

Laggan CC – Ordinary Meeting No 10. Minutes.

2nd December 2024 - 18:30 Laggan Village Hall

1. Attendees Present

CC Members - K Thew, A Gallager, C Hamill, M Kazaka, A Armstrong, A Todd

R Jones (Highland Council), K Jones (CNPA rep), D Harris (CNPA) A Watt, F Grant

2. Approval of Minutes October 2024

Approved MK, agreed AA (subject to minor amendment regarding CNPA WhatsApp group. AT will be added to the Kingussie Group)

3. Matters Arising and Actions from previous meeting

- A Gallagher has made contact with the Community Benefits Officer at Highland Council re how to proceed with the community fund negotiations with Gilkes. Information awaited
- A Todd has started to draft a list of issues on which the CC would like to have more information.
- Grantown and Kingussie are very active with path building and AT will be added to their WhatsApp group to keep us informed of new initiatives and ideas.
- Forest Trust have consulted with LCC re next 10-year Forestry Plan. There has been no further progress in this matter
- LCC has responded to the reporter expressing our disappointment in the decision about Creag Dubh mast

4. SSE Renewables – Community Benefit Update

KT and AG met with VABS 7/11 to discuss setting up a SCIO. A further meeting is scheduled for 4/12 and following this meeting we will provide a full report to the community. Briefly we would like to set up a SCIO to enable us to have a Development officer to manage the SSE fund on behalf of the community.

The next panel meeting is scheduled for 21/1/25. The meeting will be held online at 7pm. Panel members will be appraised of the plans for the SCIO and they will be asked about continuing as members albeit in a slightly different capacity as the SCIO develops.

AG KT to speak to all other Laggan Groups prior to launch of the SCIO to assess collaborative opportunities.

5. Financial Report

Previous bank balance:			£5136.07
	Previous sub-totals	+/- since previous meeting	
- LCC Gambling licence 2024-2025	£864.20	-£40.00	
- Laggan Forest Trust room hire July & October		-£40.00	
Available Council funds:			784.82
Ringfenced:			
SSE Micro Grant money	£4220.18	£0	£4220.18
CNPA funds for environmental/litter projects	£51.07	£0	£51.07
Current bank balance (784.82 + 4220.18 + 51.07)			£5056.07

6. Statutory Items for Community Council to note and discuss

a. Planning Applications Update

24/03910/FUL Forestry roads - Garvamore – there has been no response to our questions and the closing date for responses to planning is due. AT has emailed Savills and will now follow up with a telephone call. ACTION AT

Melgarve - development and pylons -info still awaited

Culachy. Highland planning department objection - info still awaited

b. New Planning Applications – none received

7. Licencing Update

We have applied for a small society annual licence at a cost of £40. Confirmation is awaited.

8. Roads

Steven Grant of the Highland Council has put the proposal and associated paperwork in place for Glentruim Road to be designated a “quiet road” A meeting should now be convened with RJ (HC) and Glentruim residents. RJ/CH to arrange this.

RJ will continue to press Transport Scotland about implementing speed restrictions on the A86 at Laggan and Strathmashie Cottages and the A82 at Catlodge.

9. Public Sector Agencies

Nothing received

10. Highland Council

Nothing further to add. See previous sections

11. Laggan Community Action Plan - Active Travel/Connecting Laggan, CNPA (Cairngorms 2030), Christmas Lights, Village Amenity Group, Public Toilet

- **Youth club** is proving to be a great success. The club was something that Fiona Grant asked for the CC's help with setting up as somewhere safe for the children to come together on the dark winter nights. We will continue to be present at the club meetings for December and in January will hand over to the parents to continue. Thanks to Amanda for the arts and crafts ideas and for providing the paints, pens, stones etc .. Thanks also to the parents who have attended each week and given us valuable help with the games and, quite literally, the running around.

There is a bank account still in existence which was set up for the Laggan Youth Club many years ago and we have been given the relevant information to have the signatories changed so that this account can be accessed and continue to function for the new club. We will pursue this in the new year so that it can be managed via the SCIO which is currently in the process of being set up.

- **Christmas Lights** New Christmas lights were a must this year and so many of the locals have pulled together to make this happen. Fiona Grant requested that the children be involved in the Christmas decorations this year and as such we supplied and planted mini trees along with new lights.

Thanks to Alistair Todd, Hazel and David Narro and Fiona and John Grant for obtaining the various lights, to John Grant and Paul Atkinson for siting one of the village trees in Gergask Avenue. Thanks also go to Kevin and Sonya Fletcher for siting the main village tree at the Coffee Bothy and for hosting the lighting up ceremony which was very well attended, the weather was kind and it was warm enough for everyone to be outside to enjoy the occasion. Everyone was so very generous with the charity collection made for CRY, thank you all. Just to note all bringers of light will be reimbursed by us.

- **CNPA** Dan Harris from CNPA attended our meeting with the purpose of talking to us about the CNPA Local Development Process. In this first year there will be stakeholder and public engagement along with presentations to schools and young people in the park. They will be utilising Community Action Plans in order to better engage with the various communities. Adoption of the new plan is proposed for 2027.

AT questioned Mr Harris at length about how this LDP would actually benefit Laggan and the surrounding area. What is actually being done by the CNPA to deal with the real-life issues that many smaller communities such as Laggan are facing. He asked what was being done to support our stance on particular, current planning applications as we feel as a community that there is little or no support to back us and our opinions up. The CNPA is such a large organisation and certainly their "voice" will have more impact within the planning department than ours.

We as a community do want to work closely with the CNPA and give support to their ongoing LDP but we would like this to be a two-way street. Mr Harris took on board our issues and offered several suggestions about how we may deal with particular issues. He does understand the need for more support and advice on matters that are simply beyond our remit and capacity. We look forward to hearing any proposals from CNPA as a result of this meeting.

- **FLS Future Plan Feedback** Nothing to report

12. AOB

- Children's Christmas Party. 20 December 2-4pm in the Village Hall
- New forestry plan from Ardverikie now received. AG to distribute
- Visitor Levy Consultation received. CH to distribute

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in February 2025. Date to be confirmed. Dates for all 2025 meetings to be discussed and set.