

# GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 1997

Present: Community Councillors — Mr Uisdean Menzies, Mr John Bedwell, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Mrs Einir Hughes Winship, Mr E Tarr, Mr Alec Mackenzie, Mrs Brenda MacPhail; Mr Sandy Logie, Miss Sheree Grant, Mr Doug Winship, plus nine members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence from Mr G. G. Mackenzie.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed and were taken as read. Mr J. Bedwell proposed they be adopted as correct, seconded by Lady Eliza Leslie Melville.

3. Matters arising:  
Blowbacks — Council architects have visited those houses not yet fitted with the new stoves, and tenants are assured that the new stoves will be installed just as soon as there is money available, ie next financial year, commencing April.

Railway fencing — secretary has written Railtrack about the white picket fencing by the crossing but so far had no reply. Another letter to be sent.

Noticeboards — two noticeboards have been donated: one by Ed Tarr which will be put up in Achnasheen, the other by Billy Murray is the three cornered one which used to be at the station which will be sited outside Garve Hall.

Achnasheen grit bins — secretary has written the roads department, but nothing has been done yet.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner — went every well and everyone enjoyed the excellent meal and superb entertainment, especially The Bogan. Even the entertainers commented that it was “a grand night”. Thanks to all who helped.

Sandy Logie suggested that in future perhaps those people unable to attend the dinner should receive a small gift. This was agreed in principle. Ed Tarr suggested that since the Community Council paid for the bus, a similar sum should be set aside (not given) to pay for local children to have an outing, possibly to a pantomime, or swimming baths. Discussion took place and it was proposed by Doug Winship and seconded by Sandy Logie that a sum be set aside.

New Year Ceilidh — Sandy Logie, chairman of the Hall Committee, said the ceilidh had been well attended and much enjoyed, he thanked everyone for their help in supplying food etc.

5. Correspondence:  
Water — The secretary had been in touch with Mr Ron MacAulay of the North of Scotland Water Authority and arranged for him to come to Garve Hall on Wednesday 26th February at 8pm to explain to the community what is happening about the water supply and hear concerns and complaints.  
  
Forest Enterprise — Mr Jardine has written to the chairman about Little Garve Bridge. He is hoping funds can be found to do essential repairs to it, but needs the Community Council to write letters of support. He has been asked about the trees, and Scottish Natural Heritage are doing a survey and report on the flora, fauna and wildlife, which will cover a full year. When that is completed discussions will take place.
6. New Constitution:  
The Highland Council has sent out a “model constitution” which must be considered and discussed. Meetings are planned with the Council and Community Councils and a lot of work needs to be done, so this item is deleted from the agenda.
7. Any Other Business:  
Petrol costs — Uisdean Menzies brought up the wide disparity in petrol prices in the Highlands, all of which are higher than elsewhere. He particularly mentioned that fuel is cheaper in Elgin than Inverness — although the fuel goes from Inverness to Elgin. Some discussion ensued, and the secretary will write MP Charles Kennedy.  
• Shortly after this meeting the Highland Council, Mr Kennedy and the press took up the matter, which is ongoing.  
  
By Garbat — Sheree Grant asked could the unofficial car park, which is actually marked as a car park in certain hill walkers guides, be closed off, as it is very dangerous in the interests of road safety. John Bedwell agreed, and said he would contact the Highland Council Roads Department about the problem.  
  
HOST — Uisdean Menzies had been contacted by local hoteliers who wish for support in complaining about the Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board brochures. Local B&Bs were also asked to complain.  
• This matter has been taken up by the press (Inverness Courier).  
  
TV pictures — are very poor all over the area. Steve Young had spoken to a BBC representative recently who said that if 200 people requested it, the BBC would have to improve matters. Secretary to contact BBC about this.  
  
Toilets, Lochluichart Station — these toilets have been closed for some time, allegedly due to a water problem. Local residents would like the council to reopen them. Secretary to write to Protective Services.