

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 8 - 2020 – 19th October 2020

VIA ZOOM @ 1900

Approved Minutes

1) Attendees present. Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Secretary Amanda Gallagher (AG), Minute Secretary Liz MacFarlan (LM), Lauren Hendry (LH), Cllr Pippa Hadley (PH).

Apologies: Gordon Stirling GS (Treasurer), Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Muriel Cockburn.

2 members of the community present.

CM welcomed everyone. Meeting declared quorate.

Extra agenda items: Remembrance wreath: LM

2) Approval of minutes of LCC meeting 7 – 21st Sept 2020

Proposed: AG Seconded: LH - Approved unanimously.

Significant Matters Arising

- **Village Christmas Décor arrangements.** LM has applied for a Micro grant (on behalf of Village Amenity group) to fund solar powered LED Christmas lights for the village planters and lights for an outdoor tree. These will replace the HC street lights from previous years – the cost of £850+ for these was considered excessive and they were underwhelming in 2019. LCC approved the financial sum of £500 to the Village Amenity group, on the recommendation of the SSE Micro Grants Panel. It was agreed that Ardverikie would be asked to provide a 3-4m tree over w/e Nov 28/29 (LM), and CM to approach Bear about connecting tree lights to their lamppost. CM to send out a village email explaining the reasons behind the changes.
- **Update on SSE CB fund into 2021** (CM) SSE had provided an update on the present financial position of the Laggan CB fund - Funds available to end March 21 - **£63,909** (excludes £6k Covid recovery fund and unused £2.5k for micro-grants already in LCC accounts) - In April 21, an additional £49,678 will be available giving a total of **£113,587** until end March 2022. **In April 2022**, for next 22 years, CB fund allocation to Laggan is **£61,662** per annum plus an annual CPI indexation.

SSE is now looking to discuss “next steps” with Laggan - either the CC or a subgroup of CC plus representatives from other organisations (CM to follow up)

Possible meeting dates Wednesdays in November (4th, 11th or 18th) CM, GS and AG volunteered to join this group. Its role is to firm up ‘rules’ about how the money is used/invested and to look into the establishment of a Development Trust to receive and administer the funds.

- **Next Newsletter** (LM/AG) All in hand.
Nov 1 - CM to send out agreed village email to engage and encourage residents to contribute.
Nov 8 - LM to email Laggan organisations with deadline date of **Nov 13**
Nov 20 – edited copy to Robyn for design
Dec 1 – online publication.

3) Financial report – Treasurer

Month-end (September 2020) a/c balance and brief report.

- The balance of the accounts at 30 September 2020 was £10,257.41. This includes £2590.11 available for Small Grants and the £6000.00 received from SSE for the Covid 19 Fund. Taking out these amounts, which are for fixed purposes, the balance is £1667.30.
- A Small Grant Application has been received from Liz MacFarlan and Ailsa Morgan for Christmas Lights for the village. This has been circulated to the local panel who have unanimously approved the application.

Remembrance wreath: LM requested £30 (+£5 postage) for a Remembrance wreath. This has previously been funded by LCA. Agreed. CM to liaise with Catherine Buchan about new Highland Council/Scottish Government Covid regulations for remembrance ceremonies.

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

a) Planning updates

- Glenshero wind farm – Public Inquiry on-line in November 2020. RES and the Reporter negotiating the potential reduction in a number of turbines in sensitive areas.
- SSE Cloiche – objections from SNH and CNPA. HC asked for delay to Dec 2020 but may extend to April 2021 as SSE need further environmental assessments. SSE also noted that they intend to reply adequately to LCC's concerns about possible increased noise.
- Retrospective application for Cluny Padel court submitted - no CNPA call-in.

b) Licensing update - none

c) Roads update:

- A889 update – Dalwhinnie Bridge Repairs – work started Oct 19, for 6 weeks. Full road closure intimated from 1-16th November inclusive. Diversion routes not yet finalized. CM has indicated undesirability of large vehicles or significant traffic volumes using Catlodge/Glentruim road.
- AG reported increase in pot-holes at entrance to Gergask Ave and LM reported the same at Glentruim. AG and LM to report to HC.

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies:

Road Policing Safety unit in Fort William - Still no contact about excessive speed on A86 and possible safety measures required. To be followed up by CM. 3 incidents in the Laggan area had been reported to/dealt with by the police in the last month.

Police report:

We are seeing a rise in online/telephone frauds whereupon people are still giving out their personal and financial details to fraudsters pertaining to be from government organisations like DVLA and the Banks. Would it be possible to highlight this in your minutes giving the following advice

- *Do not follow any instructions given in an automated message, unless you can verify the caller is legitimate.*
- *If you are speaking to a person, don't give them any personal information, don't give out any bank account information, don't agree to make any payments and never allow them to access your computer remotely.*
- *Don't click on any buttons or links in unsolicited emails, even if they look official*
- *Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have made a payment to a scammer or if you are worried that a fraudulent transaction has been made from your account. Use the phone number on your bank statement or a publicly listed number (don't use a number given to you by a cold caller). To ensure that you are disconnected from the cold caller, phone another number such as 123 before phoning your bank or call them from another phone.*
- *Be wary when filling in online surveys or questionnaires through pop-up adverts on social media. These are used to generate leads for companies to cold call you.*
- *If you agree to a home visit by a trader following a cold call or online survey, you may want to ask a trusted friend or family member to be there with you to provide a second opinion.*
- *Never agree to a purchase or contract on the spot – get at least two other quotes from trusted companies.*
- *Remember Government agencies like DVLA and Banks will not contact you over the phone, by text or e-mail.*

A 'Safer Communities' handbook is to be placed on the Laggan.com website for all residents. (CM)

e) Highland Council:

- **Car removal** (Village Layby). Still no response. PH recommended continued 'prodding' via email.
- **Pavement clearance local volunteering** – HC Winter Resilience fund - provision of relevant equipment available - This is an initiative to assist communities, through their Community Councils, to take action in their own areas to help clear snow and ice from footpaths. As part of the scheme, the Highland Council will provide grit and grit bin, shovels, snow pushers, gloves and high visibility clothing, as well as health and safety advice and public liability insurance. Currently there are grit bins at Community Hall, School, Gergask Ave. Are more needed? Where? Where might equipment be stored safely, but accessible? CM and LM to raise with Community Hall for storage of equipment and apply for equipment.
- PH reported that a **20mph speed limit** is to be introduced in Aviemore as part of the Safer routes to School initiative. Might this be extended to Laggan? CM to contact Richard Porteous on this as well as improving the surface of the existing pavement from the School to the local shop.
- PH reported that Playparks are eligible for HC funding to get their equipment 'up to HC safety standards', inspected annually, maintained and for appropriate insurance liability to be held. There is an HC focus on 'Accessibility for all' – all age groups, all abilities. To discuss with LCT.

5) Laggan Public Toilet – LCT has agreed to be the single point of contact for on-going discussions with HC on the future of the toilet. The building's ownership *may* transfer back to LCT – item under discussion. There is a study being explored by LCT on the village mains sewage and drainage system and whether the septic tank for the public toilet can be modified. This study may also inform the housing feasibility plans also being developed by LCT. The public toilet is open again.

6) Community Development/Action Plan:

- **Housing Survey** – the need for rent to buy/rental/affordable housing was identified in the recent housing survey. A feasibility study is to be carried out on the land around the picnic area and play-park to explore the possibilities for this.
- **Connecting Laggan Paths/Trails** – LFT's project (on behalf of the Community Council) is at the feasibility stage 1 and in discussion with local landowners over accessibility. The path/trail improvement project in the Blackwood awaits planning approval, and is still expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- **Litter clearing** – thanks were expressed for the combined work of the CNPA Rangers in bagging up litter along the A86 and HC refuse collectors for taking the bags away on a weekly basis. AG said there has been some fly-tipping on a short stretch of the old road used as a layby, to the west of Pattack. CM to contact HC and CNPA.

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

8) Any other agenda items – none.

9) Proposed Date and time of next meeting – next meeting scheduled for Monday 16th November at 1900 – likely to be held remotely via ZOOM.

Date of draft minutes - 20th October 2020

Residents may intimate other topics for the Community Council to discuss by contacting chairlcc@laggan.com or secretarylcc@laggan.com

Approved at LCC meeting on Monday 16th November without amendment.