MEETING REGARDING HARBOUR ROAD CLOSURE
Little Schoolie, 17th January 2018 at 1830hrs

Those present:
Gavin Penman, (GP) Project Manager, Aberdeenshire Council (AC)
Alistair Millar, (AM) Senior Roads Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Ross Cassie (RC)
Councillor Mark Findlater (MF)
Andy Sturdy, (AS) King Edward and Gamrie Community Council
and 50 members of the public.

GP advised on the landslide with a slide presentation, covering possible causes, timescale of events to date and an outline of what needs to be done next. This includes geotechnical site investigation once the landslide has stopped moving, and consideration of a number of options which were outlined. They have appointed Atkins as their consultant and the Geotechnical Surveyor will be appointed as soon as possible. The aim of the meeting was to establish the best times for controlled openings. The council were insistent that, being responsible for the road, they have a duty of care to ensure safety and therefore any opening will have to be supervised at present. There will not be a quick solution – it will be a matter of months rather than weeks.

AM advised that the main slippage is in the central third vertically. Their consultant is advising against removal of anything in the bottom third as this would affect stability. Where there is new slippage any new fall will be removed to ensure that it does not go over the height of the retaining wall (30 tons were moved last Saturday).

Those present were invited to ask questions and make comments, and the following subjects were some of those discussed:

- AC indicated that they would be prepared to open two days per week, and discussion centered on how these hours could be utilised. Everyone present was asked to complete a form advising on their preferred opening times.
- Could local volunteers sign up to assisting with the manned openings, with some basic training if necessary? MF agreed to follow this up.
- Local fisherman are particularly affected as their times are dependant upon tides, and it was noted that there are 20 registered fishing vessels operating from the harbour.
- Residents and holiday cottage owners need contractors to have full day working but at present supervised opening is only during daylight hours – the possibility of lighting was raised.
- There is concern regarding concrete block barriers as these restrict emergency services. AC assured those present that procedures were in place.
- Concerns regarding the lack of a bus service to the bottom of the village were also raised. This is being followed up independently by AS and RC.

AM committed to ensuring that the public were kept informed, and AC intends to erect a notice board above the closure. The Community Council through AS will continue to be the point of contact. Those present stated that Gardenstown is not another Pennan or Crovie – it is a large working community, and the closure is having a detrimental effect on everyone.

The Council stressed that this subject is their top priority and that the aim is definitely to get the road reopened as soon as possible.