Glenfinnan Community Council AGM 26th November 2006

Present: D Gibson (Chair), Eileen O'Rua (Secretary), Grahaeme Young (Treasurer), Joan Robertson (member) plus 5 members of the public Absent: Eric McKenna (vice-Chair)

1. Chairman's Welcome

D. Gibson welcomed everybody to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies received from 4 members of the public

3. Treasurer's report

The current balance of the No.1 account is £1400.00

The current balance of the Glenfinnan 07 account (No.2 account) is

The fireworks collection raised £68 this year which is double that of last vear.

4. Business arising

4.1 Bridge over Callop

The boardwalk has been completed. After some difficulties the contract has been re-awarded. Everything should be going ahead as planed in time for beginning of next season

4.2 War Memorial Renovation

MacKellaig has repainted and rewired the fence. The figure has been cleaned by Highland Council in a very low pressure, gentle clean. The community Council is not rushing into work before getting the consensus of the village. Stokes Memorials quote holds until the end of 2008. Plans for interpretive sign – Eric has sourced a standing piece of granite. There is a query about a name that should be on the war memorial but isn't. Charlie MacFarlane agreed to take on the job of researching this. Charlie was not keen on plans for the tree to come down. There was concern from Iain Blythe that roots are growing over bedrock and under memorial. I. Blythe raised the idea of using wood from tree to build benches. Isobel MacFarlane asked if the War Memorial is insured. There is a feeling amongst some people to keep the tree as it is healthy and beautiful.

A. Gibson has inspected the tree. He doesn't predict it falling down and therefore would not condemn the tree. It is not indigenous (sitka spruce). A. Gibson does not think it is a great tree but it would be expensive to take

down. His recommendation is to leave it.

D. Gibson suggested high-pruning it. Making it more a feature and clearing up the space a bit. Perhaps taking down the tree on the left hand side. The feeling at the meeting is fine the way it is.

We decided to just leave it.

We will get the stone cleaned and continue to manage the site. We will put a bench there and the interpretive panel.

- J. Barnes offered to supply decorative cast iron legs. Glenfinnan Estate can provide oak planks.
- J. Barnes will paint the legs. We will ask G. Moss to put them on.

4.3 Road Issues

Several issues were brought up by members of the public. Issues brought up re speeding (particularly on Slatach Road). We have requested signs and passing places signs.

The verge drop at the PO is too deep. We will notify the road authority.

A. Gibson brought up signs from recent roadworks lying around. They need to be removed including 'no road markings' signs. There is also a sign saying 'no footway' when there is one.

The A830 to Corpach – water not running off the road which is dangerous. The new road into the new Blythe house – no drain and water running onto main road. This problem existed before according to George MacNeil. The cleaning of the roadside on the way into Corpach has been excellent.

4.4 Social Events

The community council has organised several events in the last year that were well-attended and enjoyed. Fun day, village tidies, Halloween parties, Christmas parties and Fireworks night.

4.5 Glenfinnan 07

Eileen O'Rua updated the meeting on the programme of events for the year.

4.6 Community Development Group

Eric McKenna was to report to the AGM but was not here to do so. Colin Morley's name was also on the agenda but he had not been informed by Eric. J. Barnes who is on the group was at the AGM but was unaware that the Community Development group was due to report to the AGM. He did tell us that they had a favourable response from Fr. Roddy and that they have had a favourable planning and architectural consultation. They are planning a structural engineers report. E. O'Rua reminded the meeting that at last years AGM it was agreed that the community development group should report annually to the AGM on the money that was raised by the community for a community facility.

5.0 AOB

- J. Barnes raised the issue of water running off the station approach road. The railway are definitely going to do some resurfacing but not the full job that is required. He also informed us that the telephone box now has a light in it.
- Colm O'Rua raised the possibility of a school in Glenfinnan. D.
 Gibson read out a letter from G. Moss, Glenfinnan who is on the
 Arisaig Primary school board. He would like the village to consider
 changing our catchment to Arisaig. D. Gibson also read out a letter
 from the Arisaig School Board supporting extending their catchment
 boundary to include Glenfinnan but only with the consensus of the

people in Glenfinnan. They said that widening their catchment would help strengthen their case for retaining their school. Arisaig Primary may be under threat of closure. These issues raised a lot of debate. Some people were concerned about the majority of children who are already going to school in Banavie, St Mary's and Lochaber High. Concern was expressed about the issue of transport to school. Concern was also raised about being asked to consider changing the catchment without any information on what the benefits of this would be.

There is a need for an open meeting on this issue. Is it worth fighting for a village school?

 We have been approached by Lochaber Environmental Group about a Community Compost Scheme. Maddy Harris is coming to the next meeting.

Meeting Closed. Refreshments served.