

Laggan CC – Ordinary Meeting
Draft Minutes, Meeting No. 9 – 21st October 2024 - 18:30 @ Laggan Wolftrax

1. Attendees Present

Amanda Gallagher, Cath Hamill, Valerie Macpherson, Alison Armstrong, Alistair Todd, Mignonne Khazaka (meeting chair) Russell Jones, Kenny Deans CNPA, Willie Todd, Donald Cowan. Apologies from Karen Thew (Chair)

2. Approval of Minutes July and September 2024

Approved

3. Matters Arising

(a) Fuel Poverty Survey.

A message to the community has been drafted and to be sent out.

b) Vandalism

The Community have been informed of the vandalism at Gergask Primary school. It is hoped there will be no further incidents.

(c) Resilience planning collaboration with Dalwhinnie CC

Ready Scot have a generic resilience plan template that could form the basis of a plan. A. Gallagher reported that Dalwhinnie have some people available who have for example snow clearing vehicle and chain saws available for tree clearing. M. Khazaka to contact Dalwhinnie to follow up re issues of insurance/liability and moving forward.

4. SSE Renewables – Community Benefit Update

(a) MOU Update (Info from Carole Masheter)

For the Community Apprenticeship scheme, there will be a panel to consider applications recieved. Administrative costs of £250 to be covered from SSE funds. Disbursements would be made from SSE funds held within the Laggan Community Council account.

(b) Laggan Community Council Education Grant

A proposed grant of for higher education £500 per year per student has been agreed. An application form will be developed and circulated to allow residents to apply. Students can apply throughout the year. The council will inform residents when available and also inform Kingussie High school when it is available. As previously discussed this is not just available to high school students but to anyone considering higher education.

5. Financial Report

Thank you to the Highland Council for its annual grant of £438.30 which has been received in LCC accounts. Current financial position:

Current bank balance	£5136.07
Available Council funds:	£864.82
SSE Micro Grant money	£4220.18
CNPA funds for environmental/litter projects	£51.07

6. Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss

(a) Creag Dubh mast

A previous decision not to allow the installation of a telecoms mast on Creag Dubh has been overturned on appeal. Any further appeal against this decision would need to be on a legal basis and would require legal advice. LCC will not pursue this but will try to ensure that the mast is as discreet as possible. The community council will respond expressing its disappointment in this decision. A. Gallagher/A. Todd to action.

(b) Planning Applications Update

Melgarve.(development and pylons) no further update as Highland Council are awaiting a report from NatureScot so this issue has not yet been discussed by Highland Council.

(c) Culachy.

It is our understanding that Highland planning department ~~recommend to will~~ object ~~onto~~ to the development of the wind farm on the basis of landscape and visual impact. Further information when available.

New Planning Applications

24/03910/FUL Formation of 2 forestry roads - Garvamore

Planning application for two new tracks for the purposes of forestry extraction have been submitted. Further detail on where the extraction vehicles will be operating has been requested and the routes they will be taking. A. Gallagher is following up with Jahama. Alistair Todd to draft a response raising community concerns to be submitted by 25 October.

7. Licencing Update: No update

8. Roads: Nothing to report

9. Public Sector Agencies

Police report received on police activities in the area over the past year along with advice to be disseminated to the community. Apologies received for not attending previous meetings. Police have requested advice to be sent out to community. C. Hamill to action. See addendum Police Report

10. Highland Council

(a) Cllr Helen Crawford Motion

A Motion to have all wind farms, pylons and all associated energy infrastructure planning applications within the Highland region mapped out so that councils can review plans holistically and to avoid "salami slicing" (submissions of individual projects) has been passed by the Highland Council. This is supported by Laggan Community Council.

(b) Glen Truim, speed/local traffic only.

Residents on Glentruim road and Catlodge have been contacted to gather preliminary thoughts about the future of the road. Catlodge residents also raised the issue of safety at Catlodge and requested these concerns also be addressed. A meeting will be set up with Russell Jones to determine next steps.

(c) Highland Community Council Review 2024/25 Survey

A survey requesting views of councils on the future of local councils was completed and agreed by all council members.

11. Laggan Community Action Plan – Priorities and the way forward

Incorporating: Active Travel/Connecting Laggan, CNPA (Cairngorms 2030), Christmas Lights, Village Amenity Group, Public Toilet

(a) CNPA

Beavers Report

The six families or pairs released at three sites in 2023 / 24 initially moved around, one very briefly as far as Spey Dam, before establishing themselves on or near the release sites. The monitoring is working well. The Park Authority has responded to three reported incidents concerning potential impacts on biodiversity and land management. The management and mitigation plan was successfully implemented on each occasion. The next stage of releases as part of the 5yr license are underway. There are four releases scheduled. The first two releases on Wildland Ltd landholdings in October, followed by a release on a private landholding between Kincraig and Aviemore, scheduled early November. The final release is planned on the secluded southern shore of Loch Morlich and the associated wetlands and lochans in mid-November. To support the monitoring of new releases, the Beaver Project Manager will be supported by two dedicated rangers for three months.

CNPA are hosting a drop in event 2pm to 7 pm covering a range of topics at Iona Gallery on 29th October.

(b) Kids club

In response to a request from a Laggan resident to do something for children in the village. K. Thew and A. Gallagher are happy to book the community hall so that children can come and take part in activities. Funds for any material (drawing materials, games etc) to be requested (SSE small grants/the board discretionary fund/community funds held by Forest Trust) to finance any equipment needed. For purposes of insurance at this stage some parental presence/supervision will be required. This is still very much at the planning stage and we would welcome any suggestions or offers of assistance.

(c) Christmas Lights

New lampposts are needed to run Christmas lights off them. We have looked into options for lights and concluded that there is not a better system currently available than we already have, unless we are able to access mains electricity. For this year, A.Gallagher to approach Coffee Bothy to see if council could collaborate with them to have a Christmas tree. Lights will be doubled so that there are morning lights as well as evening, particularly for children going to school. New batteries to be used at beginning of season and a planned replacement of them after 2/3 weeks to be carried out. A. Gallagher to explore with Coffee Bothy the possibility of hosting a small switching on ceremony with hot chocolate/mulled wine and mince pies.

(d) FLS Future Plan Feedback

Forest Trust consulted with Laggan community council about the next 10 year Forestry Plan for Strathmashie Forest and forthcoming felling operations. They have a number of planned fells. Plan has been completed but the final conclusion and its approval by Scottish Forestry is awaited. There was also quite a bit of discussion with them about joining up and restoring paths some of which have fallen into disuse because of forestry activity. They will look into what can be done.

Grantown and Kingussie are very active with path building and K. Dixon would be happy to add us to the Kingussie WhatsApp path group to keep us informed. Laggan could potentially work with them. Alistair Todd, Donald Cowan and Willie Todd indicated willingness to be involved with this moving forward.

12. AOB

Christmas party we are advised that funds are available to use for a December event for local children. We need to act promptly and liaise with the hall committee.

Laggan Broadband: SSE fund have recently approved a large grant for the improvement of Laggan Broadband infrastructure. Laggan Council, however, would like to see increased communication about Badenoch Broadband financials and long-term plans including succession planning for key staff. A. Todd to draft a list of issues on which the council would like to have more information.

Earba storage scheme: A. Gallagher to make contact with the Community Benefits Officer at Highland Council who can advise us on how to proceed with the community fund negotiations with Gilkes.

A bus shelter has been requested for Strathmashie, particularly for school children. M. Khazaka. to follow up with costings.

13. Date of next meeting

Next meeting 2 December at Laggan Community Hall