

Minutes of Glenfinnan Community Council Annual
General Meeting, held on Sunday 16th November 2003
at the Prince's House Hotel
All present Community Council Members were present.

Apologies: F White

Grahaeme Young, acting chairperson, welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked Fiona Stoddart for her work on the Community Council over the last few years.

Treasurer's Report

A copy of the accounts up to 5th April 2003 was circulated and agreed by all present. The balance at that time stood at £1100.78. S Coffey pointed out that at the time of the meeting the balance stood at £64. This was mainly as a result of having to fund the full cost of the planning permission and the construction costs of the new notice boards.

Business Arising in previous year

G Young then presented a round up of the events and projects over the last year.

1. New grit bins were placed at Tor-An-Eas and at the top of the backtrack by the Highland council. The one purchased by the CC is to be placed at the top of the new footpath near to the church. Several people pointed out that there were no means of distributing the grit and it was suggested that we ask for some shovels or look at using fish farm scoops.

2. New notice boards are now in place and can be used for any village event notices. Treasurer informed all of the decline of two funding applications for the notice boards and that the full cost was met from Community Council funds.

3. Following the resignation of F Stoddart an election was held with no one standing for a place. A further election will take place as soon as possible with two

seats being available. G McNeil confirmed that he would act as returning officer.

4. A forest panel has been set up to improve communication between forest enterprise and Community Councils. There has not been a meeting yet and D MacFarlane is the representative from Glenfinnan.

5. The proposed bridge over the River Callop has now been postponed until 2006-2007 due to the Royal Engineers being sent on two long tours of duty.

6. The Community Council has been requesting that the village be included in the mobile skip service. ON several occasions this has been declined. Following our latest letter the Council have stated that they will provide an occasional skip on a Saturday morning for about an hour. A Gibson at Glenfinnan Estate agreed that the skip could be set down at the estate road end. Once dates are known the village will be informed.

7. The paths along the main road are now completed. Residents at Tor-An-Eas have expressed their concern over the path not reaching the houses. After request from the Community Council and residents the path was extended but on the opposite side of the road. A sign has been erected to make motorists aware that people will be crossing the main road.

8. A proposal for a siting of a bus stop near to the Prince's House hotel has been received. There are no further details yet.

9. The community council has been offered and accepted a donation from the Highland Council of a computer. It is stated to be 2-3 years old with modem and word processing facilities. A lively discussion took place as to the use of this computer. This ranged from letting it out to villagers, to selling it and purchasing a laptop, to using it as a community access computer in conjunction with LCNL. Once the computer has been collected, a decision will be made based on the type of computer etc.

10. Bottle Banks have now been delivered to Glenfinnan House Hotel. The whole village can now use these. D Gibson is also able to site some bins for the collection of aluminium cans. He is also looking into the possibility of a cardboard/paper collection. I Kelly from the Prince's House also stated that any residents wanting to use their facilities for bottle recycling would be welcome. Secretary is to put a flyer around to all advising of this new facility.

11 The scoping meeting that took place in March was well attended and the interest shown there has set the ball rolling for the formation of a steering group now called 'Glenfinnan community development group'. It was at this stage that G Moss chair of that group gave an update.

The main stumbling block at present seems to be in finding land that can be used for the facility. No reply has been received from the Church as to whether there is land available from them. Under the new Land Act it appears that they would have to offer any land to the community first before they could sell it. Fundraising at the Games raised £100.

Social Events

A round up of some of the social events that took place over the year followed.

The village fun day held on Glenfinnan Estate proved very successful once again. This is to become an annual event.

The new venue for the fireworks also proved successful. Some older residents felt that it was a little far to walk and next year the Community Council will provide a lift for anyone that requires it.

The meeting was then opened up for any other business.

R Hawkes had written to the CC concerning fireworks at Glenfinnan House Hotel on Remembrance Sunday evening. He objected to the noise and to the fact that it was this day. D Gibson from Glenfinnan House Hotel had also received a phone call from another resident concerning the lack of notification, so that pets could be kept inside. He apologised for not informing the village of this event. Following a brief discussion no one objected to the fireworks being set off on Remembrance Sunday. D Gibson has agreed that in future there will be sufficient notification as to any firework displays.

I MacFarlane brought up the subject of the Belford hospital and requested that the Community Council and all residents write a letter to the health board supporting the retention of all the services at the Belford.

J Robertson mentioned the state of the work at the side of the A830 caused by the scrub clearing by BEAR. She requests that a letter of objection be sent.

J Barnes then informed of a proposal by the rail network to alter the Mallaig-Fort William line timetable. This would mean that the early train would now leave at 8.00am and the late train would leave Fort William at approx 8.10pm. No consultation has taken place with any community affected and the motion is now with the Scottish Executive. This will obviously have an impact on the villagers. Letter to be sent expressing our concern with a copy to C King, Councillor.

J Barnes also mentioned that if anyone needed a railcard, he could supply them for £7 and not £7.50.

A Gibson then stated that the TV club was in danger of closing and that the bills for insurance were unaffordable. He will be arranging a meeting shortly.

Following this G Young thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

