

Glenfinnan Community Council

www.glenfinnan.org

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2005 at
Glenfinnan House Hotel

Present: Duncan Gibson
Joan Robertson
Eric McKenna
Eileen O'Rua
Grahaeme Young

1.0 The minutes of the last meeting were circulated and agreed with
exception of the date which is to be amended

2.0 Business Arising

2.1 War Memorial
No update

2.2 Bridge over the Callop
Email received from D. Donnelly, Access Lochaber
There is a plan of work in place from MacGregor's. Will start bridge
abutment on 4th December – weather permitting.

2.3 Road Issues
Secretary wrote to Jim Tolmie, Highland Council Roads Department
– no reply yet

2.4 Glenfinnan 07
All grant applications in. Meeting tomorrow to agree programme.

2.5 Cycle Path
Joan to follow-up. There is a footpath planned from Corpach to
Fassfern.

2.6 Website
Eric is working with HotScot on this.

2.7 Halloween Party
Parties well attended

2.8 Station Road
Secretary wrote to rail bodies and sent copies to Glenfinnan Station

2.9 Guy Fawkes Night

Very-well attended

2.10 Village tidy & bulb planting

Very good turn-out and lots of bulbs planted. Thanks to all who came.

3.0 Correspondence

- Received cheque for £950.95 Community Council Annual Grant
- Lochaber Gathering, 16th November. Invite to play 'Writing on the Wall'
- Association of Lochaber Community Councils agenda for next meeting on 25th November. No-one available to attend.
- Maintaining & Improving Services for Older People in Lochaber – letter form NHS Highland and consultation booklet plus posters
- Fire Brigade & Rescue National Standards for Community Engagement
- Countryside Alliance re Post Offices – campaigning to prevent closures.
- Letter from Lochaber Housing Association re advertising in their newsletter

4.0 AOCB

4.1 Post Office – the post box is so far away and quite inconvenient. D. Gibson will ask Ronnie if it is possible to have a box at the post office.

4.2 Notice boards need maintaining. Eric will put a cork backing on to the boards.

4.3 Screen Machine – secretary to look in to the possibility now that the Fort William cinema is closed.

4.4 We had a discussion re school catchments and transport to school

D. Gibson suggested we consider supporting the parents of the Arisaig Primary children in trying to change the catchment area to Arisaig. Some children go to Arisaig Primary (out of catchment), some to Banavie (catchment school) and some to St Mary's for gaelic medium education. E. O'Rua and J. Robertson didn't think this was something we should do as there are a lot of children going to Banavie, St Mary's and Lochaber High and changing the catchment for primary would also change the catchment for secondary and would mean there would be no transport provided for the children in the current catchment. It would not be possible for Glenfinnan to be in two catchments as there is no way transport would be provided by the council for children going in opposite directions. There is

perhaps a need for a community discussion on school provision for the Glenfinnn children.

E.O'Rua raised the issue of transport to school. A parent of children going to Banavie Primary told her that the transport arrangements are changing. The children will get a bus to the head of the loch. Wait 15 minutes. Change buses to join the High School pupils from Treslaig and round the loch then go on to Banavie. The journey time will be 40 – 45 mins. The children going on to St. Mary's then make a second change into a taxi which will take them to school. This journey will be repeated at the end of the school day. In the case of infants they finish school an hour before the bus comes so from the end of their school day to getting home will be 1 hour and 45 minutes. E. O'Rua said that this is unacceptable and poses a risk to child safety. The council closed the school in Glenfinnan temporarily then, without consultation, permanently and sold the building. They have a duty to transport the children to the schools in their catchment area. They should do so safely. In a car the journey time to Banavie would be about 20 minutes. It is wrong to expect a 5 year old to make that journey alone.

Secretary to contact Iain Jackson at the Camaghael Office for clarification on the transport arrangements.

4.5 Children's Christmas Party, Glenfinnan House Hotel, Sat 16th
December 3-5

Senior Citizen's Party – secretary to speak to Princes' House Hotel

**Date of next meeting: AGM Sunday 26th November 3pm at
Glenfinnan Hose Hotel**

Tea and coffee provided

All very welcome