

**Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**7.30pm, Via Zoom**

**Councillors Present**

Helen Fairlie (Chair) – HF
Sally Mortimer (Treasurer/Vice Chair) – SM
Gwen McTaggart – (Secretary) GMT
Ian William McTaggart – IMT

**Also present**

Associate member of CC: Helen Worboys (HW)  
Emily Bryce, NTS (EB)  
Cllr Andrew Baxter (AB)  
3 members of local community

HF opened the meeting and declared it quorate. HF informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded, and that minutes would be written up from the recording by the Minutes Secretary. These will be circulated via the CC Facebook page and posted on the two notice boards in the village.

HF thanked Debbie and Chris Williams for allowing the use of the Outdoor Centre for the meeting. The hybrid meeting is a trial to see how things go, with a view to making this the model to use in the future if all works well. If there are issues with hybrid meeting, CC will revert to online meetings while alternatives are explored.

**1: Apologies:** None

**2: Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes had been circulated and agreed by members prior to the meeting. Formal approval of minutes proposed by SM & seconded by IMT. Minutes will be circulated on both notice boards and the CC Facebook page.

### **3: Matters arising from previous minutes**

Proposed replacement bench for lochside picnic area – HW to get quotes for this and replacement 20mph signs for the village.

### **4: Finance**

Funds currently available in the bank: £1489.59

Insurance renewal has come in, £97.20, will appear in statement at next meeting.

### **5: Planning**

No planning applications received since last meeting.

### **6: Communication to HC**

Bins: Fly tipping still an issue in village car park. Liam McLoone (HC Waste Management Dept) is arranging meetings with HC Business Waste team and Environmental Management and will report back. Removing bins is not an option but they may look at installing CCTV to monitor the situation.

HC will come and clean out culvert by Tigh a’Mhuilinn.

### **7: Meetings attended by councillors**

GMT and SM attended online HC meeting re proposed visitor levy. Approx 30 attendees, mostly CC members from across the area. Most attendees were in favour of some sort of levy but would prefer a flat rate to a percentage, as proposed. Message to HC was that the scheme needs to be reconsidered.

HF will attend drop-in meeting in Fort William on 26 February and report back. CC members will then discuss a response to HC and submit it (by end March closing date). To change to a flat rate would require a change to legislation so more time is needed.

### **8: Community SCIO**

SCIO AGM was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February, via Zoom. The four existing Trustees were re-appointed and will hold their first meeting in March. Another round of grants from the community fund will take place later this year – most likely some time in September.

## 9: Carpark

No update at this time – still waiting for budget to be signed off. HF will follow up with Leona Joiner at HC to check timings for restarting RTIF applications, and get a progress report on how the negotiations on the leases are progressing. Temporary car park will reopen – insurance needs to be renewed and area needs to be tidied. CC members will discuss timings for reopening outside of this meeting.

## 10: Health

The good news is that the new Belford project restarts officially at the beginning of April, with the same companies/most of the same personnel as before. The new estimated completion time is autumn 2030 (though it was stressed that completion may well be sooner than that if all goes well). The footprint will be considerably larger than the current Belford, and all patient rooms will be individual en-suite.

There is still a lot to do in terms of design and planning. The outline business case has not yet been signed off - but should be done by the end of this year. After that, the final business case is due in Q3 2027, the overall governance structure due to be signed off in Q4 2027, and construction would then take place from Q3 2027 to Q3 2030. The first stage of the budget (for the next 3 years) has been signed off, but after that further budget discussions will need to be had.

The regular Lochaber Times column updating on progress will begin again asap.

There was also an update on the situation at Moss Park Care Home:

### **From Louise Bussell, Nurse Director, NHS Highland**

- NHS Highland, The Highland Council, and HC-One have now agreed a proposed service transfer date of 1 April 2025.
- In the coming weeks, NHS Highland and The Highland Council will continue to work closely with HC-One to conclude legal matters, establish registration with the Care Inspectorate and manage the practical arrangements that need to be in place to ensure a seamless transition.

## **11: Invited guests**

### **Cllr Andrew Baxter:**

Discussions in local media re proposed alcohol bylaw in Glen Etive – AB is following this up with Procurator Fiscal, but it's a long process and HC are wary of cost involved. Police Scotland are in favour but can't commit to routinely policing it.

Unofficial layby at Invercoe – concerns have been raised re campervans etc. GHT are looking at closing this area off, but will review once summer season starts. AB will meet HC roads officer to look at reducing speed limit to 30mph along this section of road, and 'concealed entrance' sign at junction with Invercoe back road. HC to do a road survey and will then report back to CC with options.

Quiet Route – other places in Lochaber are keen to have these. Speed survey suggests traffic has slowed down, but personal experience says otherwise and perception is that vehicles have speeded up. Road Traffic Manual does not allow for 30mph limit. AB suggests CC members meet with HC roads officer to discuss situation on roads in general. HC will be looking at speed limits on a case by case basis, so AB will follow that up (including on A82 at NTS visitor centre, and through the glen as a whole).

Kinlochleven High School – report has been published re staffing problems at school. Support promised by HC for the school has not materialised. AB will raise this at forthcoming Education Committee meeting. Parent Council representatives are meeting with Chair of Education and other HC officers to discuss additional resourcing.

Council Tax rates will be decided at HC budget meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Ranger service will also be discussed at that meeting. AB will report back.

### **Emily Bryce, NTS:**

Underpass for Glencoe Greenway should be completed in last week of March, and hope to be opening the path for Easter holidays.

Annual A82 litter pick will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Litter picks have been ongoing through the winter – in 2024, 1300 human waste sites cleared, 250 camp fire sites dismantled, all up since previous year. Loch Achtriochtan layby is particularly bad for toileting issues.

Active travel feasibility study by Traffic Scotland is ongoing but EB is following up with Kate Forbes to get more progress on this.

Deer management: January cull – 60 deer. NatureScot will pay for a joint helicopter count of deer across all estates in the area, for accurate survey of deer numbers. (This hasn't been done since 2018. Numbers will feed in to new Deer Management Plan for the area.)

Lichen Survey has reported several 'new to science' species present in Glencoe NNR.

Wild swimming at waterfall in the glen – safety issues, litter and damage to the surrounding peatland landscape. NTS scoping possible solutions, and will invite range of stakeholders to share views – site visit to be arranged in the spring. Need to restart discussions with other landowners re parking area at Allt na Feadh. Potholes etc are making access increasingly dangerous.

## **12: AOCB**

- (i) Allt na Reigh – new development is currently awaiting building warrant. Concern that site is now dangerous and existing buildings need to be demolished. CC will try and contact owners for an update.
- (ii) HF will request update from David Rounce re the museum development for our next meeting.
- (iii) Village Shop – no further news re what will happen with this.
- (iv) Christmas lights will be taken down on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Many thanks to the volunteers who are undertaking this.
- (v) CC has contacted F&LS re the overflow at the far end of the Lochan, and the stile over the fence up at the top of the Brecklet path – these will be dealt with in due course.

## **13: Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm, in person at Glencoe Outdoor Centre and online via Zoom.