

Laggan CC – Ordinary Meeting No 12 Draft Minutes

17th March 2025

1. Attendees Present

K Thew, A Gallagher, C Hamill, M Khazaka, A Armstrong, A Todd, R Jones (THC), K Deans (CNPA), A Watt, W Todd, H Narro, D Narro

Apologies: V Macpherson, K Fletcher

2. Approval of Minutes February 2024

Nominated MK Seconded CH

3. Actions /Updates from previous meeting

- A Todd provided the meeting with a request for information to be sent to Badenoch Broadband. We will invite Badenoch BB to our next meeting to discuss further. (KT to issue letter once finalised)
- Grantown, Kingussie, CNPA path building - AT to email KD re WhatsApp group. Locally, A Todd, C Pizarro and A Armstrong (Laggan Forest Trust) have walked around Balgowan woods and have identified areas that require work/upgrading. There is a second proposed new path for a Laggan circular walk which can be progressed further. One of the issues with this proposed walk is that the current “path” is not an established track and this may cause problems for the path builders. The stretch of Spey that the path would run alongside is prone to flooding and as such it is important to have a path that would withstand being under water at times. The main path around the park can also be included. Next steps: Cristian Pizarro of the LFT is submitting a grant application to the SSE windfarm fund to pay for essential path repairs & potential extension of the woodland walk at Balgowan.
3 quotes are required for the path improvement works before funding can be secured.
Richard Spencer has in principle agreed to improvements subject seeing the design & scope of the project. C Pizarro & A Todd to take the project forward.
- Memorandum of Understanding for apprenticeships and student grants. KT spoke at length with C Masheter and we have now received further information regarding the Memorandum Of Understanding. SSE set up the grant for an apprenticeship but they do not have the power to sign off on any agreement for this. We have now received the MOU for signature and return.
- Minutes from the SSE Fund Panel Meeting have now been received and will be circulated to CC for information.
- Path to memorial. An updated letter of support has been issued by KT to Angus Armstrong. The meeting was informed that works to this path will be carried out under Laggan Heritage.
- Laggan Community Development Trust. The current fund panel members will be approached for their support. W Todd has expressed an interest in becoming a trustee as has P Gallagher and A Armstrong. As previously discussed, other groups within Laggan will be approached for representation, however, the legality of a being a trustee for two trusts is to be investigated. (KT) Some progress is being made.

4. Matters Arising

- Lochan n Earba – On the 19th Feb Highland council approved the planning application for Loch na Earba pump storage scheme, despite the earlier qualified opposition from Laggan & other surrounding community councils. The reasons for approval & any stipulations made by HC are not yet available on the public record. The next stage is for the development to gain approval from the Scot Gov Energy Consents Unit & if granted, then funding. It is unlikely the scheme will commence before 2027 at the earliest & construction will last for 5 years. It

appears the community compensation scheme proposal put forward by Gillkes is far less generous than that of the nearby pump storage scheme proposed in the Foyers & Stratherrick CC area. Additionally different promises appear to have been made to Spean & Dalwhinnie CC's during their meetings with Gillkes. A recent meeting between representatives of affected CC's led to a provisional agreement to work together to achieve the best possible outcome for the affected communities. The next step is to formalise this into a working group with representatives from each CC. A Todd to take forward on behalf of Laggan CC.

- Community Growing Gathering Sunday 23 March 12-2 Boat of Garten. CH will try to attend to see if there is anything that can be applied to Laggan. We would need to acquire or rent an area of land to take this forward. The area between the road and the church was suggested and we will check out the viability of this area.
- Tree, hedge and verge trimming A 86 - Following the harsh verge trimming along the A86 a letter was sent to Transport Scotland. They have responded and state that the sight lines are now much improved and that the vegetation will grow back. We do not disagree with these points. However, although they were satisfied with the way the trees have been hacked away and left the meeting attendees requested that a further letter be sent to thank them for their reply but reiterate our disappointment and request that: a) further work be carried out. b) trees be donated to our community garden. c) assist in clearing the land and trees between the road and church before bridge. Transport Scotland have advised that we may now be able to get the signage we have long requested for the wild goats along this road.
- Public Toilet – The toilet was due to be closed on 31st March, however, after discussion with THC and SSE fund manager the LCC are able to take on the comfort scheme by utilising some of the SSE fund that we currently manage. The finances for scheme will be managed by the current provider (Laggan and Newtonmore Church - C of S) and will run for a further 12 month period. THC will remain responsible for utilities until 31 March 2026. We are extremely grateful for the kind assistance received from all parties which has been implemental in us being able to retain a necessary public facility.
- Tree Planting 27 March Shinty Memories Laggan and Dalwhinnie. To replace saplings that did not survive from the original planting.

5. SSE Renewables – Community Benefit Update.

Nothing to report, next panel meeting will be mid-May and grant applications to be in before the 31 March, several applications have already been put forward. Application form and guidance attached for information.

6. Treasurer report Laggan Community Council

March 2025

<i>Previous bank balance :</i>			£4267.72
	Previous sub-totals	+/- since previous meeting	
Council funds:	958.88		
- Zurich insurance		-97.20	861.68
- Minutes July 24 through Feb 25 x 4		-120	741.68
<i>Balance</i>		£741.68	
Ringfenced:			
SSE Micro Grant money	£3257.77		
- Curling game equipment Children's Club		-33.42	3224.35
- Solar lights for mini Christmas trees		-31.57	3192.78
- Lights for Christmas basket decorations		-239.52	2953.26

<i>Balance</i>		<i>£2953.26</i>	
CNPA funds for environmental/litter projects	<i>£51.07</i>	<i>£0</i>	
<i>Balance</i>		<i>£51.07</i>	
Current bank balance (741.68 + 2953.26 + 51.07)			£3746.01

7. Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss

a. Planning Applications Update – nothing to update

b. New Planning Applications – none received

8. Licencing Update – nothing to report

9. Roads – A reminder email regarding forthcoming road closures will be sent out to residents. A letter has been drafted to Transport Scotland and will be issued shortly in respect of safety measures/issues at Catlodge/Glentruim.

10. Public Sector Agencies

Police – no reportable incidents. Minor road traffic incidents involving vehicles coming off the road due to adverse weather conditions.

11. Highland Council

The proposed bus shelter is temporarily on hold. BEAR Scotland objected to the selected location as it would interfere with sight lines, additionally the contractor was not happy about the proximity to houses. A different location was discussed with the potential for placing it on the current noticeboard site. A meeting is arranged for 7 April between THC, Bear and the contractor. MK will represent the CC. AG will contact A and K Fleming. As previously requested a wooden shelter in keeping with the village would be preferable.

12. Laggan Community Action Plan - Active Travel/Connecting Laggan, CNPA (Cairngorms 2030), Christmas Lights, Village Amenity Group, Public Toilet

- Youth club – bank account still to be amended. Club will be resumed in October 2025.
- Christmas Lights 2025 - not discussed at this meeting
- CNPA – Following the recent Spey Catchment Initiative meeting , held in the village hall and not well received by the community, the CNPA have had an internal discussion to make certain that this type of miscommunication and lack of oversight cannot happen again. If they are to fund or support any future initiatives there would be caveats in place to support better management and community liaison. The CNPA have apologised to LCC and have asked that this be communicated to you by us. They also indicated that infrastructure funding is currently available and applications from Laggan would be welcome from the Laggan area for projects including: visitor infrastructure, transport, paths and parks development. Additionally, they are happy to engage with landowners to discuss assistance with flood defence works. KT will speak further with KD about paths and parks. There is a new transport forum launch taking place next month.
- FLS Future Plan Feedback – Not discussed at this meeting.

13. AOB

Food Share Shed will be re-opening very soon **for food items only**

Laggan Enduro – bike event taking place 18 May 2025

14. Date of next meeting - May 19th Laggan Village Hall. 18:30