

# Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 6 - 2020 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

VIA ZOOM @ 1900

Approved Minutes

**1) Attendees:** Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Vice Chair Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Minute Secretary Liz MacFarlan (LM), Secretary Amanda Gallagher (AG), Lauren Hendry (LH), Cllr Muriel Cockburn  
Apologies: Gordon Stirling, Cllr Pippa Hadley.

5 members of the community present.

CM welcomed everyone. Meeting declared quorate.

**2) Approval of minutes of meeting 5 15<sup>th</sup> June.** Proposed MK, seconded AG. Approved unanimously.

Extra agenda items:

Valerie Macpherson (VM) requested addition of discussion about the road signage at the Macpherson cairn.

## **Matters Arising:**

- next LCC Newsletter AG/LM – updated paper to be circulated to community councillors.
- stimulate “Recovery Fund” proposals – school has asked for future support to purchase Chrome Books
- re-naming process for CC – CM to speak with Liz Cowie for clarification of full process required by Highland Council.

## **3) Financial report – Treasurer** (received by email)

Month-end (June 2020) a/c balance £ 4368.41. This includes SSE Micro Grant Funds of £2590.11.

On 3 July 2020 a further £6000 was received from SSE for the COVID 19 funding.

Balance as of 17/7/20 is £10,368.41. It was noted that a message needs to be sent to the community about the availability of SSE Covid 19 “Recovery” funds.

## **4) Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss.**

### **a) Planning update** – no comment on outstanding applications

- Strathmashie/Wolftrax – EE – Emergency services Telephone mast. Construction Work starting 3<sup>rd</sup> August for 6 weeks.
- Cloiche Wind Farm: So far, more responses in support than object but no response visible yet from SNH/CNPA/HC
- Glenshero Wind Farm: the public inquiry for the Glenshero application is in November 2020

### **b) Licensing update** – none

**c) Roads update** – A889 has been re-surfaced between Lagg and The A86 junction – a temporary solution prior to a future planned widening programme from Dalwhinnie to Laggan. A hydrology project is being carried out now, testing all the watercourses.

VM explained there have been 3 road accidents in the last 3 years at the Macpherson monument near the centre of Scotland stone, resulting in damage to fencing. Road signage is needed to help prevent this. MC suggested letter to Roads dept. of HC to request safety analysis (Richard Porteous cc Craig Irvine) and to work with Police. Adverse camber of road may be an issue. VM to send details info to CM.

### **d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – Police** – no update

Robyn Woolston (RW) raised issue of continued dangerous driving and excessive speeding on A86 Strathmashie to Feagour stretch of road. Vince Tough to be contacted again about this and invited to next LCC meeting.

### **e) Highland Council – update**

- **Amenities** - CM reported on recent clearance of Village pavement west of Coffee Bothy and a planned repair to its surface, using funding from Safer Routes to School.
- **Street lighting** – lamps recently fixed but now timer needs reprogramming since SSE power cuts.
- **Public Toilet** – HC’s recent decision that the public toilet at Laggan is no longer required was discussed. It was noted that there has been no consultation with LCC or the community at large. A need was identified for a structured look at the situation. MC undertook to discuss with HC officials and report back. The toilet is used by many people, walkers on the East Highland Way, as well as tourists and travellers. A closure decision by Highland Council significantly misrepresents the community wishes. The meeting was made aware of the on-going repair and maintenance discussions by the present users of the septic tank including Highland Council but is unable to comment.
- **Education** - MC explained that Gergask Primary School has now been “clustered” with Newtonmore Primary School at parents request. Head teacher is Sarah Fraser.

#### **6) Community Development/Action Plan:**

- The construction of a 250m walking and cycling path connecting the forest trail in the BlackWood and Feagour is to be begin at the end of Sept. Plans for this are available at Wolftrax.
- Dalwhinnie CC has proposed a joint litter-pick in the A889 laybys. Callum McKenzie at HC can be contacted for safety equipment. CM and LM to liaise with DCC.
- Callum McKenzie to be contacted about Laggan litter problem in the layby in the village – the agreed suggestion is for a larger bin, to remain unlocked, to accommodate the increase in bin-bags left on the roadside during summer months. (CM)

#### **7) Other Questions/contributions from the members of public present - none**

#### **8) Any other agenda items**

- AG raised the issue of wild and “dirty” camping at Wolftrax and Pattack Falls car-parks. This has increased rapidly, since lifting of lockdown, with disturbance to residents at Strathmashie and significant litter and hygiene issues noted. CM reported on a plan by Forestry Land Scotland to encourage one night stays for camper vans with their own facilities at both sites – against the wishes of the community residents. This was devised with no local consultation and has commenced but with no publicity on the FLS website. MC suggested CNPA be lobbied about the problems. CM will work with FLS to achieve a solution but in meantime will send a strongly worded letter to FLS reporting on community concerns - CNPA to be copied in (Murray Ferguson).

#### **9) Proposed Date and time of next meeting –Monday 21st September at 1900.**

Email to be used for communication in the interim.

#### **21st July 2020**

Residents may intimate other topics for the Community Council to discuss by contacting [chairlcc@laggan.com](mailto:chairlcc@laggan.com) or [secretarylcc@laggan.com](mailto:secretarylcc@laggan.com)

Approved at LCC meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 without amendment