

1. Chairman's Welcome

Duncan Gibson welcomed everyone and introduced the new Community Council members. He thanked the former members, Sharon Coffey, Ramsay Dewar and Duncan MacFarlane for their work on the council.

2. Apologies

Grahaeme Young, Treasurer
Fiona Stoddart
Graham Moss and Emma Walters

3. Treasurer's report

The accounts were circulated. Duncan Gibson read the Treasurer's report. A no.2 account has been opened for money raised e.g. raffle money and the money gifted from Morag Hughes. The final balance is £2563.95

4. Business arising in previous year

Forestry

- Access Lochaber will build the bridge over the Callop. EU Funding is already in place and plans were made available for view at the end of the meeting. Access has been granted by landowners. There will be a track and boardwalk to the bridge. The bridge will look attractive and will offer a circular walk. Access Lochaber will be responsible for upkeep. This information was well received.
- Felling at Scammadale, when completed, remedial work will take place to restore the area.

Road Issues

- Speed survey at top of the village was carried out but Scottish Executive has not advised of the results as yet.
- Letter sent from National Trust to Scottish Executive and BEAR commenting on their support for a speed limit reduction.
- Glenfinnan House Hotel sign has been resited so as not to restrict the sightline.

- Photographs were taken of the Bridge over the Finnan on the main road. Within two weeks the bridge railings were replaced and the trailing wires removed.

Bus Shelter

HITRANS stated that when the station renovations are undertaken they are hopeful of being able to site the bus shelter at the bottom of station road end.

John Barnes advised that it will be at least a year before the station renovations will be done.

Broadband

The village were advised that Broadband capabilities were now available in the village. At present however only BT could provide this service.

Social Events

Many social events took place over the year, Senior citizens party, Halloween, bonfire night and annual fun day; all were successful and well attended. A cheese and wine evening held at the National trust is now to be developed into an annual event. There was a good turnout for the billage tidy and bulb planting. Thanks were expressed from the floor to John White for his daffodils that bloomed for 30 years.

A raffle on games day raised £342.72 which has been placed into the no 2 account to be used for future projects along with the funds raised by Morag Hughes last year.

Paper Bank

A paper bank is to be sited in the village but this has not yet been delivered. A large can bank is also to be delivered.

It was suggested that we find an alternative community site for recycling or screen the existing site at the community's expense as it is not attractive for hotel guests. The Community Council will take this on board. It was also suggested that the row of wheelie bins be recessed and screened or alternatively be replaced with one large communal bin. The community council will contact the Council about this issue.

Cardboard recycling was raised and the meeting was

advised that this will not go ahead as the LEG will only come out if the cardboard is bailed but the cost of a bailer is prohibitive at £4500. This will remain an ongoing issue.

War memorial renovation.

This year the project will be the renovation of the War Memorial. Landscaping, new fencing, cutting back of trees and the placement of a bench are among the suggestions. The Highland Council wrote to the Scottish Executive on our behalf as to the possibility of having the soldier turned around. Unfortunately the Scottish Executive said they would not pay for it. Grant providers are being sought at present. Duncan Gibson informed the meeting that he had been in touch with Ron Thomson of the British Legion and no grant money is available. The Highland Council are in charge of upkeep of war memorials. Duncan contacted John Hutchinson who advised there is money available but no-one has applied.

The options are to apply for money and get quotes for turning plinth but Stokes Memorials advised that this is more trouble than it's worth. Alternatively, we could get another plaque made and place it on the front. It was pointed out that leaving the names on the back indicates the history of where the road once was. The new plaque on the front could list the names or give information on the memorial. The latter option seemed more popular. Stokes Memorials will give quotes. At present, the priority will be to replace the fence, place a bench and prune and clean the trees. There was a suggestion for a seating area incorporating the old road.

Items for further discussion.

Community Development group

A meeting was held in August to discuss the future of the group. Several residents attended but the turnout was very poor. After a discussion it was decided to postpone making a decision until the CC AGM. There

was a lot of discussion and expression of views. There was a lot of support for George MacNeil's idea to close the group and place the money in a high interest account until such time as there is sufficient interest to re-establish this project. It was further suggested that this item could be kept on the agenda for annual meetings. Disappointment was expressed that those initially enthusiastic did not continue their enthusiasm.

John Barnes raised the idea of a community bus for his business use and available for hire to the community. There was no support for this idea and people felt it was outside the remit of the project and that it would not be a good idea to mix business interests with community interests.

Colin Morley and Eric McKenna will meet with the Community Development Group to finalise the matter and will inform the Community Council. All welcome to attend this meeting.

To be reviewed annually at Community Council AGM.

The Highlands small communities housing trust.
At a recent meeting it was stated there were 3 plots available for purchase under the scheme and that eligible applicants must also be entitled to a Rural Home Ownership Grant. If these plots are not required by anyone in the village the area will be widened. There was discussion on the criteria and it is believed that the information on conditions has put people off. We will ask the HSCHT to leaflet the village.

A.O.B

Telephone box

John Barnes asked if there was anything happening with the telephone box. It has been left there for emergency calls only and needs attention. The CC advised that they had been unaware of this.

The Castle

Alistair Gibson expressed that The Castle is a disgrace

and he would like it tidied. It is also dangerous due to loose corrugated sheets. Frances White volunteered to make approaches to the RC Diocese and report back to the CC.

Fireworks

Eric McKenna expressed concern that 1/3 of income was going on fireworks. Sharon pointed out that Iain Banks meets ½ the cost and that we would be unable to spend less on a display. Also, it is a well-attended event, and therefore worthwhile, and the CC has never been short of money. It was suggested we have a fireworks fundraiser. There was discussion regarding how the decision is reached to spend the money.

Trains

Recently, the trains have not been running due to a bridge repair. No-one knew anything about it and not even businesses were informed. Also, there was confusion over the buses to replace the trains. No-one knew where they picked-up. John Barnes suggested complaining to the manger in Fort William or the contact centre in Fort William.

Painting Classes

Gail has been approached to teach painting classes over the winter. She issued an open invitation to a meeting at her house (The Steading) on Tuesday 15th November at 6pm. This will be to discuss a possible class and find out the level of interest. Please note that the class will not be suitable for wee ones but will suit older children and adults.

Gaelic Glenfinnan

Eileen shared her idea for Highland Year of Culture 2007. There is a lot of money available for community groups to apply for funding for particular projects. She suggested we make 2007 the year Glenfinnan learns gaelic and apply for funding for gaelic tuition for all who are interested. She outlined an idea for a year-long programme of events including music workshops and performances, celebrations, bard in residence etc. There was a lot of support for this idea.

Eileen will set-up a sub-committee to develop this project. Anyone interested in helping to get this project going is invited to attend the next CC meeting. Date and time to be confirmed.

Duncan Gibson, Chair, thanked all those who attended and Ina and Kieron for hosting it. The meeting closed. Tea, coffee and cloutie dumpling was served.