

Laggan Community Council - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting 6 – 21st January 2019

Laggan Village Hall @ 1830

Approved MINUTES

1) Attendees: Chair Colin Morgan (CM), Treasurer Liz MacFarlan (LM), Secretary Sheena Slimon (SS), Jo Cumming (JC), Lauren Hendry (LH). In attendance: Minute secretary: Elspeth Rae (ER)

Apologies received: Mignonne Khazaka, Cllr Muriel Coburn, Cllr Pippa Hadley

Meeting declared quorate. Declaration of interests: none

No other members of the community in attendance

Elsbeth Rae was thanked for volunteering to act as a minute secretary for the Community Council.

2) Approval of draft minutes of meeting 5 held on 17th December 2018

Proposed JC, seconded LM, CM will distribute approved minutes as necessary.

Matters arising not on the agenda

a) Melgarve – no feedback received

b) Speyside Way – next steps:

David Clyne (DC) has convened a meeting of Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) and all interested communities about developing “Active Travel”. Email included details of various active access plans projects within park area – to be circulated separately. **ACTION CM**

It was agreed that Laggan should promote its “needs” focused on “safer access”; circular cycle route/paths connecting Laggan and vicinity and safer access from Newtonmore to head of Spey. CM to attend future meeting in mid February and will report back.

c) Glenshero – the resignation of Duncan Makison from Jahama Estates was noted and so no invitation to discuss possible Community Benefit fund will be issued until new person in place.

3) Financial Report – Treasurer reported that Bank account was now fully operational. Present uncommitted funds were just over £900. Council was advised of an additional grant of £500 to come HC Ward funds to support our community engagement and communication requirements and reported that SSE would be granting the CC £5000 to support the SSE CB fund local Micro Grant awards process for 2019. Treasurer will be exploring an additional interest bearing bank account.

4) Statutory Items for Community Council to note

a) Planning – Secretary reported on 3 recent planning applications none of which were being called-in by CNPA

b) Licensing – Enquiry from THC licensing authority if LCC had any objections to Licence application at Strathmashie House – the meeting recorded that the “interested” councillor was NOT in attendance and also confirmed NO objection to requested licence application – **ACTION: Secretary to advise accordingly.**

c) Roads Update - A meeting with Kate Forbes (MSP) re A889 issues is outstanding, with possibility of Transport Scotland attending. Secretary to advise date of meeting when known. A general discussion also took place on the options to prioritise on road improvements linked to improving “Active Travel” and “Safe” access connecting all the Laggan CC hamlets.

ACTION: Prepare a letter supporting projects to develop paths or pavements next to trunk roads, to submit to above meeting. Consultation with Landowners will be required.

A9 dualling – Noted that there are continuing ground investigations of various sections of A9, including start of Glengarry to Crubenmore section, which may impact residents. There are still questions about access at Crubenmore.

A discussion was held on the “electrification” policy for the A9 route and noted that “EV” charging points were to be sited in villages and towns by-passed by the A9. It was agreed to explore the installation of an EV charging point in the village to put Laggan “on the EV map” to compliment the Wolfrax EV charging point

d) Report from Public Sector Agencies – NHS – Secretary reported that New Aviemore hospital ground breaking was scheduled for April 2019 with a planned completion date of July 2022.

Discussion about café facilities: current understanding is that there will be no separate café facilities; visitors to patients will have access to ward facilities for refreshments.

No reports from other agencies but LCC members will attend meeting of Badenoch and Strathspey Community Partnership on 23rd January and report back.

e) Community Council Scheme Review – update of changes proposed.

First review of scheme held by Highland councillors last week – any amendments to scheme to be consulted on. There were no proposed modifications that would impact Laggan CC. A final consultation will occur later in 2019 in time for new CC elections in November. Council will seek clarification of expected process for this from HC.

5) SSE Stronelairg Community Benefit Fund

a) Draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) from SSE. Need for approval ASAP as SSE advised CC of its intention to sell the Stronelairg WF to a new joint venture company.

Wording of MOU document (Years 1 to 3) is identical to those for Spean Bridge and Stratherrick. Noted that MK still to review MOU. Also noted that, in the event that CC goes into abeyance, CB Funds would NOT be available for Micro Grants.

It was agreed that CM and/or MK can sign MOU on behalf of LCC.

A separate MOU covering years 4-25 of the SSE commitment to Laggan CC has been requested but not yet received. **ACTION:** CM to follow up.

b) Comments on SSE “drop-in” session & review of Local Panel Process.

Meeting was felt to be useful, especially for communities to form links for mutual help. Help for application processes is available from SSE.

Meeting agreed to advise all residents that Grant Application process was now open. Details to be circulated separately.

Large Grant application forms (£501-£10k) and eligibility criteria can be downloaded from: <http://sse.com/communities/fundlocations/stronelairg/>. First deadline for online submission - by 1st week in March for adjudication on April 29th at first panel meeting. Next application deadline is first week in September.

Small Micro-grant form process TO BE CONFIRMED ASAP. Completed forms to be sent by email to treasurerlaggancc@laggan.eu. As form is not intended to be online with SSE, then CC needs a different process. LM undertook to review and would send forms to groups/individuals on request.

Small Micro Grant Applications (up to £500) can be submitted at any time; applications received by end February will be considered at first local panel meeting on **14th March**. Meetings will be held every 3 months, with the following meeting in June.

Noted: A separate communication with community groups/residents is required when the micro-grant process is clarified.

6) Community Development Plan

Due to illness, a VABS meeting to finalise invites to Community group leaders for Steering group is delayed. Now to be held on Wed 23rd. Steering group still to be invited and VABS has a note to send out to relevant groups. **ACTION:** CM to advise VABS on recipients for Laggan-based groups.

SG Community Benefit Guidelines Consultation process.

CM attended meeting organised by Local Energy Scotland. Key idea discussed was that Benefit funds to a community might be “in kind”, rather than in cash but up to the “equivalent value” of the present guidelines i.e. £5k per MW generated. Another key requirement is the availability of a Community Action Plan which is **strategic, outlines a long term vision, incorporates broad themes or outcomes in order to achieve that vision and, where possible, identifies local projects.**

It was noted that regular dialogue between the developer and a community will be essential and also noted potential cooperation between communities for any “strategic” projects.

7) AOCB – general discussion on communication and engagement with all Laggan Residents

1) Agreed: Adoption by LCC of a GDPR Privacy statement for residents’ data. Data will only be used for purposes of contacting residents in order to fulfil consultation functions of LCC. Signed document resides with secretary.

2) Discussion: - distribution of past Community Council minutes to community

Most CCs post a link on their website so minutes can be consulted or downloaded.

Short term proposal: Contact laggan.com webmaster to create LCC editable page on laggan.com website. **ACTION:** CM

Longer term objective: A number of other community groups also interested in updating community website. To be explored. OR have dedicated LCC website (c.f. Boat of Garten website).

Mailing List discussion:

Considered to be 3 sources – existing LCA Residents List; SPLASH lists; Electoral Roll (for latter, OPEN register to be procured).

ACTION: Compare and merge electoral roll and Splash distribution list, with residents’ email list.

When done, circulate approved December minutes to updated LCC mailing list with a note that the long term plan is for minutes to be distributed via website.

8) Other questions/contributions from the members of public present. - none

9) Proposed Date and time of next meeting – 18th February 2019 at 1830

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

Approved without amendment at LCC meeting of 18th February 2019