

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 8 – 15th April 2019

Laggan Village Hall @ 1830

Minutes – APPROVED at May 20th Meeting of Community Council

1) Attendees: Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Vice-Chair Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Treasurer Liz MacFarlan (LM), Jo Cumming (JC), Lauren Hendry (LH), Cllr Pippa Hadley (PH)

In attendance: Minute secretary: Elspeth Rae (ER)

Apologies received: Cllr Muriel Coburn

10 members of community present

Meeting declared quorate

Declaration of Interests: none

2) To note: prior approval of minutes of meeting 7 by e-mail on March 6th and duly circulated.

Matters arising - Review of Action Log/Follow up items

- Roads – see item 4) following
- Exploration of EV & e-bike charging points – outstanding, CM
- Draft MOU for SSE grants (years 4 – 25) – received, MK/CM to review
- Laggan.com website– see item 8) following
- LCC updated & expanded mailing list – revised list being finalised for circulation of minutes etc. To review GDPR requirements. Opinion sought of community members present re LCC emails. All positive.
- Melgarve exit strategy - will take place in 2020, no further response expected.
- SSE Micro Grant application process etc. – see item 6) following
- Community development/action plan meeting – see item 7) following

3) Financial report – Update from Treasurer

In process of reviewing accounts for AGM. Money for planters has gone out. Present Balance £5331.80 – circa £4000 “restricted” and earmarked for micro-grants so applications encouraged. Awaiting Highland Council grant for 2019-20

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

a) Planning update – No new applications since February.

b) Licensing update – nothing to report.

c) Roads update – A86/A889 update

A86 – East of Wolfrax. Scheduled resurfacing work – noted that 3 local businesses commented to consultation review – **NB:** post meeting (24 hours), details received of revised closure programme as below:

Location of Works	Duration	Work Hours	Traffic Management
A86 East of Wolfrax	Mon 29 th April - Thurs 2 nd May.	19:00 – 07:00	Road Closure
A86 Strathmashie	Mon 6 th May & Wed 8 th May.	19:00 – 07:00	Road Closure
A86 Pattack Falls	Tues 7 th May - Thurs 9 th May.	19:00 – 07:00	Road Closure

A889 – urgent repairs between A86 junction and Caoldair Coffee Shop expected by end May subject to consultation, longer-term widening project being considered. Survey & measuring work recently undertaken. Detailed design plans and consultation are awaited.

Recent work on A86 (east of Balgowan) – LCC to send a letter to BEAR raising concerns about quality of resurfaced section e.g. road edges, markings. Comments invited from community members for inclusion.

Concerns raised about speed and conduct of timber lorries on A86. Noted that A889 is also not all double width so rerouting timber lorries to A9 via Dalwhinnie is not without problems. CM will raise matter with other neighbouring CCs (Newtonmore, Kingussie). PH pointed out that a letter from the 3 communities would carry more weight.

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – NHS, Police, Fire – PH advised that Police are monitoring 30 mph zones on A9 even if no work is in progress.

e) Highland Council/Community Council Scheme Updates – CM received brief on new Community council scheme to come into effect after elections in November. Consultation response required. (CM)

e.g. increasing number of co-opted members; encouraging youth members (aged 14-18), associate membership status of CC for community groups; elections by electronic ballot; probable increase in core grant for rural communities; broadly no change in boundaries. All deemed positive.

5) Co-option of Elspeth Rae as a co-opted member of the Laggan Community Council – formally approved

6) SSE Stronelairg Community Benefit Fund

a) Approval of first micro-grants from SSE local fund noted, applications by end May to LM for next panel meeting (mid June) are encouraged. LM and Stuart Lilley to work on communication for this.

Following a comment from a community member, a reminder was provided that names of local grant panel members were included in LCC meeting 4 minutes (19/11/18), namely Kelly Wainwright, Stuart Lilley, James MacFarlan, Valerie Macpherson with CC member to rotate between CM and MK.

Planters installed and look very good. LCC expressed gratitude to volunteers for planting. CM reminded that grants were made to 2 individuals who have final responsibility regarding maintenance. Highland Council will supply summer plants, funds remain in grants for winter planting. PH suggested contacting Highland Council gardeners. SSE Large grant panel meets end April 2019. 2 applications from Laggan Community organisations submitted.

b) Receipt noted of CBF draft agreement from SSE for 2022 onwards – to discuss CM/MK.

7) Community Development/Action Plan

a) Actions of VABS, including plans for Community Survey, and Community “Big Conversation” event scheduled for June 12th at 7pm noted and discussed.

11 or 12 members of community groups invited to attend steering group meeting held 21/3/19.

A survey questionnaire based on those used in Kingussie and Dulnain Bridge will be finalised by VABS and distributed. Survey period expected to be from May 6th and 24th.

One paper version of survey to be delivered by “Splash” distributors to each household, and can be returned by Freepost - can be photocopied if further survey forms are required in household. Online version will also be available.

Output will be collated by VABS, goal of idea generation, to be evaluated, discussed & prioritised at Big Conversation. Importance of focus on goals for Laggan community in future years noted, not just list of actions.

In addition to hand delivery, noted that survey process could also be publicised via notice board, Laggan Community Facebook page and copies at Laggan Stores or other coffee shops.

Question raised of possibility of tourist/business version of survey to be available at tourist related businesses/sites.

8) LCC Communications/Website

a) Use of laggan.com for publication of minutes etc.

Noted that CM recently given admin rights to laggan.com. LCC page now on website - minutes not yet uploaded. Noted that Laggan.com domain presently owned by LCA. Should LCA dissolve, councillors agreed that LCC could become domain owner.

b) In the event of Brexit, laggan.eu website along with LCC members’ email addresses will cease to function. This domain persists for the moment but email addresses will have to be moved at some time.

9) Other Questions/contributions/letters received from community members

Laggan Cemetery – Letter received by LCC concerning limited availability of lairs with a request to explore and investigate future options between Highland Council and Church. PH - letter noted and sent to HC. Response from HC awaiting return after Easter holidays.

Rubbish Bins next to Laggan stores coffee shop/entrance to village are in a poor state of repair, though used and emptied regularly. PH advised that Highland Council will investigate at ward level seeking way forward to replace.

Question concerning LCA responsibilities – meeting advised that any questions would be appropriate to raise at the future EGM of LCA on April 25th

10) Future meeting dates: Probably no meeting in July due to absence, or November due to elections and absence. August meeting **tbc**.

11) Date and time of next meeting – 20th May 2019 at 18:30

12) Meeting closed at 2000.

Residents may intimate other topics for the Community Council to discuss by contacting chairlaggancc@laggan.eu or secretarylaggancc@laggan.eu