

Laggan Community Council – AGM 2021

Monday 14th June 2021

@ 1900

Please note: This meeting will be held via ZOOM on line

Approved Minutes at AGM of 20th June 2022

1) Councillors present: Colin Morgan, Mignonne Khazaka, Amanda Gallagher, Gordon Stirling, Lauren Hendry. Apologies were received from 2 members of Highland Council and 2 members of the community. Chair (CM) declared meeting was quorate.

2) Approval of Draft minutes of 2020 AGM held on 15th June 2020. Proposed MK, seconded AG. Approved without amendment.

3) Adoption of Chair's report – Proposed GS, Seconded MK

4) Adoption of Treasurer's Financial report – Proposed CM, Seconded AG

5) Election of Office Bearer's – all office bearers demitted from office. MK took to chair to propose CM as Chair. Seconded by GS and agreed. Elected Chair resumed in chair for other official appointments.

- Vice-Chair – Mignonne Khazaka – proposed CM, seconded AG
- Treasurer – Gordon Stirling – proposed CM, seconded MK
- Secretary – Amanda Gallagher – proposed CM, seconded GS

6) Proposed Dates of meeting 2021-22 – 3rd Monday of each Month

2021

July 19th

AUGUST – NO MEETING

September 20th

October 18th

NOVEMBER – NO MEETING

December 6th (1st Monday)

2022

JANUARY – NO MEETING

February 21st

March 21st

APRIL – NO MEETING

May 16th

JUNE 20th - AGM

7) Proposed Date of next AGM – Monday 20th June 2022.

AGM Meeting closed at 1920.

Chair's report and Treasurer's report attached as appendices.

CHAIR'S REPORT – LAGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL – JUNE 2021

The CC, established in early December 2019, has “met” 9 times since the last AGM in June 2020 albeit mostly “on-line” via ZOOM – not the ideal medium with which to have effective engagement and represent the community. Other community wide activities were similarly impacted. Thanks, however, are due to all members of the CC for their efforts over the past year to ensure that Community wide issues are progressed in an open and transparent manner. During the past year, we have been very grateful for the support and views of the community, our area Highland Councillors and Ward Management, as well as receiving guidance and assistance from VABS for relevant community wide resilience matters.

The Community Council routinely reviews a number of statutory items as noted below:

PLANNING/LICENSING Applications: The CC exercises its statutory right to respond to all planning & licensing applications, where appropriate. In the past year, there were a number of residential planning applications – all of which were broadly supported. There were also a number of forestry related applications and any comments with potential residential impact were aired. There remain 2 outstanding wind-farm planning applications within our CC boundary – the Glenshero Wind Farm (SIMEC) and the Cloiche Wind Farm (SSE) applications. Both are ultimately subject to a determination by the Scottish Government. Jahama Highland Estates (JHE) – owners of the Glenshero Estate have continued to share their investment plans for the estate as well as explaining their Forestry Management Plans in the coming years. This may mean some continuing traffic movements in the Glenshero valley in 2021/22. The SSE Melgarve substation is now being operated remotely with a consequent welcome reduction in construction traffic. The CC continues to press both SSE and Jahama to ensure on-going safe road access for the community and visitors.

ROADS - This continues to be the topic, which exercises and frustrates members of the community most during the year. We are routinely in contact with BEAR and Transport Scotland on maintenance and road improvement matters in our area, although their ability to undertake any works were severely curtailed since March 2020. We were pleased, however, that a section of the A889 from Catlodge to the A86 junction was resurfaced ahead of an intended future road-widening project for the length of the A889. A series of road repairs and closures along the length of the A86 in our area is also expected in the summer months of 2021.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION - During the past year, some of the 6 priority outcomes of the 2019 Community Development Plan have been progressed, albeit held up a lot by the COVID 19 restrictions. The “Connecting Laggan” paths project proposing possible routes to connect all the hamlets of Laggan safely, by taking walkers and cyclists off the main trunk roads through our area, should report in the summer of 2021. Laggan Community Housing Ltd is in the process of preparing plans for additional affordable properties in Laggan Village.

New in 2020 was the creation and publication of a new Laggan Newsletter – Laggan Matters. We are enormously grateful to our editors Liz Macfarlan and Amanda Gallagher for their time and effort as well as to Robyn Woolston for her creative skills in the design and its publication. We have much appreciated all the contributions from the community to create “bumper” newsworthy editions. All the editions can be seen on the www.laggan.com website.

TWINNING PROPOSAL - Labatmale, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Aquitaine, SW France.

During the year, we received a twinning proposal from the local mayor in Labatmale, a small village in the SW France. The Community Council supported the idea in principle but felt that it could not commit the community without a meeting to explore what it would mean. This will be arranged when we can safely meet. Only Grantown in our area has a pre-existing twinning arrangement with a town in France and their positive experiences have been sought out.

SSE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND – The Laggan Community continues to be a beneficiary of funds from the SSE Stronelaig Community Investment fund. This fund became operational in early 2019 (year 1) for a period of 25 years, and a local advisory panel was established to operate the fund under SSEs guidance for a period of 3 years (to April 2022). Discussions on how to utilise the fund from 2022 onwards will be held across all our community groups later in 2021. 5 members of the community continue to volunteer to administer the local Micro Grant process (for grants <£500), and participate in a Large Grants panel process for grants up to £10,000. During the year, Laggan Heritage have been the only applicant to the large grant fund but micro-grants continue to be awarded primarily to local community amenity projects.

Applications to the Micro Grant and COVID recovery fund were open throughout 2020 and 2021, and can still be sent to the LCC Treasurer. They are there to be used for the benefit of the community.

COVID 19 – It would also be appropriate to record thanks to the many local volunteers who have supported members of the community in need of assistance during the COVID 19 restrictions. The volunteering initially organised by the local Church of Scotland minister joined up with the efforts of the Newtonmore CC to create a larger support network.

FINALLY – our thanks to everyone in the community who have supported the Community Council at its meetings as well as helping to progress a number of community projects.

COLIN S. MORGAN

CHAIR, LAGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Adopted by Community Council at its AGM on:

14th JUNE 2021.

LCC Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) 14th June 2021

This is the third year of Laggan Community Council (LCC) and I am grateful to Ann Traill at Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) for auditing the 2020/2021 Accounts in a timely manner.

The Opening Balance for the year was £4038.11.

Income

Expenditure

Annual Grant from The Highland Council	£438.30
Supporting Communities Fund (Zoom Subscription)	£143.88
SSE Stronelairst Covid 19 Fund	£6000.00
Total Income:	£6,582.18
Laggan Community Hall Hire	£42.00
Annual Insurance	£86.00
VABS Annual Audit of Accounts	£30.00
Zoom Annual Subscription	£143.88
Calico UK SSL Certificate	£36.00
Website Updates (Plexus Media)	£21.00
Annual Domain Charges (Calico UK)	£90.00
Poppy Wreath	£35.00
Refreshments for Christmas Decorations Team	£36.75
SSE Stronelairst Community Benefit – MICRO Grant Payments	
Christmas Decorations	£500.00
Squirrel Signs	£250.00
Bedding Plant Fund	£250.00
SSE Covid 19 Fund	
Gergask Primary School	£1000.00
Total Expenditure	£2520.63

The surplus for the year 2020/2021 is £4061.55

The Balance brought forward at 1 April 2021 is £8099.66 of which £6,590.00 is ring-fenced as SSE funds. This leaves LCC with a running balance of £1509.66.

Gordon Stirling Treasurer

Adopted by Laggan Community Council at AGM on 14th June 2021