

## **Laggan Community Council – Meeting**

Meeting 17 – 18 October 2021

Laggan Village Hall - 1900

Approved Minutes

**1. Attendees present:** Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Vice Chair Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Treasurer Gordon Stirling (GS), Secretary Amanda Gallagher (AG), Lauren Hendry, Minute Secretary Karen Thew (KT).

Also in Attendance: 4 members of the community. CM welcomed all attending noting that appropriate COVID 19 mitigation measures were in place for the duration of meeting. A Track and Trace document was also taken and is to be destroyed 21 days after the meeting.

Meeting declared quorate.

Declaration of interest: MK for a planning application. No other declarations made.

### **2. Approval of LCC draft minutes held on 20th September 2021**

Proposed AG; Seconded GS; Approved without amendment - CM to sign and post.

### **Matters arising:**

- a. Village noticeboard - at the last meeting it was noted that HC nor the CC own this land. Ownership is still to be identified. Potential repair work and possible electrical work cannot commence until this is known. CM will speak to Transport Scotland
- b. Potential Changes to Bus Route 40 – Muriel Cockburn raised this to be progressed at a local transport meeting in Aug and has advised that, because the contract is up for tender renewal within 12 months, no change to routes are likely noted. This still leaves Laggan without a public service route to serve the New Hospital in Aviemore. Matters to be followed up.
- c. Village Water capacity - Scottish Water have responded on use of the village hydrant, which reduces water pressure. They will progress investigations with customers in the area and Fire and Rescue. A further response on village capacity from Scottish Water is awaited. Issue to be kept under advisement, but also noted that Laggan Community Housing may be best to deal with future capacity questions under their present feasibility study for additional housing.

### **3. Financial report – Treasurer**

The Balance on the Account at 30/9/21 was £8193.96. This includes ring-fenced SSE funds of £1090.11 for Micro-Grants and £5000 for Covid Grants. In addition there is a £400 ring-fenced grant from the Cairngorm National Park for the purchase of litter picking equipment. The available balance is therefore £1896.15

Since the last meeting two payments have been made from the Account - £30 for Minute Taking Services and £90.00 to Calico for annual domain charges for laggan.com website.

Remembrance Wreath for Parent Council of the School (£35) was approved.

Noted that Gergask Primary had provided a report on the use of the SSE COVID resilience fund and that approximately £400 is still held for a future school trip.

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

**a. Planning updates** – Applications still to be determined – 1) Feagour - new house build by side of A86 – issue of concern noted re access to main road – up to Transport Scotland to assess. Individual neighbours advised to respond if any issues. 2) Ardverikie Estate - New floating weir at Loch Pattack. 3) Ardverikie Estate – change of a workshop to holiday accommodation. 4) New Application: Strathmashie House - New storage shed.

**b. Licensing update** – No update

**c. Roads update - A86** between Laggan and Newtonmore to be resurfaced at CreagDubh. The road is scheduled to be completely closed 1-4th Nov and a night-time closure from 7-11<sup>th</sup> November. Details to be published on LCC Facebook and Website.

Meeting raised continued concerns of safety issues especially with logging lorries using A86 on same stretch of road. The road is an “approved” timber transport route and to change will require formal appeals to TS. LCC is aware that Newtonmore and Kingussie Communities equally concerned at volume of timber lorry traffic. Dash Cam footage of road safety issues to be requested.

**A889** - Transport Scotland still to consult with communities regarding an intended widening project, when this meeting can be held face to face. Project is presently un-costed and un-budgeted.

**d.Public Sector Agencies** – Police – No report received. NHS – to note that a new Pharmacy has been authorized to open in Newtonmore – expected in January 2022 in building opposite present Post Office location. Also noted that present Newtonmore Post Office location may be changing but to be confirmed.

**e. Highland Council** – Safer Routes 20mph installation. No further info.

Waste Management: Kingussie Waste Recycling Centre – commitment provided by HC that centre will not close but only be open on Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

### **5. Co-Opting of New Community Council Members**

Following the required 7-day notice period provided by the circulation of the agenda for this meeting and in accordance with the Community Council Scheme rules 5.2 and 5.3, two residents on the electoral role and resident in the community volunteered to become Community Councillors. Existing Councillors welcomed this and as a result, Valerie Macpherson and Jill Warner are duly co-opted onto the community council with full voting rights. One additional co-option position remains available for the CC to appoint and other members of the community are to be encouraged.

### **6. Community Development/Action Plan - Updates on priority projects.**

- “Connecting Laggan”- nothing new to report.
- Laggan Community Housing – Feasibility report for new housing being progressed.
- Village Amenity Group – 1) Possible Fencing works – likely subject of an SSE Micro Grant submission. Quotes to be revised. 2) Litter picking (CNPA grant) – equipment now available for community volunteers. Areas of concern primarily trunk road lay-bys. 3) Village Planters – thanks noted to volunteers who have managed and re-planted.
- Winter Lights – A similar scheme as 2020 was agreed. AG/CM to contact RW. CM to review existing lights and need for additional batteries. Preferred installation date 26/27<sup>th</sup> November – volunteers to assist will be required. Ardverikie Estate have been approached for a tree.
- Jahama/SSE in process to install new access gate to Track 19 w/b 18 October
- Laggan Helping Hands to resume lunches on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **7. Other Questions/contributions from the members of public present.**

A resident asked if the tree/bushes on the inside bend of the A86 near the church yard can be pruned as it is currently an obstruction to Line Of Sight for traffic. (CM contacted BEAR after the meeting to explore the request).

A resident asked what steps the CC was taking to encourage more people from all the areas of the CC area to become Community Councillors. In discussion, it was noted that ZOOM meetings since March 2020 had not been well attended by community members hence the agreement by the Council at its last meeting to return to face to face meetings.

### **8. Any other Agenda items – tabled after draft agenda circulated and agreed to be discussed at the meeting**

- **Laggan Helping Hands (LHH)** are in the process to submit a Large Grant application to the SSE panel to acquire 3 new AED defibrillator machines for placing through out the community. Should the application be approved by the SSE grant body, LCC may be asked to partner with LHH for receipt and disbursement of any funds. **This was endorsed by the LCC.** (The next SSE Large Grant meeting expected to be held in mid November).

- **SSE Community Benefit Fund Grant process** - SSE have suggested that a “funding surgery” be held with all members of the community invited. SSE would prepare posters etc. and in line with present Highland Council guidelines proposed that it is held by ZOOM. The meeting agreed that this “surgery” would be valuable BUT attending community members expressed strong views that a ZOOM meeting of this sort would likely fail if held via “Zoom” – The LCC also agreed with this opinion. CM will feedback to SSE agreeing to hold the “surgery” but in person to achieve most effective community feedback. A proposed date is **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**.
- Following the “surgery”, it was agreed that a meeting of the Community Council along with representatives of the various Laggan Community groups would be held to explore future guidelines for applications for the SSE Community Benefit fund process. From April 2022 the rules have the potential to be modified.
- Scotrail – Dalwhinnie CC had requested that LCC note and discuss the Scotrail proposal to reduce the numbers of trains leaving from Dalwhinnie. It was agreed to undertake a post on Facebook to gauge wider community opinion.
- Newsletter - next edition (due out on 01/12/21) now in planning. All submissions to be made to AG/JW by 10<sup>th</sup> November. Additional ideas for themes and submissions also welcome to AG/JW.

**8) Proposed Date and time of next meeting** – Monday 6 December 2021 at 1900. All attending agreed that having this present meeting in person was much more effective and that it should continue. Venue of next meeting will be Laggan Village Hall.

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)

**Date of Draft Minutes – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**Minutes Approved without amendment at Community Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**