

## Laggan Community – Ordinary Meeting,

Meeting No.4. 15/04/24 - Laggan Wolftrax

Item		Action
1.	<p><b>Attendees:</b> K Thew, A Gallagher, C Hamill, M Khazaka, A Armstrong, V Macpherson, M Gallagher, J Berry, F Grant, J Ashworth. C Pasteur (Gilkes), D Tomb (Gilkes), Phil Lloyd (Ardverikie Estate)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> K Fletcher, A Todd, R Jones, K Deans</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes LCC 18/03/23</b> Nominated CH, Seconded MK</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herb Planting - Fiona Grant. Fiona has grown various herbs and has constructed a wooden planter to be installed adjacent to the Helping Hands Food Shed. Her request for funds for compost is approved by the LCC and when task is completed invoices will be submitted.</li> <li>• Sports Equipment for the local children. AG and MG have agreed to take this forward. FG CH to make further enquiries into acquisition of indoor sports equipment (eg curling and table tennis) Prices to be obtained for outdoor equipment and equipment store. Funds can be requested via micro grants. Enquiries to be made with Hall Committee regarding current equipment available.</li> <li>• Consultation on Fire Management in the CNP (deadline for response 17th April). Murray Ferguson (CNPA) We have had very little response from our community although it is possible that people have responded direct to CNPA. Emails received will not be forwarded to CNPA without express permission. KT and AG will send a response from LCC following discussion at his meeting.</li> <li>• Roadside fences at Lochans BEAR have requested an exact location (Supplied KT- response awaited)</li> <li>• Banking Hub – in connection with other Community Councils and Highland Senior Citizens Network. AG is in correspondence.</li> </ul>	<p>AG/CH/FG</p> <p>KT/AG</p> <p>AG</p>
4.	<p><b>SSE Renewables Community Investment Benefit.</b> Carole Masheter spoke with VABS about a Community Development Officer and the potential to have VABS employ his person on our behalf to run the fund. We are still awaiting their response, but understand that VABS will assist us in the setup of a benefit trust and arrangement of a contract for us to employ someone to manage the fund. As previously discussed we could have a CBO (Community Benefit Organisation), Carole can assist in setting this up. Kingussie operates this type of plan and we can talk to them about how this works for them. . KT will meet with Kingussie Chair before the next meeting to obtain insight on how they achieved</p>	<p>KT</p>

	<p>this, steps taken and lessons learned. KT will also contact Carole to obtain the list of other CC's locally who we may make contact with. If we then benefit from any other funding from other sources those funds can be added to a CBO but currently with the panel only this is not an option.</p> <p><b>Stronelaig</b> - SSE panel is discussing setting up a scholarship fund for local students and an apprenticeship scheme for local employers and students. No further information. MK Dealing. ** see Earba Pumped storage opportunities – potential to link.</p>	MK
5.	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>Bank account as reported at the last statement 19th February 2024: £5,289.50</p> <p>Since the last meeting no payments have been made. Current bank balance stands at £5,289.50 – the following money is ringfenced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £4,309.76 for SSE Micro Grants</li> <li>2. £51.07 from CNPA for environmental / litter projects</li> </ol> <p>The total amount ringfenced money is £4,360.83 meaning the amount available for the general use by the Community Council is £928.67</p> <p>There have been no changes to the financial status since last report. We note that there are two payments yet to be made and they will be detailed on the next report.</p>	
6.	<p>i. /(ECU) Potentially ask for an extension until early June after the first consultation from SSEN? -see below</p> <p><u>Items ii and iii Earba pumped storage Scheme</u> The meeting was attended by Chris Pasteur and David Tombs of Gilkes Energy who provided further information about the proposed hydro scheme. As we know, if permissions are granted to go ahead with the scheme then there will be a requirement for another substation to be constructed within the National Park area which will fall under the remit of SSE. An application for connection to the grid has been submitted We await SSEN contact details and DT will provide this in early course. The first public consultation in respect of substation connection and cable route is now provisionally booked for week/c 24th June. We will provide further details and confirmations as we receive them. The build time for this project is likely to be 5-6 years and the target for generation commencement is 2031. We are advised that once completed there will be employment opportunities for circa 20 people. The site would be manned 24/7 and will require a skilled workforce, there will also be on site training and apprenticeships** available.</p> <p><u>Community benefits</u> -There will be a two phase benefit fund available. Phase 1, Construction Fund in the region of £2m (matched value fund) for community projects in Laggan and</p>	

	<p>to include outlying villages such as Dalwhinnie and Spean Bridge.</p> <p>Phase 2, Operational Fund, For community projects in Laggan area. We are advised that this will be a 6 figure sum available annually.</p> <p>Ardverikie Estate have had a long term relationship with Gilkes spanning 40 + years and advised the meeting that their estate office is always available to field questions from you. Phil Lloyd from Ardverikie urges us to review section 8.7 of the documentation available which covers the biodiversity and restoration of land plans, deer reduction etc</p> <p><b>iv. 24/00665/FUL</b> Shepherds Hut and Access(access request is retrospective) – C Slimmon LCC response by 23 April. Our response will be neutral in this matter.</p> <p><b>a. Highland Council.</b> RJ was to liaise with AG re brown signage renewal. RJ not present to give update. Carry forward to next meeting.</p> <p><b>b. Roads</b> – Bear NW Consultation A86 west of Laggan Dam for carriageway maintenance. All information has been posted to our website and Facebook page. Trunk roads NE do not affect our area.</p> <p><b>c. Report from Public Sector Agencies</b> – No report received, however, due to the spate of recent burglaries locally AG will request a report in this regard.</p> <p><b>d. Highland Council</b> – Nothing to report</p> <p><b>e. Housing</b> – No progress to report.</p> <p><b>f. Village Amenity Group</b> - Volunteers are required for park tidy up and village litter pick. We would like to introduce some native plants/wild flowers to the verges in the village and around the park area. KT to look into this and provide costings for a microgrant application. The bedding plants for the planters should be made available shortly. KT will speak to RJ in this regard so that dates can be put into the diary for volunteers.</p> <p><b>g. Toilet</b> – Funds for the upkeep of the public toilet will expire at the end of 2024. SSE grant money might be a possibility to continue, however the septic tank remains a major issue. Information to be revisited and discussed at next meeting.</p> <p><b>h. SEPA</b> – We have received 3 emails from SEPA concerning flooding in Scotland and areas in our community which are at risk. We have been asked to pass the emails to interested parties (homeowners, landowners and farmers). AG to forward to KT and we will ask KF to take ownership of this on behalf of LCC.</p> <p><b>i. SSEN -Digital Toolkit Information-</b> disruption due to power cuts etc. This should be put onto our website. Noted as common knowledge</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>AG</p> <p>KT</p> <p>All</p> <p>KF/KT</p>
con8.	<p><b>Christmas Lights 2024.</b> We have been advised that grant money can pay for Christmas lights and should make our application before the next panel meeting takes place. Christmas</p>	

	lights which attach to the lampposts may be available from the Highland Council. The cost including installation, removal and storage is being sought. RJ liaising with Highland Council about planned upgrades for the older lamp-posts in Laggan. Information awaited. AT/KT to chase. The working group will be include J Ashworth and F Grant.	AT/KT
9.	<b>AOB.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email received from Tweedlove re Enduro event -share to facebook please.</li> <li>• Restoration of Old Cluny Monument will be 7 May 24. Photos requested for Laggan matters.</li> </ul>	VMc
10.	<b>Dates for meetings 2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 February - cancelled as not quorate</li> <li>• 18 March</li> <li>• 15 April</li> <li>• 20 May</li> <li>• 17 June</li> <li>• 16 September</li> <li>• 21 October</li> <li>• 18 November</li> </ul>	

Date of next meeting – 20 May 2024. Venue to be advised