

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 5 – 17th December 2018

Laggan Village Hall @ 1800

APPROVED Minutes

Chair Colin Morgan (CM): Welcomed and introduced team from SSE Melgarve Substation, Michael Butterworth SSE Manager, Steven Mitchell – Harding (Siemens Bam Site Manager), Gary Donlin, SSE Transmissions Community Liaison Manager.

Chair thanked everyone for coming early and explained the 6pm start was to accommodate the SSE representatives who had other meetings that evening.

SSE Melgarve Project Update: MB opened the discussion by giving Aravind Parayatum (SSE Transmission Manager's) apologies. He noted the following;- 90% of the large deliveries now completed – those remaining will not require escorts. Construction work is now 95% completed. Since the end of March 2018 the substation was energised via a temporary connection. A permanent connection for Stronelaig WF will replace this in late 2019. The wind farm will be dormant for 60 days. No significant impact expected to community during this 60 day shut down. The outage will not affect the domestic system.

There will be some increase in traffic at this time with the redundant material from the temporary connection plus removal of portacabins and start of landscaping in early 2020.

SS asked for advanced notice of when any increase in traffic is expected, so that all residents (including the Strathmashie houses) could be informed. Clarification of road gritting was requested with Siemens/BAM noting their responsibility for all road maintenance and gritting of roads they use – primarily Forestry and related link roads. No public highway maintenance undertaken e.g. to village

CM requested clarification on the cumulative potential noise disturbance from the combination of the Stronelaig WF along with the proposed Glenshero WF and the Melgarve facility. MB (SSE) had no knowledge of the Glenshero proposals but that in his experience there would be no noise interference to properties at a distance of 3.5 kms. GD – said they were bound by relevant Planning regulations and that, for them, baseline monitoring would take place before construction. SSE are bound to remedy any noise emissions above permitted levels.

On future WF plans, SSE substation management advised that they had not been informed of any additional capacity being required. For Melgarve, it was stated that “noise” is not cumulative and would be inside their buildings.

From the community attending, it was noted that there continued to be complaints of continued use of the Glen Road by lorries heading for the substation as well as the speed of vans travelling in convoy and at speed on the A86 between Laggan and Newtonmore / Kingussie.

MB / SMH admitted difficulties with some foreign drivers. They made great efforts to

ensure all companies had maps & instructions for their drivers. Multilanguage signs had been erected at the Dalwhinnie junction.

Cllr MC noted that “satnav” often wrongly directed traffic and THC was investigating this issue at present.

CM brought up the possible fire risk at the Melgarve site and local plans. SMH stated there was an established protocol. The Kingussie Fire Brigade and Mountain Rescue had both visited the substation and they were trying to arrange visits from Police, Ambulance and helicopter services. When fully operational, the substation would be an unmanned site monitored 24hrs a day from Perth.

CM requested an understanding of the future landscaping plans and when this would commence. GD would come back to LCC on this. MB noted that they had already been approved.

CM thanked Mike, Steven & Gary for their informative and helpful discussion and Gary will keep us informed of progress and changes that might affect the community.

1) 7pm LCC meeting officially convened

Present - Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Liz MacFarlan (LM), Jo Cumming (JC), Sheena Slimon (SS) and 10 members of the community. A quorum was declared.

Apologies – Mignonne Khazaka

In Attendance – Cllr Muriel Cockburn, Lauren Hendry

3) Approval of Minutes - Meeting 4 - 19th November approved without amendment - proposed LM & seconded JC

Matters arising:

- Speyside Way – Liz Henderson to send a report to CM but not yet received.
Cllr MC had report and would send to CM.
- Glenshero WF Community Benefit Money – it was agreed that LCC should talk to Duncan Mackison representing the developer, not RES – to invite to a future CC meeting.
- Scottish Government consultation paper on future Community Benefit guidelines is out with responses/comments requested for end of January 2019. The present guideline of £5k per megawatt generated remains included but with some additional flexibility expected – hence the requirement to engage with SIMEC.

Glenshero planning application - response extended to 21st December. LCC agreed response is one of a Qualified Support for the development centred on 4 topics

- 1) Local & Regional Development Opportunities & any potential impact on local tourism.
- 2) Comments on impact of Wind Turbine Noise.
- 3) Comments on spoiling of pristine views on remote & rural locations. Possible damage to flora & fauna primarily during construction phase.
- 4) Effective Water Course protection & management.

Each of these headings has been commented on emphasizing agreements, disagreements, and concerns. It was noted that the proposed turbines are still at the design stage and have yet to be used anywhere else worldwide.

4) Financial Report

Accounts in good shape thanks to £500 donation from LCA & compensation from RBS of £150 for delays in fully implementing agreed on-line services. B&S Ward Management advised all CCs that an additional grant of £500 was available to all CCs for specific projects. CM applied in late November.

5) Statutory Items

a) **Planning Update** – no called in applications

b) **Roads** - A9 ground investigation has started on the section from Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie & Dalwhinnie to Crubenmore and should last 3 months.

A889 – Kate Forbes MSP hopes to get Transport Scotland to come and look at the state of the road from Lagg Cottage to Drumgask road end early in 2019.

c) **NHS Highland** - End of Life Project looking at how to provide care at home for the dying. Community Liaison nurse just employed and will be visiting the various communities.

6) Community Council Co-option – Lauren Hendry was unanimously co-opted and welcomed on to the Community Council.

7) SSE Stronelaig Community Benefit Fund

Memorandum of Understanding - Revised draft between Community & SSE awaited. Fund due to be formally announced on 14th December. Will be visible on a dedicated SSE website.

Large grants – from £501 up to £10K – applications x 2 yearly to SSE direct.

Small grants up to £500 administered by local panel. They will meet immediately prior to CC meetings on a ¼ basis, mid-March, June, September & November. Local grant applications agreed to be sent to and collated by Treasurer. Awards approved will be issued via the LCC Bank Account by Treasurer.

SSE will give clear guidelines to all community at a drop in session scheduled for 17th January 2019.

SSE CB Funds allocated to Laggan, not used in the year one, will roll over into year 2.

8) Community Plan – Karen Derrick has been off sick. Progress needed early in the new year. CM will follow up.

9) Comments/Questions noted from the floor -

- Highland Council Budget not yet set.
- It was noted that Highland Carers presently has a problem with staffing levels in B&S.
- How to contact CC if community has an agenda item for discussion.

Noted that any resident can e-mail any of the officers of LCC in advance of the CC meeting (Chair, Secretary & Treasurer) – chairlaggancc@laggan.eu
secretarylaggancc@laggan.eu, treasurerlaggancc@laggan.eu requesting an agenda item to be tabled. If more information required the issue can be carried forward to the next / or subsequent meetings as necessary.

10) Proposed Date and time of next meeting – 21st January 2019 at 1830

Chair closed the meeting wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Minutes APPROVED 21st January 2019 – without amendment

