

# Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 7 - 2020 – 21st September 2020

VIA ZOOM @ 1900

Approved Minutes

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

Apologies: Gordon Stirling GS (Treasurer).

1 member of the community present.

CM welcomed everyone. Meeting declared quorate.

Extra agenda items:

Village rubbish bins – MK

Newsletter – LM

As MC had to leave the meeting early, the order of the agenda was altered.

## **4e) Highland Council**

MC reported that Highland Council (HC) is in a “holding position” with regard to finance, but that its winter roads maintenance budget is protected. Much of its focus is on Covid 19 management and a priority on education.

CM raised the continuing problem of getting responses or acknowledgements to emails and phone calls to HC officers. Examples of this include

- Lighting – Request for new lamps made.
- Village Pavement clearance/repair – a safety issue for school children.
- Car removal (Village Layby). Reportedly now in hand but with no date yet provided.
- Litter clearance/bins (Village layby) - an issue during summer months. Also noted that Kingussie recycling centre will not be closing down permanently and hopefully may re-open by end October.
- Request sent to HC roads re survey adequacy of existing road from Spey Dam to Laggan Village.

Some requests are outstanding since before Covid reassignments.

PH and MC explained some of the challenges HC is facing; noted that presently operating in a reactive role and this may well continue; some significant staff absences and frequent changes caused by Covid. They agreed to “lobby” for faster response times.

**5) Laggan Public Toilet.** MC reported that she will support LCC if it wants the public toilet to remain, but that HC won't support facilities that lose money or for which there is little demand. She suggested a “Save the Toilet” campaign to ensure HC knows that Laggan community really wants to retain its Public Toilet.

LCC should canvas local opinion on this matter.

CM reported that 3 quotations are being sought for repairs to the septic tank system.

PH (as a member of the CNPA board) reported on the wider discussion of more facilities for Motorhomes – parking and waste disposal. Noted that “KCDC” is looking into this for Kingussie. LCC to consider a possible local project in conjunction with CNPA.

MC left the call.

**2) Approval of minutes of LCC meeting 6 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020** Proposed MK, seconded AG. Approved unanimously.

## **Matters Arising:**

- Litter clearance. CM reported no response from HC to requests for larger bins/more frequent emptying. Bins overflowing plus sacks of rubbish around them ... PH to chase up at HC.
- CC re-naming process – still to be progressed.

## **3) Financial report – Treasurer**

- The balance of the account at 31 August 2020 was £10,347.41. This includes £2590.11 available for SSE Small Grants and the £6000.00 received from SSE for the Covid 19 Fund. Taking out these amounts, which are for restricted purposes, the balance is £1,757.30.
- No requests made for Micro or Covid grants. Additional “marketing” of the grants to be undertaken.

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

a) **Planning update** – new and O/S applications

- Cluny Padel Court – it was noted that this has already been put up. Planning for it is being sought retrospectively. LCC can only respond when consulted and plans available on-line.
- Blackwood Trail Improvement (LFT) – planning for this has been submitted. Assuming approval, project likely to complete by end October 2020.

b) **Licensing update** – none

c) **Roads update** – A86/A889 update – Dalwhinnie Bridge Repairs – full road closure noted for 31<sup>st</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. Road diversion proposals to be discussed with Bear.

d) **Report from Public Sector Agencies** – Police report

- Two Police incidents in Laggan noted since last CC meeting.
- “Traffic” issues, LCC will establish contact with the S.Highland Police unit in Fort William.

**6) Community Development/Action Plan**

- Connecting Laggan Paths/Trails. LFT is running this project. The outcome of the phase 1 feasibility study is expected to be available for the next CC meeting.
- Transport Scotland is looking at a widening programme for the A889 from Laggan to Dalwhinnie.
- The Village amenity group met to tidy and replant the tubs and clear weeds around the public toilet.

**7) Other Questions/contributions** from the members of public present – none.

**8) Any other agenda items** – to be tabled at the meeting.

**Newsletter**

- Laggan Matters edition 1 was well received
- It was agreed to keep it as electronic copy as far as possible, but with a limited number of printed copies for those unable to access it otherwise.
- Editors are meeting to formalise content for December edition.

**Christmas Lights**

- CM asked for any update about HC provision for these. None.

**Jahama Estate**

- Forest road construction desired to be undertaken by the end of 2020 – the estate has asked if any local contractors would like to be involved. CM has notified 2 local contractors.
- Timber extraction likely to happen in Spring/Summer 2021.
- No agreement reported on future use of private connecting road.
- Request sent to HC re survey adequacy of existing road from Spey Dam to Laggan Village – still outstanding

**9) Proposed Date and time of next meeting** – next meeting scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 1900.

Approved at Laggan CC Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 without amendment.

C.S. Morgan  
Chair