

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 2 – 17th September 2018

Laggan Village Hall @ 1830

APPROVED minutes

1) Attendees present – Chair Colin Morgan (CM); Vice-Chair Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Jo Cumming (JC), Annette Reavley (AR); Apologies noted – Liz Macfarlan, Sheena Slimon. In attendance – Cllr Pippa Hadley (PH), 8 members of the community. Chair declared meeting quorate.

Declaration of Interests – Chair declared a conflict of interest for item 3 on agenda and passed chair of this item to vice-chair.

3) Taken first on agenda - Visitor Information Centre – CNPA (Peter Crane) – MK took the chair, invited CNPA to present and asked “what is expected of the LCC?”

CNPA looking to LCC to support the potential establishment of a VIC in Laggan – seen as an opportunity to support businesses and communities but no compulsion and no funding is available. However it does put communities “on the map”. PC went through the history of Visit Scotland visitor centres and their demise in recent years to just 2 (Aviemore and Ballater) but noted that CNPA and some communities see continued value in Partnership Visitor Information centres at locations throughout the Park e.g. Grantown Museum. PC noted 2 parties from Laggan Area interested (Laggan Stores and Laggan Wolftrax) to explore and noted both served different client markets.

CNPA would make available training to any staff involved in a client (visitor) facing role and will have some other criteria to meet e.g. opening hours to publish etc. CNPA, along with Cairngorm Business Partnership, would provide relevant leaflets and possibly contribute to providing any interpretation boards around the community. Any agreement with the businesses would be “light touch” for a period of 3 years, including a cooling off period for 6 months. PC noted that, although his requirement was focused on promoting the Cairngorm National Park, he advised that visitors’ expectations may also be “further afield” e.g. Fort William and Skye. CNPA considered it acceptable for the 2 interested businesses to participate should they wish. Any additional details about any agreement was for discussion separately from the interested parties. A response by end of September was requested. A comment was made about possibly road signage. This was unlikely to be in the scope of CNPA. PC left the meeting.

A discussion followed which noted that such centres would support a “destination Laggan” theme, which may emerge from the Community Development plan. LCC concluded that support was justified.

LCC noted a request to advise other tourist businesses in the area.

CM resumed the chair.

2) Approval of Draft minutes of meeting 1 held on 20th August – Proposed by MK, seconded by AR – no amendments made. Chair to sign approved minutes and log with Secretary. Minutes to be posted on notice boards at present.

Matters arising not on the agenda; **NONE**

Chair proposed that any contributions/comments from attending members of the community should be tabled after each agenda item, rather than being held to end of meeting. This was agreed.

4) Verbal Financial report – Chair, in lieu of Treasurer, noted that the Bank Account had 2 entries to date – an annual grant from Highland Council for the supporting activities of the Council and one payment for Insurance for Council activities. It was noted that meeting room expenses payable to Laggan Village Hall were outstanding and would be settled by the Treasurer on her return. The Chair noted, with thanks, that LCA had agreed a grant of £500 from LCA funds in support of LCC early stage activities.

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

a) **Planning update** – It was noted that no new relevant planning applications had been submitted. Post meeting (18th) the chair was advised by RES that the **Glenshero Wind Farm Development** planning application is likely to be submitted on 28th September. After a discussion on noise assessment, the Council agreed to meet with a representative from Tomatin to hear of personal experiences related to the Farr Wind Farm development. Stuart Young agreed to facilitate. A review of how the Farr development had been handled with respect to noise level was suggested by PH.

Aviemore Hospital development – it was noted that the question of Transport to and from the new hospital would be a matter reserved for Highland Council not NHS, however any relevant issues should be noted. **For follow-up.**

b) **Licensing update** – noted that Village Hall had applied for a temporary licence for November 9th event.

c) **Roads update – A9 dualing consultation.** Noted that LCA had passed responsibility for this to LCC. LCA received a letter responding to their complaint about the earlier consultation process. The next consultation event about the compulsory purchase planning orders issued, was set for Newtonmore on 3rd October and Klingussie on 4th October. The Glentruim exit onto A9 was still to be closed. It appeared that no new design alterations had been made but that changes to the high school pick arrangements may have been proposed. Residents and councilors are encouraged to attend the consultation sessions. **LCC to consider any additional response.**

AR continues to chase BEAR for improvements to the area's trunk roads and pot-holes. PH suggested that she is copied into any correspondence.

Melgarve Sub-Station. Deliveries of 2 transformers to the sub-station had been notified. Post meeting, Chair received e-mail from SSE advising of a date change and requesting community to be advised. Comments from the public attending, requested the Council to complain to the contractor about inappropriate and dangerous vehicle movements (speeding and incorrect use by contractors) through the village. A previous request to take photographs of offending vehicles was re-emphasised. PH noted that this may be contrary to the developer's planning consent and to gather evidence. **AR to follow up with SSE.** CM to advise AR of relevant contact details for SSE.

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – NHS, Police, Fire – NONE

e) Review of Community Council Scheme of Operation. Noted that LCC could not really provide comments in its early stage. But also noted that if a CC is to be truly, the local consultative body for regional and national government, then the substantial reduction of grant funding from Highland Council is inconsistent with this remit. Council agreed that this was relevant to submit as feedback on the scheme. **ACTION CM.**

6) SSE Community Benefit Fund – Council agreed a strong preference to join in the proposed SSE administrative process for CB funds allocated to Laggan from Stronelaig. CM and MK would attend the SSE meeting on 26th September, which will establish the criteria for fund applications, and report back.

7) Next steps of Community Development Plan and Visioning exercise following Community Consultation event on 23rd August 2018. PH advised on the willingness of VABS to assist LCC in “next steps”. Council agreed. **Chair to contact VABS.** Noted the willingness of some community members attending to continue to assist in the development of the plan. This was much appreciated.

8) To discuss & note ideas for Community Wide Communication – a variety of suggestions were made – FACEBOOK, Residents e-mail, more Notice Boards, web-site whether existing Laggan.com or new one. MK, JC, AR all agreed for their contact e-mail addresses to be available. SPLASH – presently retained by LCA to publish - comment noted about circulation process for SPLASH as some residents had not received. JC agreed to explore current circulation method. Minute Secretary – in short term, place “Ad” on notice boards.

9) To note Bowel Cancer Awareness talk proposed via Newtonmore CC – date not yet confirmed.

10) Questions/contributions from the public present.

A question was raised about the emptying of the Bottle Bank in the village. It was noted that a new (larger) rubbish bin had been delivered. AR undertook to continue to “discuss”/chase with Highland council for regular uplifts.

11) Date and time of next meeting – Monday 15th October at 1830.

Approved at Meeting 3 - 15th October 2018

Signed

Colin S. Morgan
Chair
Laggan Community Council