

# GLENURQUHART RURAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2017

## OPEN MEETING

**Present:** Susan Clark (SC) Chair, Carolyn Wilson (CW) Secretary and 18 members

**Apologies:** 7 apologies were received.

Full list of attendees and apologies is attached as Appendix A

SC welcomed members to the meeting

### 1. Previous minutes and matters arising:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were approved; proposed by Anne Macdonald and seconded by Gordon Watson.

Matters arising, not separately identified on the agenda, were:

- **Cobb memorial.** David Fraser had met with Traffic Scotland, who had conceded that the damage to the ground around the base of the monument was an issue for their attention. To be monitored
- **Vandalism.** There seemed to have been fewer incidents of vandalism since the police had been approached about the matter, although this may also be due a general reduction during summer months. All to be aware of need to advise police of further incidents and continue to press for action when necessary.
- **Blarmor / brewery site.** The site was now seen to be under offer, although no knowledge of proposed use. GURCA had been in neither a financial nor strategic position to attempt to take on the site
- **Grasscutting.** It was felt that the quality of grass cutting on the village green had improved after discussion with the council. To be monitored

### 2. Progress since AGM / Community Action Plan

SC distributed a brief summary (attached as Appendix B) of what has been done in the last year, and how the Board of Trustees proposes to take GURCA forwards.

- Change of constitution to become 2 tier SCIO, approved by OSCR.
- Agreement to transfer hall to ownership of GURCA
- New Board of Trustees
- Funding secured to cover legal costs of hall transfer
- Initial consultation with major local organisations
- Membership now stands at almost 150

SC explained it was now proposed to seek funding to enable community wide consultation regarding aspirations for our area going forward, with the ultimate aim of producing a Community Action Plan (CAP), which can be the basis for prioritising

future investment and community developments. The first major project to be pursued will be the redevelopment of the hall.

A Steering Group is to be formed to oversee the development of the CAP, with members from GURCA, Community Council, Soirbheas and the Chamber of Commerce.

The unanimous approval of the proposed actions was given by those present at the meeting.

**ACTION** – SC and the Board of Trustees to pursue scope and funding for consultation exercise and report on progress at next open meeting

### **3. Financial statement:**

Nicola Vestey had given apologies to the meeting, but had supplied a financial summary to SC. This is attached as Appendix C.

GURCA is running at a small loss year to date. It was noted that fireworks event license was a significant cost, but would not reoccur for 3 years. Also, welcome income from fundraising. SC thanked all who had contributed to this effort.

### **4. Fireworks:**

Anne Macdonald updated the meeting on the event. Planning all in hand, license applied for (not yet received, but no problems foreseen), and field arrangements in place.

It was agreed that the fireworks purchasing budget to be the same as last year.

**ACTION** – Anne Macdonald to liaise with Nicola Vestey re provision of cash

### **5. Children's parties:**

Angela Montague updated the meeting.

Halloween parties scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas parties scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> December

Angela and Karen Mackenzie have planning in hand.

Angela advised the meeting that this will be their final year of organising the parties. However, they have replacement organisers in mind, and will confirm these in good time before next year's events.

**ACTION** - Angela Montague to advise who will take over event planning at next meeting if possible

### **6. Farmers' markets**

A proposal (Appendix D) had been received from Marjory Tait and Karen Price to use the village green for Community / Farmers' Markets on the first Saturday of the month, commencing in March 2018. Proceeds from the stall rentals would be given to GURCA.

GURCA's approval for this use of the green was sought, and the meeting unanimously supported the initiative, with the following provisos:

- Marjory Tait / Karen Price to liaise in advance with local householders and businesses, explain the community purpose of the events and ensure no valid objections to the proposal.
- Green to be assessed after events to ensure no significant damage incurred as a result of stalls / footfall.
- 'Rental' to be passed to GURCA on a monthly basis

**ACTION** – Marjory Tait to ensure all provisos met before first market is held

### **7. Hall transfer update:**

A grant for legal fees has been secured from HIE.

A formal valuation of the hall has now been undertaken.

The transfer is proving a little more complex than had originally been foreseen by the lawyers, but it is still hoped that the process will be completed by late 2017 / early 2018.

**ACTION** – SC / CW update to be provided at next meeting

### **8. Loch Ness Homes:**

Work has now begun on the site of the new development.

Gordon Watson and SC updated the meeting on progress with an agreement regarding the open space associated with the new development. A draft heads of terms is being discussed with LNH's lawyers. It is proposed that a 175 year lease might be entered into, with the developer retaining responsibility for the costs and maintenance of the land.

SC reminded the meeting that heads of terms are NOT legally binding so at this stage was seeking approval from the meeting to continue discussions with LNH on this matter and try to agree the basis for an acceptable arrangement.

The meeting approved the continuation of discussions.

### **9. COBEN:**

Drumnadrochit has been selected as one of the 4 communities to take part in the COBEN (Community Benefits of Civic Energy) Energy Plan Pilot Project. This is an exciting opportunity for our area and a real opportunity to take a holistic look at our energy needs now and in future.

The process for developing the Energy Plan is layout below.

#### **COBEN Process**

A contractor will be appointed to:

Develop a consistent and flexible methodology and structure for the development of the four local energy plans.

Undertake data collection, measurement, modelling for each of the selected areas.

Develop a local energy plan based on the outputs of the above and community consultation and present the final agreed plan in June 2018.

Undertake a review of the methodology and its application through the pilot and develop a toolkit for use by communities and other stakeholders going forward.

This will be the first of three appointments that will be made to support each of the selected areas. A second contractor will be appointed to support community and stakeholder engagement alongside the development of the plan from January 2018 and another contractor will be appointed to be in place from July 2018 to provide support through the early stages of implementation.

Steering Group – A local Steering Group will co-ordinate the development of the local energy plan. GURCA has been asked to provide one member for the Steering Group.

The timescale for the initial Steering Group meeting is early November 2017 and will take place in Drumnadrochit. It is envisaged that the group will meet every 4 – 6 weeks though some meeting will be conference calls rather than face to face meetings.

The meeting approved Susan Clark as the GURCA representative. It was also suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be represented on the Steering Group.

**ACTION** : SC to provide feedback after the first Steering Group and to suggest to Soirbheas that the Chamber be represented as well.

### **10 Sub-Committees:**

CW explained that the Board of Trustees believes there is a need for several sub-committees to be formed, to help the effective management of the Association.

- **Communications and social media.** To set up and manage an interesting and informative GURCA website, and ensure a lively presence on all forms of social media, to keep GURCA and its activities in the minds of local residents. To ensure that local people can be kept up to date with progress on GURCA matters.
- **General fundraising.** To propose and manage fundraising events and mechanisms to keep on top of GURCA's regular outgoings such as grass cutting, and community events.
- **Major Funding group.** To be responsible for identifying major funders and putting together funding applications to enable implementation of projects such as the hall refurbishment.

(Post meeting note – an additional sub-committee has also been identified)

- **Hall Refurbishment Project team.** To oversee progress with the project to refurbish the hall, working closely with the Major funding group. This will involve ensuring the scope and detail of the plans are in line with community aspirations, and GURCA is kept up to date with progress.

**Members for all the above groups are sought. Please let CW know if you feel you have the skills and enthusiasm to be involved in any of the sub-committees.**

### **11. GURCA logo:**

Suggested designs had already been received for a GURCA logo and these were displayed at the meeting.

CW confirmed that any further designs must be received by 8<sup>th</sup> October. All designs would then be emailed to members, who would be invited to choose a first and second option.

Votes to be counted after the poll and the winning logo will be adopted.

### **12 Correspondence:**

A letter had been received from the Drum First responders thanking GURCA for its support in lobbying the Scottish Ambulance service over its decision to stop sending the group to paediatric calls.

As a result of the lobbying, the group has received additional training and is now able to be sent to life-threatening paediatric calls.

### **13 AOB**

Frances Colbron advised the meeting that the Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a St Andrew's Ball at the hall on 1<sup>st</sup> December, with profits from the raffle being shared between the hall and the Glenurquhart Care Centre. Tickets available from Frances or Café 82.

**Next meeting** – to be held late January, date to be confirmed.

## **Appendix A**

### **GURCA meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017: List of attendees and Apologies**

#### Attendees:

Susan Clark  
Carolyn Wilson  
Marjory Tait  
Karen Price  
Erik Trelfer  
Angela Montague  
Pam Lucas  
Anne MacDonald  
Neil Macinnes  
Frances Colbron  
Ewan Cameron  
Joy Cameron  
Fiona Urquhart  
Mhairi Marshall  
Adrian Varwell  
Gordon Watson  
Lynn Kropp  
Alan Bell  
Fraser Mackenzie  
Roy Macgregor

#### Apologies

Karen Mackenzie  
Nicola Vestey  
Christine Hart  
Viv Sheriffs  
Margaret Varwell  
Margaret Davidson  
Miranda Service

## Appendix C to meeting 3-10-17

Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association

Treasurer's Report 2.10.17

Bank balances: Treasurer's account	4,040.14
Parties account	195.20
Shawbrook	5,000.00 100 day notice 1.10%
Saffron Building Soc	<u>3,637.03</u> 90 day notice 1.25%
	<u>12,872.37</u>

Restricted Funds:

AED funds	145.00
Play Park	112.48
Greenspace	455.97
Cobb Memorial	<u>4,723.53</u>
	<u>5,436.98</u>

Leaving a balance of unrestricted funds £7,435.39

Restricted funds expenses:

Cobb Memorial repair £72

Greenspace £450

Income

Etape £250

Bottle stall £587

Bulletin £931

Main expenses

Playing field £660

Bulletin £780

Fireworks licence £432

Deficit to date £154 – there will be one more playing field bill

## APPENDIX D

### Community / Farmers Market

#### Proposal:

- To hold a Community / Farmers Market on the Green in Drumnadrochit.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, beginning March 2018
- Trial Period ( first month ) with Karen Price and Marjory Tait.
- Thereafter, open up to local Crafters / Small businesses / Community Groups.
- Each stallholder to have a gazebo, public liability insurance, risk assessment etc.
- Limited number of stalls, allow for possible rotational basis.
- Rental paid to GURCA on a monthly basis.

#### Aims:

- To support the current work of the GURCA, and continue to raise funds for the Hall.
- To create a greater community atmosphere, encouraging villagers to invest in local produce.
- To attract more tourists into the village, as opposed to passing through to Castle.