

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 12 – 16th September 2019

Laggan Village Hall @ 1830

Approved Minutes

1830 - Attendance by SSE Melgarve representatives to update on site plans - Gary Donlin & Mike Butterworth. Key information provided.

- The permanent connection from Melgarve to Stronelairg Wind-Farm is now postponed until May-July 2020. Approximately 20/25 staff members will remain on site over the winter but with some site office accommodation removed. SSE will communicate timelines when confirmed.
- Highland Council (HC) concrete Spey River bridge – SSE upgrading HC bridge which is currently closed for duration of work (about 4 weeks) - road users diverted onto SSE “bailey” bridge under speed restrictions. Bailey bridge being retained permanently on site but will be “gated”.
- Visual landscape reinstatement of site – likely to commence in spring 2020 but some activity only possible when demobilisation of site is complete. Final landscaped site will be visible from General Wade's Rd. A request to visit site once project draws to a close was agreed.
- Final site conditions - will be unmanned and output monitored from Perth.
- Question asked about any future expansion of Melgarve site – this would depend on potential generation capacity of new wind farm sites which may be connected to Melgarve. GD not in a position to comment.
- SSE Melgarve is in consideration for ICE award – asks local community to consider voting for them.
- Questions from meeting about recent power “outages” – noted as NOT connected to Melgrave but GD/MB will research and communicate info to community if possible.

Gary Donlin to provide a separate note of update for sharing with community. SSE personnel left at 1910.

Main LCC Meeting commenced at 1910 approx.

1) Attendees: Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Treasurer Liz MacFarlan (LM), Jo Cumming (JC), Elspeth Rae (ER) Lauren Hendry (LH). Minute secretary: Elspeth Rae. **Apologies received:** Mignonne Khazaka, Cllr Muriel Coburn, Cllr Pippa Hadley; 2 members of community present; Meeting declared quorate. **Declaration of Interests:** none

2) Approval of meeting 11 minutes: From the draft minutes, an amendment was made to the Treasurer's report - sum in account for SSE micro-grants is £4038.00. Revised Minutes approved unanimously.

3) Review of Action Log

ebikes – remains outstanding

LCA mailing list: LCC to announce on its Facebook page, the creation of a new Residents mailing list with individuals being requested to inform “info@laggan.com” of their individual agreement to be on the mailing list.

SSE MOU – still outstanding

Xmas lighting – no update from HC as yet. SSE noted to be supportive of a potential large grant application to purchase Xmas lights, however this “project” will only be defined in early 2020. LCC applied for a Micro Grant to cover potential 2019 costs of installation and de-installation - see 4) following.

Planning – Wind Farm - updated turbine design – no change in design status.

Village Speed limits – no response from HC officials. CM will contact PH and MC.

Rubbish – Clearance in area lay-bys - LM discussed with VABS. Noted that no CC currently display own signs. Format, wording etc. to be worked on, and should remain positive. Noted that some existing signs near Moy done by SNH could be copied. LM to pursue. CM to contact SNH.

Communications – Facebook page up and running – and still work in progress. Thanks given to minute secretary for significant efforts with this. See also 8) following.

Planning updates –

- **Cluny** (4 applications, 2 in main house, & 2 outside buildings), LM and CM visited estate with estate agent, Peter Graham. LM advised that visit was constructive and supportive with reassurance provided that Estate recognises its contribution to the community and need to be a good neighbour. Outstanding planning applications are all to improve the fabric of estate properties and their future maintenance in good order. Estate also plans to continue tree management alongside A86. Indications that estate will be used more in future by owners, but no holiday accommodation is planned.
- **Sherramore Cottage (SIMEC):** Road construction & timber extraction application. Timber extraction plan is to be delayed. Agent apologised for poor initial communication to CC and commits to keeping CC informed of plan progress. Noted community objection to any potential increased traffic through village.

- **Formal notification of planning applications from HC to LCC** – now instigated.

A889 widening - awaiting geotechnical survey opposite Pottery Coffee Shop – on-going

Proposed Newtonmore pharmacy – Noted that both Kingussie and Gergask GP surgeries very supportive – link to NHS survey to be promoted via LCC Facebook page.

Core path routes – JC presented priorities for joining up existing core paths, and will provide a map. Deemed sensible to coordinate with the paths project from Big Conversation action plan for paths. (JC/MK)

VABS community action plan – now published in SPLASH, see 6) following.

SSE small grant application results – see 4) following.

Publicising grant application results – to be requested again from SSE

4) Financial report: Treasurer + Month-end (August) a/c balance from LM.

LCC account balance £5556.60, including pledged SSE micro grants of £1,160. Remaining SSE funds for 2019 is £2878. LCC available funds £2018.60. This includes a £500 micro grant approved for Xmas Lights installation.

- **SSE Micro Grants Financial Approval** - Micro Grant Committee met on Wed 11th Sept and requested approval of funds for following projects. **1) Community Hall - £460** for new notice board and a request to reapply for other requested consumable items **2) LCC £500** - for installation and de-installation of Xmas lights in 2019. **3) Village Tidy Group** – project 3 from Big Conversation – **£200** to improve appearance outside public toilet block. **Transfer of funds approved - JC proposed, LH seconded.**

Also noted that Micro Grant committee had advised that any unused funds to grant recipients should be returned to Micro Grant Fund. Any allocated funds to be reconciled to SSE by end 2019. LCC to consider how to publicise grant outcomes.

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

a) Planning update: Applications at Cluny Estate, Sherramore - covered in 3) above.

Coul Farm – refurbishment of steading building; Glentruim Farm roofing improvement work; applications outstanding not yet approved but CC have no objections.

b) Licensing update: None received – CM to follow up on any automatic notification of applications from HC.

c) Roads update: A889 widening - covered in 3) above.

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – NHS, Police, Fire – no update.

e) Highland Council: Community Council Scheme Changes approved. “Link” sent to all existing Community Councillors. Noted: To publicise upcoming elections e.g. on Facebook page, website etc. Desire to widen geographical participation from area – Action – all councillors to use their contacts to encourage nominations.

f) Laggan BT Phone Box consultation response: Phone Box outside primary school. LCC supports maintenance of service due to patchy 3G/4G coverage and increasing numbers of walkers on East Highland Way. Action: CM.

6) Community Development/Action Plan:

Noted: publication in SPLASH by VABS of 6 priorities, with goals, actions required and groups/individuals to take forward. Noted: to finalise committee membership/leader lists and publish on laggan.com while inviting any other interested parties to join groups.

7) Consultation requests from SSE Cloiche Wind Farm; currently scheduled for October LCC meeting.

8) Communication: Noted: addition of LCC Facebook page. Noted: action for mailing list (from LCA) also to post invitation to new LCC mailing list on Facebook page (ER).

SPLASH: Current edition is last one. Noted: LCC to discuss need for replacement printed community paper and a digital newsletter. Matter to be considered after next CC elections. LH to propose possible new titles for newsletter.

9) Other Questions/contributions from the members of public present:

Discussion of paths, for walking and cycling – need for maintenance, updating, and signage – this is one of the priorities identified in the Big Conversation for the new community action plan.

AOB (added after meeting): Noted that following the dissolution of LCA, LCC will assume the community's responsibility for the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Laggan Community Association and SIMEC Wind One Ltd with effect from 30th September 2019. CM to follow up.

10) Proposed Date and time of next meeting: 21st October 2019 at 1830 – JC advised that she will not be able to attend.

Approved without amendment at Laggan Community Council Meeting of 21st October 2019.

Residents may intimate other topics for the Community Council to discuss by contacting chairlcc@laggan.com or secretarylcc@laggan.com