

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 22nd June 2004
at Glenfinnan House Hotel

Present
S Coffey
J Robertson
D MacFarlane
D Gibson
R Dewar

Also present

Mark Smith, BEAR Scotland
Iain Bryce, Area Commander, Northern Constabulary

The discussion about the speed limit in the village was discussed first.

Background to the community council's views were stated. I Bryce said he was surprised that there were no traffic calming measures around the National Trust. M Smith stated that the speed limit already through parts of the village sprung up almost without any consultation. He was surprised that the village had a speed limit restriction at all.

The Community Council put forward the view that there is now a larger community in the village and that the new footpaths alongside the A830 meant that more people were using that stretch of road. The difficulties with speeding lorries were pointed out to both I Bryce and M Smith. There is no definitive legislation that states why we cannot have a speed restriction throughout the whole village. The Scottish Executive has the ultimate say in this matter.

I Bryce suggested that as a starting point, monitoring strips be placed in strategic positions, at the National Trust and at the other end of the village to monitor the number and speed of the vehicles passing through the village. I Bryce is to put this in writing to BEAR and M Smith will ensure that this happens in the near future. He will report back to the CC once any findings have been collated. Depending on the result and recommendation, the question of a speed limit can be taken forward.

Following this the CC thanked I Bryce and M Smith for attending.

The formal CC meeting followed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and agreed.

Business arising

2 1 Forestry

No further updates

2.2. Skip

No response from HC. Secretary to chase by letter

2.3 Highland Health Week

Although a walk was scheduled for the 27 th June, this has now been postponed until late summer.

2.4 Speed limit

See above discussion

2.5 Social events

The fun day was marred by rain but nevertheless proved to be a success. The raffle raised £31.00 and this was used to cover some of the expenditure for the day.

2.6. Paper Recycling

No response from HC. Secretary will chase by letter

2.7 Reflective signs on the A830

M Smith from BEAR informed the CC that within the next few months these would be replaced. He stated that there will be fewer markers than before.

2.8 Grit Bins

Again, no update has been received although M Smith has stated that is policy to uplift these bins and clean and repair them before the winter. The salt corrodes the plastic. He assured the CC that they would be returned before the winter.

2.9 Slatach Road end sightline.

The siting of the Glenfinnan House Hotel sign was discussed in the presence of M Smith BEAR. He is to look at the sign and decide where to replace it. This will be placed so that it does not obstruct the view of the road and the deer sign behind it. The CC also mentioned the eye line at the same spot, but in the other direction at the bridge. A letter is to be sent to BEAR and they will arrange to clear the sightline.

2.10 Bus Shelter

D MacFarlane has spoken to the owners of the land originally earmarked for the Bus Shelter. The CC are to write to HITRANS to state that if they still wish to put the shelter there they may be able to purchase the land from the owners

Correspondence

E-mail received from the Lochaber association of Community Councils giving details of a meeting with developers and consultants for the Fort William Health Centre development. This meeting will be held on Thursday 24th June at 7.00pm. This is for Community Councils only. All members except R Dewar are able to attend.

Justice of the peace list received.

Poppy wreath price list received

Reminder that subscription to ALCC is again due. Cheque for £10 to be sent.

Newsletter from Network 21 received and filed.

Postwatch Scotland Newsletters received

Forest People and Communities newsletter (Lochaber version) received.

Letter from Lochaber Environmental Group advising that they have received funding to establish 4 community compost schemes around the area. The letter asks the CC to consider taking part. Evening sessions are being arranged around the area in July to give more information. The CC feel that the village is not large enough to be able to viably run a community compost scheme.

A.O.C.B

Ian Bryce updated the CC on plans for 'beat bobbies' to be reinstated. The police house at Banavie and Caol are to be closed. The old Caol nursery has been earmarked for a unit consisting of Police, HC service point and perhaps the Health Board. The new police area will be designated Kilmallie and will encompass the old beats of Caol and Banavie. A beat officer for both these areas will be reinstated. This will enable the Banavie officer to cover Glenfinnan.

Following this the meeting was closed and a new one set for Tuesday 25th August 2004 at the Glenfinnan House Hotel at 7.30pm.