

Glenfinnan Community Council AGM 2nd December 2007

Present: D Gibson (Chair), Eileen O'Rua (Minutes Secretary), Grahaeme Young (General Secretary & Treasurer), Joan Robertson (member), Ingrid Henderson (member) plus 10 members of the public

1. Chairman's Welcome

D. Gibson welcomed everybody to the meeting. He thanked those who are involved in the Glenfinnan 07 project. He informed the meeting that the bridge over the River Callop is now in place and was opened in October by Kitty MacDonald; the work on the War Memorial has been completed - we are just waiting for the bench to be put in place; and he provided a round-up of community council social events including the village tidy, Fun Day and Bonfire night.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from 4 members of the public

3. Treasurer's report

The current balance of the No.1 account is £621.15. We are waiting for this years grant. The Glenfinnan 07 account has been housed in the No. 2 account. Details to be provided when project closes at end of year. Following on from this discussion, several questions were asked by members of the public and the treasurer clarified points.

4. Business arising

New member

Ingrid Henderson has come on to the community council.

Railway Station plans

The railway station has submitted plans to the planning department at the council for expansion and improvement. The plans are available at Glenfinnan Post Office or from G. Young.

Problems with land lines and mobile phone lines

Many people have been affected by poor phone lines. The community council are pushing for an upgrade to the BT exchange.

Ongoing road issues

The community council is pursuing the need for crash barriers on the A830 at Torr an Eas.

5. Glenfinnan 07

E. O'Rua provided a report on this project which is drawing to a close this month. There was a range of events throughout the year including weekly beginners Gaelic, fiddle, clarsach, whistle and sing-song plus some guitar tuition and a monthly Gaelic conversation circle. There was a range of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, quizzes and fun events. Highlights were perhaps the Big Paint and 'An evening with Charlie MacFarlane'. This project was very well supported by the village, in particular by people opening their homes for lessons to take place and cearcall còmhraidh to take place.

A main benefit was that people didn't need to leave the village to access these things. It shows what can be done with enthusiasm, support, a will and a bit of funding. That we could do this without a community facility is incredible and is down to the hotels and the people in the village.

The ceardall còmhraidh will continue until March and may carry on if the group wishes it to, the music lessons may continue under Feis nan Garbh Criochan and the photography project will continue until Spring.

6. Community Development Group

The group's funds are currently at £1150.76. The money is sitting in the account. There have been no transactions over the past two years except for the accrual of interest so no formal accounts were deemed necessary. The report was read out on behalf of J. Barnes. G. McNeil questioned where the money would be best placed to earn interest. S. Coffey provided a detailed explanation as to why it cannot be placed in a different type of account. It was clarified that J. Barnes is not a voting member of the Community development Group. It was suggested we request an update on the activities of the group by February / March next year. It was also suggested that we invite C. Morley and E. McKenna to the next community council meeting and J. Barnes. Questions raised were: Do we need to update the mandate? And what happens if it all falls apart? The meeting came to the conclusion that we should ask the Community Development Group to have an open meeting to review their constitution.

7. AOB

F. Whyte asked if the fencing around the War Memorial had been completed. The Chair responded that there are a few things to be tidied up and some painting to be done.

F. Gibson asked who is responsible for maintenance of the new Callop Bridge. Chair responded that the Forestry Commission will be. Someone also asked if it should have a 'shoogle'. Other comments were that the bridge is very nice, a wonderful asset, it needs a handrail. Once the bridge is 'signed off' by an engineer the Forestry Commission will take over. Perhaps they will finish it off.

Someone asked what happened to the village photo? We will display it at an event next year and arrange to take orders for copies. Alternatively people can contact the photographer direct. His name is Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

The Big Paint – it is difficult to display because of the size of it. We discussed possible options including displaying it again at next year's games, off the viaduct and perhaps in Glenuig Hall. We would need to speak to Euan Carmichael about the latter.

A possible project for next year is the path to the shore. Perhaps we will aim to create a boardwalk as the path gets washed away every year.

Meeting Closed. Refreshments served.