

Minutes of Glenfinnan Community Council AGM Sunday  
7th November 2004  
at the Prince's House Hotel

All current community council members were in attendance apart from R Dewar who sent his apologies.

Duncan Gibson, Chairperson, welcomed all to the meeting and pointed to all that agendas and copies of accounts were available to all.

#### Treasurer's Report

A copy of the audited accounts up to 5th April 2004 were circulated and agreed. The balance at that time stood at £785.42. Interim accounts up to the end of October 2004 were also shown. The account balance stood at £603.09. The treasurer pointed out that £468.21 of these funds represented the sponsorship money from Morag Hughes and that the grant for 2004-2005 had not yet been received.

#### Business arising in the previous year

D Gibson then presented a round up of the events and projects over the last year. Those present were asked to comment at any time.

1. An election was held last year and R Dewar and D Gibson were duly elected. After the first meeting the following office bearers were agreed.

D Gibson- Chairperson

J Robertson- Vice Chairperson

S Coffey- Secretary

S Coffey- Treasurer

2. Duncan MacFarlane then gave an update as to forestry issues over the last year.

A new forest panel consisting of all Lochaber Community Councils was formed and D MacFarlane is

our representative on that panel.

The Bridge over the River Callop is to go ahead. The royal Engineers have been unable to action this due to their overseas deployment. Forest Enterprise has stated that they are looking for another contractor and will foot the cost. Several villagers made suggestions that perhaps the TA or Criminal Justice could get involved in providing manpower expertise etc. While this work is being undertaken, the Knoll will be fenced off to allow regeneration. C MacFarlane suggested that a path could be put around this area when the fencing is complete. The footpaths constructed by Forest Enterprise in conjunction with the CC have fallen into a little state of disrepair and some parts are considered dangerous. D. MacFarlane will discuss upkeep issues with FE, who state that they have no funds available.

The screening of the quarry has also been discussed and a site meeting will take place at some stage to discuss options available. When the last excavation from the quarry was undertaken the site was to have been closed. No formal notification for the closure of the quarry has been received yet.

D MacFarlane is to discuss the possibility of an artificial Island or raft to enable Black throated Divers and/or swans to nest.

It has been suggested that we look into the possibility of a cycle track linking up with the great glen cycle route. Kilmallie Community Council are also looking into this idea and D MacFarlane is to discuss a joint effort with Kilmallie CC and FE. In promoting Lochaber as Outdoor Capital of the UK, this makes good sense. Loch Shiel Jetties Trust is constructing a new pontoon/pier at Polloch. Plans were available to look at. The idea of a further pontoon at this end of the Loch was raised and this will be looked into.

3. Recycling bins were now in place at Glenfinnan House Hotel, although those at the top of the village could also use the bins at the Prince's House. Can recycling can also be done at both hotels. The possibility of having a paper recycling facility had already been looked into by the CC but the cost of these was prohibitive.

4. The provision of a skip on an ad-hoc basis was agreed by the Highland Council. To date however they have been unable to provide a suitable date.

5. The CC had tried to organise a meeting of all the youth in the village aged between 12 and 18. This was for them to be able to discuss issues that were relevant to them and to report back to the CC on projects, ideas etc. Although all were given an invitation, no one turned up. This may be something that can be revisited in the future.

6. The issues of road safety and speed limits are an ongoing matter. Following the meeting with Police and BEAR, several measures were to have been set up to find out the extent of the speed and number of cars travelling through the lower village. To date however no dates or timescales have been given to indicate when these surveys will take place. Several letters to BEAR have gone unanswered. The National Trust has now given us some figures and they have recorded 120,000 people crossing the road to visit the monument in the 2004 season. This information will be sent to both police and BEAR.

7. The bus shelter position at the top of the village has still not been resolved. Once again a chased letter will be sent to request an update.

8. Morag Hughes raised a fantastic £468.21 from her swim of the Loch. Although this has been banked into the account a separate bank account will be set up. These funds will hopefully be used to fund a project within the village. The official handover of money will take place at the Quiz night on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Glenfinnan House hotel.

D Gibson then closed this part of the meeting and opened the floor to AOB.

S Coffey brought the matter of Shiel Rovers Football club up. There is still £163.99 held in a Bank Account. It was suggested that a meeting be held of anyone left in

the village that were members of the club, so that the destination of the funds could be determined. S Coffey will arrange this.

J Barnes stated that there will be a Christmas fair/craft show up at the station on Sat December 4th. The plans for the new station and surrounding area will be available as will local crafts and home baking. Community involvement is required and the funds raised can be given either to the CC or to the development group or both. J Barnes will be sending details out.

G Moss from the Glenfinnan Development group suggested that a member of the CC attend their meetings. It was therefore decided to rotate this between CC members.

The call for a rubbish bin at the church was declined. It was felt that if there were a rubbish bin there it would be used but would not be emptied enough. People would use this as in other lay byes and the area would become unsightly.

Following the village tidy up on the 31 st October, a couple of issues were noticed.

The condition of the bridge on the A830 over the River Finnan has deteriorated.

There are loose cables running along side the bridge that could be dangerous to walkers etc.

Both these issues will be raised with BEAR.

The sign at the entrance to the top of the village appears to have been spelt incorrectly. This will be investigated.

Following that D Gibson thanked all again for coming and closed the meeting. He then handed over to G Moss

for the Glenfinnan Community Development Group  
AGM.

