspected the goal posts to ascertain viability. It was determined that they were in good order save for a bolt and a lick of paint, MD to arrange. Suggested that new nets could be stored in the community hall.

Turning Space - Oich Road: Concern raised by resident that the turning area on the Memorial Hall road is being used as a parking area by tourist buses and causing other users of the road to have to drive to the loch pier to turn also the sign indicating the turning area has been reversed and no longer visible. MD to resolve.

Road Closure - A887 West of Torgoyle Bridge: BEAR Scotland are proposing to carry out essential carriageway maintenance works on the A887, west of Torgoyle Bridge from Sunday 18th to Friday 30th September between 7.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. PY advised that he has been in contact with the site manager who has confirmed that works nearest to houses will be earlier in the evening working away from them and that the vehicle reversing beep will be replaced with a white noise so as not to disturb residents. Emergency vehicles will be allowed through the site if necessary. MD advised PY to contact Tommy Deans to enquire as to why the works were being undertaken through the night and also to confirm that certain local traffic could still access the road (access to livestock by local farmer).

Invitation to Kirking of the Council: CP would offer her apologies as unable to attend, there were no substitutes proposed as unfortunately the event takes place during working hours.

North Loch Ness Tourism: there is an outdoor activities and access event at Drumnadrochit on 5th September from 12.00 to 2.30 p.m.

Canal Side Footways: The Highland Council are to undertake slurry sealing of the footpaths over the next two weeks.

Bins: the rubbish bins in the car park are not being emptied frequently enough and are over spilling.

Invermoriston have four more bins but they too are not being emptied frequently enough. They are supposed to be twice a week but if not being uplifted on a Saturday by Monday/Tuesday they too are over spilling.

Abertarff Parking Issues: MD to enquire as to whether the Police House grounds can be used for parking for residents.

Riggs Parking: DM to draft flyer to residents about parking issues and emergency vehicle access.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

**Consented Projects:**

Beinneun Windfarm: 25 turbines 75 - 85MW. On target to start production March 2017 with first income expected in March 2018. There will be no community benefit until they get income themselves. Anticipate income to community of over £500K for the benefit of Invergarry and Fort Augustus. They do not want to split the income between the two communities but rather keep it as one with no bar to individuals or businesses applying for grants or loans. There will be a meeting with Invergarry and the local community councils in due course.

Bhlaraidh Windfarm: 108MW. Progress on target. Weekly updates received. Large load delivery on Sunday 4th September from Invergordon. There was a large load trial which was not advertised. The next liaison meeting is on 23rd September.

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

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

Stronelairg Windfarm: Outcome of appeal in favour of the wind farm. A liaison group will be set up for October.

Auchterawe Substation: The next liaison group meeting will be held on 21st September. The Police have undertaken speed checks due to recent incidents along the road to the sub-station.

Skye Tee Line - Planning application submitted and various comments made but addressed by the developer, including access, flood management and ancient woodland - decision awaited.

**Non-consented projects:**

Millennium Windfarm: 10 turbine extension. Public enquiry held in March at the Lovat - still no outcome provided.

Moriston Windfarm: DM to request planners to go and remove masts now that E.ON has withdrawn its proposal for a windfarm.

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.

Scoping Application Tomchrasky Windfarm: Planning application submitted. Have requested a consultation meeting for the Community Council with the developer in Fort Augustus on 26 October.

1. **Planning**
   1. Caravan Park, Fort William Road - 16/02988/FUL. The Highland Council have an application but it is not valid yet as there is some outstanding information required to make it valid. The application is for change of use of the area of vacant land at the front of the property. Current permission is for 50 units on site, the area in question is not within that ‘site’. Local issues include: aspect, access, artificially raised land, prohibition of permanent residents and concerns about park sewerage facilities. DM to raise with Building Standards.
   2. Medical Centre - 16/03519/FUL - Parking will be reduced due to larger medical centre.
   3. Scoping application for Tomchrasky Wind Farm 18 turbines, over 50MW - 16/03602/SCOP. As above Access Officer to attend next meeting 26 October.
   4. Construction of temporary site compound and access road, Inchmore Fish Farm 16/03380/FUL. Local residents have regular site visits and discussions with Marine Harvest.
   5. Erection of house and temporary caravan land south of Coille Bheithe, Glenmoriston 16/03322/FUL (to east of Redburn Café) - Roads and flood objected so far. CC would query affect to other residents water and electricity supplies.
   6. Erection of a 1.5 storey garage block with self-contained accommodation, store shed, Binnilidh Mhor, Dalchreichart – 16/03294/FUL (resident objection lodged). CC query water, electricity, infrastructure (road) on other residents.
   7. Renewal of application for planning permission behind the property Tullochard on the Auchterawe road.
   8. Invermoriston - Current permission held for one caravan and prohibited from felling trees. Second caravan now on site - Enforcement Area Manager to be advised.
2. **Correspondence**

None.

1. **AOB**

Query as to ownership of boats and how to trace owners to remove sunken and abandoned boats in Inchnacardoch Bay.

Swing Bridge: Concern that swing bridge open preventing school bus arriving in time for school day starting. Bridge not to open before 8.55 a.m.

Strawberry Vendor: Concerns that the bench in front of the public conveniences have been utilised by the strawberry sellers this summer. Enquiries to be made next season regarding their trading licence and future use of the bench.

Grass cutting at Jenkins Park for the Albyn Housing properties. Residents advised to query with Albyn Housing.

Fee’s for school bus to and from Jenkins Park. £1 per day per child. Advised to contact Community Company to see if prepared to fund

The meeting was then closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th September at the Old School House, Dalchreichart at 7.30 p.m.