

GARVE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in Garve Hall on Tuesday 22nd October 2002

Present: Doug Winship, Pat Campbell, Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, Eimir Hughes Winship, Sheree Grant, Marianne Mackenzie, Alec Mackenzie, Nel Macdonald Rolfe, Dena Ross, Ian Dickinson, Councillor Ewen Mackinnon and 5 members of the public.
Apologies: Uisdean Menzies.

Chairman Doug Winship welcomed everyone, especially the speakers.

Sergeant Bob Cameron of British Transport Police gave a presentation, with slides, about the open railway crossings in the Highlands and the accidents that have happened at them. John Fiddes, who is in charge of the cameras at crossings, explained their use. A number of questions were raised as to the reasons why so many drivers fail to stop when the red crossing lights flash to indicate the arrival of a train.

Inspector John Chisholm of Northern Constabulary, Dingwall, then gave a talk about crime in the Highlands, informing the meeting that the clear up rate was much improved. A number of questions were raised regarding burglaries and speeding.

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Dena Ross and seconded by Lady Eliza.

Matters Arising:

Grass cutting in both Garve and Achnasheen was discussed. Councillor Ewen Mackinnon saw Sam Lowe in Garve regarding bushes and some trees that need attention. Grass cutting on the roadside is done every month, other grass, including Achnasheen from next year, on a 10 day cycle. Any complaints about the grass cutting next year should be immediately directed to Ewen. However grass cutting on the steep slope below Garve War Memorial is a problem for the community as Highland Council will not cut this. Lady Eliza said that grass at Lochluichart Church graveyard was not cut regularly.

Garve Community Council finances are healthy, this includes all accounts, although for next year's Senior Citizens' Party, fundraising will be required.

Garve TV. Money is required for two aerials and a booster (£70) which are damaged, plus an equaliser (£80). It was agreed that the Community Council will donate the money for this equipment to improve reception, as a one-off gesture.

Garve flooding: Some work has been done, silt removed, but this is unlikely to prevent further problems. Ian Hay of Highland Council Roads Department has been very helpful.

Garve and District Community Council AGM 22.10.02
Minutes (continued).

Any Other Business:

Complaints have been made about vandalism in Garve, a recent occurrence. Also speeding vehicles through the village late at night. Police are to be requested to increase their presence.

Questions were asked about the allocation of council housing. It seems that local people who have been on the list for some time do not get allocated a council house, in favour of others outwith the area.

Worries are increasing regarding the A835 trunk road between Contin and Garve especially. Accidents occur too frequently at the bends west of Tarvie, some may be caused by deer. BEAR Scotland to be contacted about the possibility of "accident blackspot" signs, although road improvements would be preferable.

BEAR also to be requested to replace the very small Garve village name signs with larger ones, including the Gaelic spelling.

Fannich Estate road end: Mr R. Matheson of Fannich, contracted by the Education Authority to bring his children to the A832 to catch the school bus to Dingwall, requested that grit/sand bins, supplied by Highland Council, are located beside the gate and by the roadside in an attempt to make this piece of road safer for all users.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd December 2002 at 8pm in Achnasheen.