

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 1997

Present: Community Councillors — Mr Uisdean Menzies, Mr John Bedwell, Mrs Einir Hughes Winship, Mr Ed Tarr, Mr Sandy Logie, Miss Sheree Grant, Mrs Brenda MacPhail, Mr Doug Winship, Mr Alex Mackenzie, Mr Gordon Mackenzie, plus eight members of the public.

1. Chairman Uisdean Menzies opened the meeting at 8pm.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Lady Eliza Leslie Melville and Mrs Pat Macdonald.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th February 1997 were taken as read and correct. Proposer Sandy Logie, seconder Alec Mackenzie.
4. Matters arising:
Blowbacks — The Chairman was delighted to announce that all houses in Stirling Drive now had the new fires, as had one side of Matheson Road. Alec Mackenzie agreed it was a great improvement. There are still three houses on Matheson Road to be done, and it is understood this work will be completed shortly.

Railway fence — The white picket fence at the crossing appears to come under the responsibility of the Scottish Office as it is on a trunk road. However the railway fencing to checkrail is a railway responsibility. Enquiries to be made to Railtrack, Inverness and Glasgow again, Highland Council, Scottish Office etc etc to find out who does have responsibility and when fences will be repaired.

Noticeboards — There is now a noticeboard up outside the Hall, — which contains notices! and one should be put up at Achnasheen shortly.

Achnasheen — Two full grit bins are now in place in the village.

Water — The meeting with Ron MacAulay, Sandy Ellon and Jimmy Shand of the North of Scotland Water Authority was well attended. Mr MacAulay explained their plans, and answered a number of very pertinent questions from the floor. However, it would appear we will just have to “wait and see” exactly when the improvements will begin.

Little Garve Bridge — The Secretary has written to several organisations at the request of Mr Jardine of Forest Enterprise indicating support for repair of the bridge and asking for assistance. Ongoing.

Garbat — “Unofficial” carpark. John Bedwell has drafted a letter to go to both Highland Council Roads department and the Scottish Office, complaining about this carparking area used by walkers which is hazardous to traffic.

TV — The Secretary had written the BBC, and received a somewhat unhelpful reply. The 200 people petition scheme had finished. All the BBC seem to be interested in now is getting on with digital tv. And although this sounds good, it appears doubtful as to whether it will be received in this area without additional satellite equipment, which will cost. It will probably supersede the current analogue signals, meaning we won't get any pictures at all. This is not satisfactory, but it is unlikely we can do anything about it. However the secretary will write some letters.

Toilets — Several Community Councillors held a site meeting with Mike Finlayson from Highland Council Protective Services and Councillor Roy MacIntyre at Garve Hall and then at Lochluichart Station, to consider the problem of public toilets. According to Mr Finlayson and Mr MacIntyre at the time, opening Garve Hall toilets to the public should not be a problem. However, Lochluichart is. The water supply has been cut off; but more worrying is the lack of water during hot summers, and the state of the septic tank.

Soon after this meeting Mr Finlayson phoned the Secretary saying that his department were in contact with SEPA regarding the latter problem, but had no news as yet. In fact he had no definite news about the Hall either, but would be in contact again shortly. Ongoing.

Senior Citizens — Fundraising is essential if the Community Council is to give the old folk a night out at Christmas again. Gordon Mackenzie requested that everyone go home and think about it. Meantime it is hoped to hold a barbecue again, as last year a good bit of money came from it.

Any other business:

Eddie Smith mentioned that moles are making a considerable mess in the new cemetery. Uisdean Menzies will telephone June Ross, Protective Services, and find out if anything can be done.

Uisdean Menzies raised the subject of travel passes for pensioners, backed up by Miss Christine Mackenzie, who explained that she'd gone to renew her card and had been told she needed a passport-type photo before it could be issued.

This requirement had not been widely publicised and had caused major problems for a number of senior citizens locally, as they either had to make an appointment with a photographer in Dingwall, or travel all the way to Inverness to use a photo booth. This increased the cost considerably.

The fact of the council requiring a photo was not contentious, but the manner in which this has been done, without explanation and no obvious advance publicity.

This matter will be brought to the attention of Highland Council•

• The press took this up and caused quite an uproar with the council and bus companies.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd June at 8pm