

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 10 - 2021 – 18th January 2021

VIA ZOOM @ 1900

Approved Minutes

1) Attendees present. Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Gordon Stirling GS (Treasurer), Secretary Amanda Gallagher (AG), Minute Secretary Liz MacFarlan (LM), Lauren Hendry (LH), Mignonne Khazaka (MK) joined meeting at 1920; Cllr. Muriel Cockburn (MC).

Apologies: Cllr. Pippa Hadley (PH). In addition, 4 members of the community present.

CM welcomed everyone. Meeting declared quorate.

AOB items from community – Tony Harris (TH) asked for information about possible timber extraction using Wade's Military Road route (Jahama Estate plans)

2) Approval of minutes of LCC meeting 9 – 16th Nov 2020

Proposed: AG, Seconded: CM - Approved unanimously.

Significant Matters Arising:

Next Newsletter (LM/AG) This is underway with deadline dates of:

- Feb 1 for notice to community and email to Laggan organisations; Feb 10 for copy to AG and LM; Feb 18 for collated copy to RW and distribution on March 1st. CM printed 5 copies of December edition. List of those who wish printed copy to be advised.
- **FLS paths/trails plans** - CM reported that Wolftrax will continue to monitor Forestry's agreed clearance of the Druim an Aird car park circular route and core path. It is to be made accessible, with way-markers to be reinstated and replaced where necessary.
- Robyn Woolston (RW) raised long-term issue of dumped car undercarriage and other rubbish deposited behind Feagour.
- Other paths needing waymarkers renewed include many of the Laggan Paths. MC suggested contacting Murray Ferguson or Liz Henderson – Badenoch Great Place Project. Annette Reavley (AR) suggested group walks to evaluate the routes and note works required, once Covid rules allow this.
- CM mentioned repairs required to the base of the main Laggan noticeboard.
- AG suggested the route from Cluny Mains to Newtonmore would make an excellent Core Path, with some work done to bridge the river and improve the track, which is part of the East Highland Way. The Cluny Factor to be consulted and funding looked into – CM.

3) Financial report – Treasurer Month-end (December 2020) a/c balance and brief report.

- The Balance on the Account at 31/12/20 was £9685.66. This includes £6000 for the SSE Covid Fund and £2090.11 for the SSE Micro Grant Funds.
- Since the last meeting, one payment has been made for £36.75 to cover the cost of refreshments for the volunteers who put up the Christmas decorations around the village.

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

a) Planning updates – new and O/S applications;

- Glenshero WF – RES to update by February meeting.
- Wolftrax centre extension – awaiting planning comments.
- Transport activity to/from Melgarve site – SSE have advised that they will have decommissioned site compounds by the end of February 2021. Circa 18,000 trees have been planted by Scottish Woodlands as part of the landscaping, with 2,000 still to plant. GS asked about plans to tidy up the area at the entrance to Glen Markie where the security hut is. CM to ask SSE Melgarve.
- TH's question about the route for timber extraction discussed. CM explained that Jahama Estates has advised that General Wade's Military Road would not to be used for either road construction or timber extraction traffic. Jahama expect to use the Beauldy/Denny "Melgarve" route. Awaiting agreement to use route through to Strathmashie.

b) Licensing update - nil

c) Roads update:

- A889 update – Dalwhinnie Road Repairs at Rail Bridge – March 14/15th night closure.
- CM to prepare article for Laggan Matters 3 and Facebook informing residents of how to report motoring incidents along the A86. The gathering of these reports is a way to petition

for remedial road safety action along this dangerous stretch of road. The Kinlochlaggan bends are deemed to be 'high risk' for motorcycles with remedial action being prepared.

- There was discussion about 20mph proposals agreed across the Strath in 'built up areas' by HC. The short 20mph zone in Laggan currently (from Hall to School) is wholly inadequate. MC reported that HC officers are to carry out feasibility studies on this project, but reduced staffing is likely to mean delays. Carrbridge CC is by-passing this by applying directly to Sustrans for new signage. CM to talk with Bo Hickey of Sustrans.

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – Police report – nil. CM recorded disappointment at the recent burglary at Wolftrax and The Wee Bike Hub, considered by Police to have been carried out by an organised crime group.

e) Highland Council:

- **Safer Routes Response** – see above
- **Covid.** MC reported on latest Covid information – number of cases stabilised in last 3 days, 35 cases in Raigmore, 6 in ITU – near capacity. Care homes affected in Dingwall and Invergordon. Environmental Health has followed up on 83 businesses with links to positive cases. Vaccination progress – Care homes residents/staff to be vaccinated within 2 weeks, 11,000 already delivered.
- **Relief.** Increased demand for welfare support (up 129.3%) and humanitarian aid, with many vulnerable young people. Council Tax reductions and one-off payments of £60 available to those in fuel poverty – this closes at end of Feb. There is support available for people in these categories: newly self-employed, hospitality, taxi drivers, travel agents, brewers, B&B, self-catering, hostels, visitor attractions. Over 2,600 businesses have already been supported. Contact MC for further welfare support info. Contact Karen Derrick of VABS for info about the Resilience fund – CM to ask about the mechanism for accessing this.
- **Public Toilet** – no news from HC. GS asked about enhanced cleaning, as demanded by Scot Govt regulations for Public Lavatories and whether this was being carried out in Laggan? To be established.

5) Jahama Forestry & Road Plans; SSE Melgarve exit arrangements – see 4a)

6) Community Development/Action Plan - to note updates on any priority projects:

- **Connecting Laggan Paths/Trails (CM)** – all 4 routes currently part of feasibility study; all landowners concerned have been written to. Community now needs to be informed about the routes that have been ruled out and those which are considered feasible; work underway on how best to engage residents, then moving on to the concept design. Blackwood to Feagour trail construction is underway and the path has been cleared along the fire break with funding from Forestry and Leader Europe via LFT. Aim to complete by 1st week Feb.
- **Village Amenity (LM)** – thanks were expressed to Ardverikie Estate for the Christmas tree and to the Church for their outside lights. The village lights were well received, but a group is to form to look at the possibility of purchasing some additional lamp-post lighting – LM, AG, RW and Ailsa Morgan (AM). Question to be included in Laggan Matters 3.
- **Business Group (MK)** – a list of all the local business owners is to be assembled – all LCC members are asked to email known business names and contacts to MK for this purpose. MK to write item for Laggan Matters 3.

7) Other Questions/contributions from the members of public present

- AR asked for information about the current amount of funds for Laggan held by SSE
- TH asked about any updates to plans for felling in the Blackwood – to start in 2021.

8) Any other agenda items – 2021 winter lights proposal (LM) – see 6)

Jahama Estates' venison, donated to the Church for Laggan distribution was much appreciated.

9) Proposed Date and time of next meeting – next meeting scheduled for Monday 15th February at 1900.

18th January 2021 (Approved at LCC meeting on 15th February 2021 without amendment