

# Laggan Community Council – AGM 2023

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

@ 2000

Agenda & Minutes (approved 17 June 2024 at AGM)

**1)** Councilors present: Colin Morgan (CM), Mignonne Khazaka (MK), Jill Warner (JW), Amanda Gallagher, Lauren Hendry, Valerie Macpherson, Clare Falconer (CF) Attending; Alison Armstrong, Stuart Young. Apologies were received from members of the community Ailsa Morgan, Chris Molyneaux, Joanne Young.

Chair (CM) declared meeting was quorate.

**2)** Approval of Draft minutes of 2022 AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Approved by all without amendment.

**3)** Adoption of Chair's report – Approved by all with thanks duly noted.

**4)** Adoption of Treasurer's Financial report – Approved by all. Thanks recorded to JW for all her work in preparation of the accounts and their independent review by VABS. Noted that new signatories for the bank account require to be progressed to include Amanda Gallagher.

**5)** Election of Office Bearer's – all office bearers demitted from office. CM noted that all new appointments would be interim up until November 2023 when new Community Council elections would be held. On that basis, the following stood for office and noted that in the coming months chairmanship of meetings may rotate due to other known commitments. CM as current chair demitted office and was not available to be re-appointed.

- Chair – Mignonne Khazaka agreed to be interim Chair.
- Treasurer – Jill Warner
- Secretary – Amanda Gallagher

**6)** Proposed Dates of meeting 2023-24 – all interim dates to be finalised

2023

JULY – NO MEETING

AUGUST – NO MEETING

September 4<sup>th</sup>

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

NOVEMBER – NO MEETING

December 5<sup>th</sup>

2024

JANUARY – NO MEETING

February 19<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup>

APRIL – NO MEETING

May 20<sup>h</sup>

JUNE 17<sup>h</sup> - AGM

**7)** Proposed Date of next AGM – Monday 17<sup>h</sup> June 2024

AGM Meeting closed at 2030.

Chair and Treasurer's reports are attached as appendices

## CHAIR'S REPORT – LAGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM – JUNE 2023

**MEETINGS-** The Community Council has met 9 times since the last AGM in June 2022 with a welcome return to “in person” meetings. Thanks are due to all members of the CC for their efforts over the past year to ensure that Community wide issues are progressed in an open and transparent manner. During the year Gordon Stirling stepped down as Treasurer as he left the area and we were pleased that Jill Warner stepped into the treasurer’s role. Changing office bearers with the RBS was its usual challenge. During the past year, we have been equally grateful for the support and views of the community, our area Highland Councillors and Ward Management. The Community Council routinely reviews a number of statutory items as noted below:

**PLANNING/LICENSING Applications:** The CC exercises its statutory right to review, and where appropriate, respond to all planning & licensing applications. It was disappointing that training in Planning policies and procedures for Community Councils and their officials had still not taken place in the past 12 months. There were a number of residential planning applications – most of which were broadly supportable. Having passed a resolution in the previous year to object to any retrospective applications, one set of applications was objected to, from a Balgowan property. Although these specific applications were ultimately granted by the planning authority, there remain a number of outstanding questions which are the subject of continuing neighbour dispute. A planning application for a wind farm development by SSE at Cloiche (next to the existing Stronelairg development) remains outstanding as does a potential application by SSNetworks to erect Pylons connecting the Melgarve Substation to the Stronelairg plateau. That formal planning application has not been submitted as yet however the CC has already indicated that it would urge the developer to “underground” any potential cable connection. We continue to await information from Jahama Highland Estates (JHE) – owners of the Glenshero Estate - for their Forestry Management Plans in the coming years as well as from FLS for their 10 year Forest Management Plan for Strathmashie Forest.

**ROADS/TRANSPORT LINKS** - This continues to be the topic, which exercises and frustrates members of the community most during the year – with speed, road safety, road surfaces and “local connections” areas of most frustration. The topic of most significant interest to the community, and for which there has been little effective engagement from Highland Council transport officials is the urgent need for a public transport service connecting Laggan to the rest of Badenoch and Strathspey all year round. The present gap – i.e. no bus service during the school holidays is very frustrating for residents, local businesses and visitors to our area. We will continue to press for this service improvement with our local Councillors. **STOP PRESS** – without any discussion, a new service 39 was introduced from the beginning of June, Monday to Friday arriving in Laggan from Aviemore at 1105 and departing Laggan to go to Aviemore at 1110.

**COMMUNITY ASSETS – School** - The present “mothballing” of Gergask primary school was a significant blow to the community and came at a time when the local **Church** was not permitted to call for a new minister and so also putting this local facility “at risk”. The CC requested education officials to meet with us, and any prospective parents, to understand the guidelines to re-open the school. Consultation events were held in April 2023 and we await the outcome. The **Public Toilet** remains open, following support from the local Community Action plan events, and we are grateful to the Church for continuing to operate this facility under the auspices of the Highland Council Comfort Scheme. **Picnic Site and Play Park** – the work done by local volunteers in the community to tidy the play park area, repair the steps down into the area, pick up litter and attend to the various planters is always much appreciated and thanks go everyone who has helped out.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION

With the encouragement of SSE – a provider of a significant source of Community Benefit funds (see below) – the CC, along with VABS' facilitation, developed a new Local Community Action Plan in late 2022. Around 87 residents provided feedback to the on-line survey, attended local events and from this a revised Action Plan was created – this can be viewed on the [www.laggan.com](http://www.laggan.com) website as can all the minutes of Community Council meetings.

Fortunately the community did not experience similar emergency events that resulted in our power supplies going down in November 2021/January 2022 but the need for a **Community Emergency Resilience Plan** remains outstanding. A number of our community groups will be needed to establish such a plan.

The “Connecting Laggan” paths project proposing possible routes to connect all the hamlets of Laggan safely, by taking walkers and cyclists off the main trunk roads through our area, has unfortunately stalled with Transport Scotland's inability to respond timeously to requests for assistance. Laggan Community Housing Ltd continues to undertake its feasibility study to provide additional affordable properties in Laggan Village with a community consultation event held at the end of March 2023 providing appropriate feedback for on-going discussions.

The publication of Laggan Matters continued during the year and we are enormously grateful to our current editors Jill Warner and Amanda Gallagher for their time and effort in this task and to Ardverikie Estate for printing copies of the newsletter for distributing. This newsletter is for the community and articles, large and small, are always welcomed by the editors and each edition is welcomed. All the editions can be seen on the [www.laggan.com](http://www.laggan.com) website.

**SSE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND** – The Laggan Community continues to be a beneficiary of funds from the SSE Stronelairg Community Investment fund. The fund started in 2017 but only operational to Laggan in early 2019 – and specifically after the Community Council was formed in late 2018. The commitment of funds from SSE is for a total period of 25 years – the first 3 years of which operated via a local volunteer advisory panel under SSEs guidance (to April 2023). New panel arrangements are expected to be agreed after June 2023, when new guidelines for managing the fund for the next 19 years are determined. SSE has already “reserved” funds up to year 6 - to end March 2023. 4 members of the community continue to volunteer to administer the local Micro Grant process (for grants <£500). A separate report on recipients of all grants, since inception, is available at [www.laggan.com](http://www.laggan.com) however the most significant recent grant award was to Laggans Helping Hands to acquire and install 4 new Automatic Emergency Defibrillators at certain facilities throughout the Laggan Community.

**FINALLY** – my thanks to everyone in the community who have supported the Community Council at its meetings as well as helping to progress a number of community projects. I will demit as Chair of the Community Council at the AGM and offer my thanks to all Community Councillors past and present, as well as members of the community, for all your support.

COLIN S. MORGAN

CHAIR, LAGGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Adopted by Laggan Community Council at its AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023.

## LCC Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

This is the fifth year of Laggan Community Council (LCC) and we are grateful to Ann Traill at Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) for auditing the 2022/23 Accounts in a timely manner.

The Opening Balance for the year **£14421.71**

### Income

Annual Grant from The Highland Council	£438.30	
Supporting Communities Fund (Zoom Subscription)	£0	
SSE Grant for the Purchase of Defibrillators	£0	
CNP – Green Recovery Fund	£0	
HC Grant for Installation of Defibrillators	£0	
Un-utilised Micro Grant Funds returned	£523.17	

**Total Income:** **£961.47**

### Expenditure

**Laggan Community Hall Hire** **£198.50**

### Insurance

VABS Annual Audit of Accounts	£30.00	
Micro Soft Annual Subscription	£59.99	
Calico UK SSL Certificate	£36.00	
Website Updates (Plexus Media)	£0	
Annual Website Domain Charges (Calico UK)	£90.00	
Minute Taking Service	£60.00	
Christmas Lights/Batteries	£56.22	<b>£332.21</b>

### SSE Stronelairg Community Benefit – Grant Payments

#### Laggans Helping Hands

Lucky2BHere – DeFibs (3)	£5250.00	
First Training – DeFib (1)	£1775.94	
Hygiene Training	£300.00	
Food Share Shed	£586.99	<b>£7912.93</b>

**COVID Recovery Fund** £0.00

**CNPA Green Recovery Fund (Litter Picking)** £50.82 **£50.82**

### Community Events

Queens Jubilee	£750.00	
Community Action Plan Costs	£136.59	<b>£886.59</b>

Total Expenditure: **£9467.05**

Deficit for the year 2022/2023: **(£8505.58)**

The Balance brought forward at 1 April 2023 **£5916.13**

of which £4,999 is ring-fenced as SSE Community Benefit Grant funds, £111 ring-fenced CNPA Green Fund and £500 ring-fenced Highland Council Grant for Defibrillator installation.

This leaves LCC with a running balance of £306 per balance sheet.

Jill Warner, Treasurer

Adopted by Laggan Community Council at AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023