

Laggan Community – Ordinary Meeting,

Meeting No.3 18/03/24 - Laggan Community Hall

Item		Action
1.	<p>Attendees: Councillors: K Thew, A Gallagher, C Hamill, M Khazaka. Members of the public: A Armstrong, J Berry, A Fleming, M Gallagher, F Grant, A Watt, S and J Young. K Deans (CNPA), M Ferguson (CNPA), R Jones (HC), C Masheter (SSE), C Pasteur (Gilkes) Co-options: A Armstrong (MK/CH), M Gallagher (CH/MK), V McPherson (AG/KT) J Berry (MK/CH)</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of Minutes LCC 22/01/23 Nominated MK, Seconded AG</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage Network response – VMcP will respond. • Carol Masheter of SSE Stronelairst Fund invited to March CC meeting – See Item 4. • Stronelairst Panel meeting on 14th February – See item 4 • Communication from hillside outside events re Tweedlove Enduro Series Round 1 event at Wolfrax on 27th/28th April advance warning re traffic, 500+ riders and campers. Request for accommodation advice and volunteers. – Nothing further to add • Highland Environment Forum – Local authorities have been tasked by the Scottish Govt to establish Nature Networks throughout Scotland and to assist in reaching targets of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. They are looking places that are looked after and cared for by the community and conservation organisations to benefit nature, and ask for suggestions of places that might be suitable for designation as a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS). KT to respond. • Consultation on Fire Management in the CNP (deadline for response 17th April). Murray Ferguson (CNPA) attended the meeting to discuss fire management in the National Park and escalation of fire risk. CNPA were approached and asked to put measures in place. The CNPA board have considered various options and have decided against a suggestion to target a small area such as Loch Morlich, a previous trouble spot, in the event that the problem simply moves away from the Lochside and deeper into the forested areas. The decision was to carry out fire measures park wide and to ask for general public opinion, via a mail drop, on three options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue as current measures. Rangers for ongoing public education in respect of fire risks. 2. Introduce a bye-law to have no fires at all within the National Park at any time of year. 3. Introduce a bye-law to be applied when notified by the Fire Services of any particular or potential risks such as prolonged dry spells and excessive temperature increases. This would allow tightening up on things such as barbeques and campfires. Bye-laws would be enforced in the first instance by 	<p>MK</p> <p>KT</p>

	<p>rangers. All options will be discussed further at their board meeting in June which follows consultation.</p> <p>The CNPA are working with Fire and Rescue Wildfire Working Group and will produce further documentation in respect of recreational fire and land management fires</p> <p>We will email our community, as per the mail drop, for their opinions and will collate information to return to Murray.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Laggan for Community Action Plan meeting on the 20th February • Cairngorm Communities Event at Boat of Garten 15th March. Attended by AG on behalf of LCC. To discuss Cairngorms 2030 project for community engagement, dialogue between different community bodies, climate change and biodiversity. Notes of the meeting will be issued to us and made available. • email from CC support reminder of year end procedures. LCC accounts are to be finalised by end March, and notarised by an Independent Person. CH dealing. 	<p>KT/CH</p> <p>AG</p> <p>CH</p>
4.	<p>SSE Renewables Community Investment Benefit. Carole Masheter attended the meeting and provided an update on the fund and her role. She has approached VABS about a Community Development Officer and the potential to have VABS employ his person on our behalf to run the fund. At the time of the meeting we had not heard anything either way from VABS. The community council cannot employ this person directly but they can employ them on a contract and could ask SSE for funding to issue the contract. We do need a brief/clear idea of what we actually need. As a simpler alternative we could have a CBO (Community Benefit Organisation), Carole can assist in setting this up. Kingussie operates this type of plan and we can talk to them about how this works for them. Carole will send us a list of other CC's locally who we may make contact with. If we then benefit from any other funding from other sources those funds can be added to a CBO but currently with the panel only this is not an option.</p> <p>Stronelaig - SSE panel is discussing setting up a scholarship fund for local students and an apprenticeship scheme for local employers and students.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>CH</p> <p>MK</p>
5.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Bank account as reported at the last statement 19th February 2024: £5,289.50</p> <p>Since the last meeting no payments have been made.</p> <p>Current bank balance stands at £5,289.50 – the following money is ringfenced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £4,309.76 for SSE Micro Grants 2. £51.07 from CNPA for environmental / litter projects <p>The total amount ringfenced money is £4,360.83 meaning the amount available for the general use by the Community Council is £928.67</p>	

6.	<p>Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss</p> <p>a. Planning Applications Update.</p> <p>i. Public event re Beaully Denny 400kV upgrade at Fort Augustus village hall 3:30–7pm on 22nd February.- Nothing to report</p> <p>ii. Community Housing. – Nothing to report</p> <p>iii. Ardverikie pumped storage Scheme : Planning application has been submitted and we have been sent a full 3000 page copy (a smaller document is available and further copies of this will be sent to us. AG will distribute as required. Details can also be found on the Laggan website for anyone who would like to make any representations. Any representation will go via Highland Council to the Scottish Government, under Section 36 of the Electricity Act/ Highland Council are a consultee in this matter and this was noted previously on the scoping documentation. If permissions are granted to go ahead with the scheme then: - There will be a requirement for another substation to be constructed within the National Park area. This will fall under the remit of SSE. There will be a further consultation in this respect in early summer 2024. The build time for this project is likely to be 5-6 years and once completed will employ circa 20 people. We are advised that there would be funds available for the community for specific projects where Gilkes would make contribution to local projects, such as roads (via Transport Scotland), paths and cycleways (as per the link they have been asked to assist with between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge, they could assist in the connecting Laggan project, housing etc.</p> <p>iv. 23/04700/FUL Creag Dhu telecommunications mast comment acknowledged. – Nothing further to report at this time</p> <p>v. 23/04920/CLE Gaskbeg Cottage: Certificate of lawfulness/use of property for short term let – Noted, nothing to add</p> <p>vi. 23/04427/FUL Lagg Cottage certificate of lawfulness/use of property for short term let – Noted, nothing to add</p> <p>vii. 23/04427/FUL 2 Gaskbeg Cottages certificate of lawfulness/use of property for short term let – Noted, nothing to add</p> <p>viii. 24/00619/FUL change of use from outbuilding to shop Laggan Coffee Bothy – Noted, nothing to add</p> <p>b. Highland Council. RJ to liaise with AG re brown signage renewal.</p> <p>c. Roads – Nothing to report</p> <p>d. Report from Public Sector Agencies – Nothing to report</p> <p>e. Highland Council – Nothing to report</p> <p>f. Active Travel/Connecting Laggan –The LCC are required to give their agreement for the next stage of the project to go ahead. Fully agreed, AG will report this back to C Pizarro. The bridge survey is still awaited. A Fleming has requested consultation in this regard with C Pizarro. S Young requested that we make further efforts to have a 30mph limit enforced, this will be taken forward.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>AG</p>

	<p>g. Village Amenity Group. We have had complaints about the level of rubbish around the Loch Laggan roadside area from a member of the public. RJ will make enquiries who is responsible for safe removal. CH to put photographs of the hotspots onto BEAR website and AG will respond to the member of the public who made the complaint. CNPA advise that litter picking funding is available and that it is possible that their rangers can assist.</p>	
con8.	<p>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. Awaiting information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carole Masheter advised that grant money can pay for Christmas lights and urged us to make our application before the next panel meeting takes place. - RJ will ask Highland Council about planned upgrades for the older lamp-posts in Laggan. Information awaited. - Members of the public at the meeting advised that they would like to see a tree in place this year. - It was agreed that there should be a working group set up specifically for the Christmas lights 2024. J Ashworth and F Grant to be involved. - Volunteers are required for park tidy up and village litter pick. This should be an ongoing process but we would like to get the park sorted out before the growing season is underway. We would like to involve the village children so after school time might work well so perhaps from 3:15 pm Monday – Wednesday would work. Anyone able to do more please contact us. 	<p>JA/AT</p> <p>RJ</p> <p>KT</p>
9.	<p>AOB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadside fences at Lochans BEAR have made contact with us and have requested that we send them an exact location (GPS, what three words) in order for them to carry out surveys. KT to supply this information • Banking Hub – in connection with other Community Councils and Highland Senior Citizens Network. AG is in correspondence. 	<p>KT</p> <p>AG</p>
10.	Dates for meetings 2024	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 February - cancelled as not quorate• 18 March• 15 April• 20 May• 17 June• 16 September• 21 October• 18 November	
--	---	--

Date of next meeting – 15 April 2024