**Laggan Community – Ordinary Meeting,**

Meeting No.2 22/01/24 - Laggan Community Hall

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item |  | Action |
| 1. | **Attendees**: Councillors: K Thew, A Gallagher, C Hamill, M Khazaka, A Todd.Members of the public: W Todd, V McPherson, J Berry, J Ashworth, C Ashworth, F GrantHC Rep R Jones, CNPA Rep -K Deans**Resignation**: C Faulkner (Treasurer)**Co-options**: NoneC Hammil nominated for Treasurer by AG Seconded KT |  |
| 2. | **Approval of Minutes LCC 01/12/23**Nominated MK, Seconded AG |  |
| 3. | **Matters Arising*** **A9 Dualling** – Letter received from Cabinet Secretary for Transport. Plan for completion by 2035. Three remaining southern projects with individual design and build contracts. Remaining five central and northern sections via two Mutual Investment Model public private partnerships (subject to due diligence and further decision making in late 2025). Tomatin to Moy section is currently in procurement will continue as a design and build contract (scheduled to start this year)
* **Culachy Wind Farm** – All consultation materials have been received and will be managed by A Todd
* **Badenoch and Strathspey Community Partnership Information** - We have asked for further information and whether it is appropriate to LCC to have involvement. Briefly, The Community Partnership would like us to consider what we know about the communities within the Badenoch & Strathspey area and help identify needs and actions that can help reduce inequalities. This exercise aims to gather information on what current Service Provision is being delivered within the area and to help identify any gaps or opportunities within this provision.
* **Land And Forest Scotland. 1st Consultation13/12/23** – This drop in meeting, open to the public, was the start of consultation for a 10 year plan. Topics covered included current forested areas, linking paths and renewing existing paths, native trees and future planting, biodiversity and next steps. Ideally we should like to meet with all of the Laggan groups to discuss options/wishes and to compare this 10year plan with the previous 10 year plan to assess what has been achieved and whether there are any omissions. K Deans (CNPA) advised that Kingussie Paths have an agreement in place with the local estates to be able to carry out works and maintenance on the paths on estate land. KD will provide details of contact in Kingussie in order for us to discuss a similar approach for Laggan. A further meeting is planned for spring.
 | AGKDKT |
| 4. | **SSE Renewables Community Investment Benefit.** CH to investigate the option of a development trust. However, at the current time our best option is to stick with SSE managing it. The fund should be promoted again and a meeting with the other community groups and awards committee should be set up to discuss the potential uses and benefits which can be obtained from accessing this fund. The LCC would like to see the awards committee become much more proactive. Carole Masheter to be invites to join the proposed meeting and /or the next LCC meeting | ATCHMK |
| 5. | **Financial Report**Bank account as reported at the last statement 30th September £ 5,682.08Since the last meeting 4 payments were made totalling £673.68• Laggan Community Hall £60 • Mignonne Khazaka re microgrant £500 • Andy Llewellyn re orienteering microgrant £99.70 • David Narro – Christmas light replacement batteries £13.98 One deposit was made totalling £438.30• Highland Grant £438.30 Current bank balance stands at £5,446.70 – the following money is ringfenced:1. £4,309.76 for SSE Micro Grants2. £51.07 from CNPA for environmental / litter projectsThe total amount ringfenced money is £4,360.83 meaning the amount available for the general use by the Community Council is £1,085.97 |  |
| ad | **Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss**1. **Planning Applications Update**
2. **– Cloich**. Approved
3. – 23/05350/SCOP Melgarve. LCC wrote to SSE with our objections to the Scoping Report. A response has been received acknowledging our comments and advising that response from Highland Council is still awaited. Once received SSE will consider additional visualisations.
4. – **23/05579/Culachy**. Fred Olsen representative unable to attend due to adverse weather but will meet with us prior to 02/02/24. AT has the full information and documentation in respect of this proposed turbine installation and reported briefly to the meeting. There are 8 turbines planned for the Fort Augustus side of the Corriearrick Pass providing power to Glendoe, location is still to be finalised. The towers are 200m high and will be invisible to the Laggan side of the pass. There will be no visual impact but there is the potential that the pass will become a less enjoyable and thus less used walk. More concerning is the fact that NPF4 applications allow “renewables” to be installed literally anywhere, including this area of wildland previously protected from development. Full information is available from Alistair Todd.
5. – **SSE Stronelairg**. Nothing further to add, objections submitted
6. – **2022 Balgowan.** Planning expires March 2024. Nothing further
7. – **Community Housing**. No update
8. – **Ardverikie Pumped Storage Scheme**. No update, application awaited, still under consultation.
9. – **23/04700/FUL Creag Dhu Telecoms Mast.** LCC response sent. Await reply
10. **Licencing Update.** Nothing to report
11. **Roads.** RJ advised the meeting that our request forGoat signage request has been denied by BEAR
12. **Public Sector Agencies.** Police Community Liaison Officer Brigita Pusinskaite. Happy to attend meetings and meet with us in Aviemore. Report for incidents in 2023. Road Traffic matters 13, Organised Shoots 7, Search and Rescue 2, Police info (non-attended) 3
13. **Highland Council.** Nothing further to add
14. **Active Travel/Connecting Laggan.** Local bus timetable is situated on the village notice board. We questioned the possibility of a minibus being used rather than the double decker bus through the day (not the school bus) RJ advises that it is likely that Highland Council may take bus services back in house when the Stagecoach contract ends in 2 years’ time. In the interim, and to try to provide a better service we discussed adopting a scheme similar to Go Golspie. This is a reactive scheme which does work well. Further information is required. Additionally F Grant informed the meeting that there is already a similar scheme in place for Laggan called “Where to go”. There are numerous drivers involved and they can be called on to drive people to shops or appointments for example. There is a small charge for mileage but the scheme is not well advertised or used. We will further investigate this as an option along with the legal aspects.
 | ATKT |
| 7. | **Village Amenities Group.** Badenoch Storylands bench placement. Waiting to hear from Karen Derrick if the bench we were offered is still available to us. Suggestion to place it at Garva Bridge is acceptable to Jahama Estates. depending on an agreement on installation,upkeep and improved connectivity. | AG |
| 8.  | **Christmas Lights 2024.** Christmas lights which attach to the lampposts cost circa £1200 from the Highland Council. This cost includes installation, removal and storage. J Ashworth will approach the Council in this regard and feedback information to LCC. AT will liaise with Carole Masheter and ascertain whether grant money can pay for Christmas lights. RJ will ask Highland Council about planned upgrades for the older lamp-posts in Laggan. F Grant expressed disappointment that there was no notification of the planter lights set up in December and also that there was no tree for the children to help decorate. The planter lights were a good effort but several of the batteries did run out without replacement. Even though these lights were only implemented as a temporary measure we would like to keep them each year. | JARJAT |
| 9. | **AOB.** * **VABS-Community Action Plan** AG has been contacted by Ann Trail regarding the original group that was involved with updating the Community Action Plan and whether they still want to be involved with a view to pushing the plans forward with an offer of support from VABS. It is important to have diverse input from a variety of the local groups (e.g. Village Hall, Heritage, Church etc) and as such we are asking for volunteers**.** Please contact secretarylcc@laggan.com if you would like to be involved
* **Gritting** Highland Council is responsible for village gritting , BEAR is responsible for trunk roads. One villager was unable to move her car as the road to her house was not gritted. This has now been addressed.
* **Communications Role.** CH has agreed to take over the communications role from C Morgan. She will update the website and issue emails to residents as necessary.
* **Roadside fences at Lochans** Can the fencing be made more substantial in line with the upgraded road surface? We will email BEAR and request this.
 | AGCHKT |
| 10. | **Dates for meetings 2024** * 19 February
* 18 March
* 15 April
* 20 May
* 17 June
* 16 September
* 21 October
* 18 November
 |  |