**Laggan Community Council – Ordinary Meeting**

**Meeting 26 - 20 Feb 2023 - Laggan Community Hall @18:30**

**Approved Minutes**

1. **Attendees Present:** C. Morgan (CM); Jill Warner (JW); A.Gallagher (AG); Lauren Hendry (LH);

V.Macpherson (VM);Highland Council Representatve - Russell Jones (RJ**);** Minute Secy: K Thew (KT); Apologies M. Khazaka.

Also in attendance – one member of the Community

No new declarations of interest were disclosed.

1. **Approval of draft minutes of LCC Meeting 5 Dec 2022:** Approved without amendment Proposed JW; Seconded CM.
2. **Matters Arising**

* Primary School Mothballing – no guidelines for potential re-opening provided as yet; See section 5e.
* Public Bus Proposal – still no comments or acknowledgement from Highland Council transport officials. Outstanding since early December 2022
* Newsletter – Editors advised intention to publish by 1 March

1. **Financial Report**

Laggan Community Council – Treasurer’s Statement February 2023

Bank account as reported at last meeting 30th November **£8,357.01**

Since the last meeting a total of 7 payments have been made totalling £614.94

Paid out in December 2022

• Secretarial fees - £30.00

• Hall hire for meetings - £24.50

• Hall hire for CAP meetings - £56.00

Bank account balance as of 30th December 2022 - **£8,246.51**

Paid out in February 2023

• Insurance - £86.00

• Refreshments CAP Meetings - £72.00

• Refreshments VABS CAP Meeting - £46.44

• Microgrant for Helping Hands - £300.00

Current bank balance stands at **£7,742.07** – of which **£6087.36** is ring-fenced for

* £4,476.29 for SSE Micro Grants
* £1,000 from SSE for the purchase of Defibrillators
* £500 from Highland Council for the instillation / signage for Defibrillators
* £111.07 from CNPA for environmental / litter projects

This leaves a total for general use by the Community Council of  **£1,654.71**

1. **Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss**
2. Planning Applications update.
3. SSE Cloiche – No update
4. SSE Melgarve – a consultation event was held in February to update proposals. There will be no pylons on the plateau, all cabling to be underground. Overground (pylons) down the valley into the substation. Jahama Estate have advised their intention to request underground for entire project. LCC agreed to support the landowner as this had been the feedback from the community.
5. Gilkes Energy Pump Storage Hydro Scheme, Lochan Earba – on behalf of Ardverikie Estate - initial scoping/consultation meeting to be at village hall on 21 February. Construction to commence, if approved, 2025/6 for 4-5 years and will involve dams at both Lochans Earba and Leamhain. This will be an initial consultation. All members of the CC were asked to review plans and attend consultation drop-in event.
6. Telecom masts – 4 applications for masts to be erected on Jahama Estate land. Situation before/after Garva Bridge.
7. Douneside (Catlodge) – Original plans abandoned and new plans submitted to covnert existing byre and in keeping with location.
8. Blackwood Forest – proposed felling to commence from Oct 23. Access via Strathmashie Cottages forestry road. Potential egress at Feagour, to be discussed with FLS. LCC to request FLS (Forestry) to consider restricted hours of operations – especially timber extraction IRO residents
9. Mill Cottage, Cluny Estate. Historical connections are to be documented (Duncan of the Kiln) and archaeological questions to be noted.
10. Licencing Updated – Understood that licences for Coffee Bothy to be applied for by new owners.
11. Roads – A889. Improvement plans postponed due to TS budget restrictions. A86. Request to conduct road speed safety and set up a data point outside of the village. This in regard to the proposed path between Drumgask and the Village. Sight lines and current speeds to be considered. Due to take place mid-March 2023.
12. Report from Public Sector Agencies - Police report received for Oct 22 – Feb 23.

* Estates notify police of planned shooting days.
* Only one road traffic incident reported to Police. Meeting noted knowledge of one other outside Newtonmore but matter not reported.
* Police wished to emphasise all residents to be careful and secure their Oil tanks. Known thefts in the wider Badenoch Area. Also noted that thefts from 15 vehicles recently in Carrbridge so request to residents to ensure vehicles and properties are locked.

1. Highland Council – (i) Primary School – Mothballed for a period of 1 year. If this is to be permanent, then a community consultation is required. No guidance on how to reverse mothballing. RJ to provide update asap. Additionally the question of upkeep of the school gardens was raised. There are some residents who would like to take this on. RJ to advise whether this is Education Dept or Highland Council and whether it is something that can be implemented for and by residents.

(ii) Public Transport – see matter arising.

(iii) Public toilet – RJ was asked if funding is being stopped at the end of March. RJ will contact Debbie Sutton to clarify. Not known if a new “comfort scheme” to assist Church in defraying cost, is proposed. But reassurance provided that cleaning and upkeep is to continue. Re future, RJ requested a discussion with A.Macpherson to clarify any position that Scottish Water had to connect to the mains drainage system. The meeting concluded that the public toilet requires being made “fit for purpose”. This matter is also potentially related to the feasibility study for the new housing development proposals at the picnic site.

**6. Community Development Action Plan**

A constructive meeting was held and attended by JW/AG. This identified progress already made with Karen Derrick (VABS) to correlate identified priorities and produce the final agreed plan to share with the community. AG thanked her for her input and support. A number of community members had volunteered to progress some of the action items with the present 4 main community groups identified as “leads” for most of the projects.

**7. Community Events Diary**

Events will be detailed in the forthcoming Laggan Matters Newsletter (Laggan Heritage Event – 13th May; Fred McCauley – 16th June; Summer Fete - 24th June; Church Picnic – late July; Hamish Napier – Badenoch Storylands – 10th September). All events to be forwarded to JW to be published.

1. **SSE Renewables Community Investment Fund**

Additional volunteers are required for the local Micro Grant Panel Process. KT offered to assist. The final SSE Large grant application process cut off date is 6th March. Micro Grant applications (up to £1000) can still be submitted to [Treasurerlcc@laggan.com](mailto:Treasurerlcc@laggan.com) Agreed that a proposal to have SSE meet with the community for advice and to update on how funds can be used in future. CM to arrange.

1. **Other Questions from members of the public – see AOB.**
2. **AOB**

Goat Signage – RJ has spoken to BEAR and will chase up response. Possibility of yellow temporary signs to be explored with local Bear depot.

Dark Skies – Can the street lights in Gergask Avenue be turned off overnight or redesigned? RJ is meeting with lighting team in Kingussie shortly and will explore options to feed back.

Defibrillators – Laggan Hotel unit still requires connection; Village Hall unit to be replaced with a proposal from Laggan Helping Hands to reinstate this unit at the doctors surgery. Discussions for future monitoring and “connection” to the One Kingussie “APP” were discussed by community attendees. Noted that a local training session may take place on 2 March. Venue to be advised for present volunteers.

Laggan Housing – Albyn Housing Assoc. have contacted the residents of the Albyn houses by letter and asked for feedback from them by 28th Feb in respect of a proposed road to be constructed in front of the existing houses. It was concluded that all of Gergask Avenue residents should be made aware of the proposals. The newsletter editors noted that an article had been submitted for the next newsletter indicating a Community Consultation event may be held prior to Easter. This was welcomed by the CC.

1. **Proposed Date of next meeting**

Monday 20th March @ 18:30 in Laggan Community Hall

Approved un-amended at LCC meeting of 20th March 2023.