**Laggan Community Council**

**Meeting 4th September 2023 - Laggan Village Hall**

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | Attendees – MK, AG, JW, VMc, LH, CF, KT  Alison Armstrong, Cath Hammell  Meeting declared quorate  No declarations of interest noted |  |
| 2 | **Approval of last meeting minutes**. Nominated JW, CF |  |
| 3 | **Matters Arising**   1. Primary School mothballing – nothing further 2. School garden – nothing further   MK to contact Highland Council regarding title deeds   1. Public bus -There are now two schedules (holiday and termtime). Email to RJ for update in respect of extension of services to Strathmashie Cottages/Wolftrax 2. Dark Skies – email RJ for update \*\*\* (see addendum) | **MK**  **MK**  **MK** |
| 4 | **SSE Renewables**  The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the joint panel (set up for the initial 3 years) of the community fund has now come to an end. A new MoU and Terms of Reference (ToR) which forms part of the agreement, between SSE Renewables and Laggan Community Council has been drafted.    This MoU sets out the arrangements for the management of the Fund. While not legally binding on The Parties, it seeks to provide a record of how the funds will be effectively and efficiently managed, with the aim of ensuring it delivers the greatest possible impact across the Area of Benefit. A local advisory panel for Laggan will be formed, made up of representatives from the area including a member of the Community Council. The ToR outlines how the Panel will operate and the panel members responsibilities to ensure the funds are managed effectively. One of the key roles of the Panel is to make recommendations on grant awards in respect of eligible grant applications. At the Panel’s initial meeting they will decide (within the conditions of the fund) which grant programmes will be established to best meet the community’s current needs  Nominations for the new panel have been received:  Angus Armstrong, Alistair Todd, Frank Ross, Shirlie Geddes, Tony Groom,  Nathan Grant and Cathy Slimon |  |
| 5 | **Treasurers Report**  Bank account as reported at year-end accounts 31st March 2023 £5916.13  Since the last meeting 7 payments were made totalling £1054.05  • VABS (end of year accounts) £30  • Secretarial services £30  • Host World Ltd £36  • Host World Ltd £24  • Microsoft Licence £59.99  • Laggan Community Hall (Meetings) £60  • Laggan Community Hall (Fete) £90 (part of a Micro Grant)  • EMEF Defibrillator £724.06 (final part of DeFib Funds held by LCC)  Monies paid in since 31st March 23 totals £1,000.00  • Stronelairg Windfarm SSE £1,000.00 (additional grant for DeFibs (LHH)  Current bank balance stands at £5,862.08 – the following money is ringfenced:  1. £4,909.46 for SSE Micro Grants  2. £111.07 from CNPA for environmental / litter projects  The total amount ringfenced money is £5020.53 meaning the amount available for the general use by the Community Council is £841.55  The Highland Grant for £438 is pending. |  |
| 6 | 1. **Statutory Items.**   Planning updates:  Cloich -no change  Melgarve – no change  Stronelairg -no change  Coul Estate ATV – called in and passed for Blargie, other areas withdrawn  Crathie extension – agreed  Easter Breakachy – solar array granted and established  Balgowan – no change  Community housing – no change  Telecomms – MK emailed Estate and there are no issues  Feagour – planning passed for small cottage (with caviats in place per access)  Distillery - There have been a number of new planning documents submitted since the initial application was tabled and called in by CNPA - most notably a dust impact assessment from the building site, however it is commented that there could be dust impact from the private road as well. Whilst this looks like an attempt to mitigate and respond to the residential objection, the report pre-dates the objection and was requested by Highland Council.. however the sensitivity receptors for construction quoted are Dalchully House, Coul Farm and Crathie ONLY - the Strathmashie cottages are not included as a sensitivity receptor and should be, given the noise and dust from construction traffic. This is an omission by their assessor. MK is in contact with RJ regarding the matter.   1. **Licencing**   Nothing to report   1. **Roads**   The roadworks on the A889 (and night time closure) are on-going until  Wednesday 13th September.  The next roadworks intimated are on the A86 between Newtonmore and  Kingussie from Sunday 17th to Thursday 21st September from 8pm each  night to 6am in the morning. This a FULL closure of the road at these  dates and times.  Another set of roadworks at the A9/B9150 Ralia Junction - also at night  time and with a FULL closure of the junction - Monday 18th to Friday  22nd September 7pm to 6am each night and again from Sun 24th to Friday  29th 7pm to 6am each night.   1. **Public Sector Agencies**   Nothing to report   1. **Highland Council** 2. Defibrillator training. Alison Armstrong will advise whether there will be a further training session available as there was poor response to the previous session. MK to contact RJ re online training. 3. Active Travel Update/Connecting Laggan. AG has met with Chris Yorke, Marco Bardelli, Rob Bain, Jane Dunlop as part of the ongoing project which was started in 2019, and which seeks to develop a series of safe footpath and cycle ways around the Laggan area. As part of this plan there has been a speed survey conducted at Laggan Bridge which has shown average speeds between38 and 42 MPH. Bridge surveys are currently being carried out which will offer up information as to how any amendments may be made in connection with the proposals for the footpath/cycleway. Finance from Sustrans is available, however, agreement from the Roads and Highways Department is required before release of any funds. Once agreement is received a formal application for funds will be made. The next meeting to discuss this item will be 12/09/23 | **MK**  **AG** |
| 7 | **Village Amenity Group**  LCC would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Fiona Grant of Gergask Avenue for her actions in contacting the local MP about the reinstatement of a large bin in the village layby. A large bin is now in situ which will help to keep the litter build up in that area under better control. |  |
| 8 | **AOB**   1. Dissolution of current LCC will be 3/10/23. Nominations for new council members should be made on a self-proposal basis. Guidance notes are available should you wish to become a council member. If there are more than 8 nominations then an election process will take place to establish the new council. The deadline for submission of candidates for CC is 3rd Oct and published on 4th Oct. If uncontested CC must dissolve on the 10th Oct 2. Beavers - Reintroduction to the area. A site/location visit is planned. KT has offered to attend this visit on behalf of LCC. |  |
|  | **Addendum**   1. There has been a flurry of emails about the road closures and amendments but as of now the new date for the road closure on A86 between Kingussie and Newtonmore is Wed night 13th September to Monday 18th with no work on Friday or Saturday night. The work on the Ralia junction will start Monday night on the 18th and end on the 29th September. No works Friday and Saturday - total 9 nights work. 2. Dark Skies – New street lighting has now been installed in Gergask Avenue 5/9/23 |  |