

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

7.00pm, Thursday 11th December, 2025, via Zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), A Gainsford (Treasurer), J Millar-Craig (Secretary), A Evans, C Hunter (for a short time only)

Apologies: P Adams, M Stewart, T MacLennan (Councillor), A Baxter (Councillor)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No amendments

Proposer: A Gainsford Second: A Evans

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity - HF Holidays are aware of the difficulties of obtaining three quotes and that we only have one. AG is waiting to hear back. The individual who gave the one quote will be contacted, once she has heard back.
AG to action
 - b. Public Toilet at Shops – matters progressing **JJ to action.**
 - c. Trees at Parking Area Surgery/ Village Hall – on going **JJ to action**
 - d. Join Rural Watch Scotland – DM had advised connecting the Community Council Facebook page and a page on the website to provide those interested in a particular topic with a link to the information. **JMC to contact PA.** After discussions at the meeting, it was suggested that creating a page with a variety of external links on it, would be a good idea. **JJ to action**
 - e. Laudale felled trees – matter progressing **JJ to action**
 - f. Laudale Estate Woodland Plans 2025 – It was felt that the slopes opposite the Village, after the trees had been felled, had been left in a mess. Ideally, they needed to be cleared and replanted. It was deemed necessary to find out what was going to happen with this area before proceeding with support for further works. **JJ to Action**
 - g. Extra / Larger bins for village centre – ongoing **JJ to action**
 - h. FLS- lack of Funds for Maintenance of Visitor Facilities JMC had contacted EAP who had shared maps of the local 'core' paths. However, apparently FLS are not compelled to maintain even core paths. She suggested that contact be made with NatureScot. This had been done. An acknowledgement of the E mail had been received but now awaiting a fuller reply. **JMC to action**
 - i. Strontian Children's Party - £500 had been paid into the Village Hall bank account for the party. It's receipt had been acknowledged.
 - j. Community Regenration Funding Expression of Interest 25/26 – **AG to action**
 - k. Renovation of Village Planter – Money had been given towards this village project.
4. **Police Matters** – The Police December Newsletter had been shared in full in De tha Dol? Items included Festive Period Drinking Advice and advice for drivers during winter. The Scam Information this month had focused on 'Default Passwords'. It was important to note that default passwords are intended to be temporary and that they should be changed as soon as possible, after they have been set.
5. **Planning Matters**
- a) 25/0428/FUL Alterations and Extensions Rockfield, 18 Anaheilt Strontian – noted

6. Correspondence

- a) Zurich Insurance – It is a condition of our licence for events such as the Fireworks, that we hold current insurance. Zurich are our insurer. A copy of the policy documents had been sent to C Macintyre (Legal (licensing)) as per her request.
- b) Trees Back of Hostel – the trees had been checked by the Community Company representatives and were deemed to be OK.
- c) Spills Kit for Strontian – a member of the public had shared a recent incident involving a leaking heating oil tank at an unoccupied property. Highland Council had been contacted but they decided that, due to the time period since the event had occurred, much of the fuel would have been diluted by rainwater. The member of the public was now proposing that a spills kit be purchased for the village. However, both the local Fire Station and the Forestry have them and it was deemed not necessary for the village to also have one. It was proposed that the Resilience group be contacted concerning the matter.
- d) Deer Plan Strontian, Native Woodland Advice – noted
- e) Reorganisation of Community Councils – noted
- f) Highland Council Budget Consultation – it was decided at the meeting that this information and link should be put onto the Community Council Facebook page. **JMC to contact PA.**

7. Dail Mhor

8. Old Primary School

9. Corran Ferry

Corran Ferry Report JMC Dec. 2025

Steering Group Meeting 8.12.2025

Corran Ferry Stakeholder Engagement

Highland Council are determined that, in its present format, the Corran Ferry Steering Group Meeting has run its course. Their plan now is to set up a Community liaison group, which would meet face to face every 4 – 6 weeks with the appointed contractor of the new infrastructure. This would be to provide progress updates and be open to the public, local communities etc. There would also be a Corran Ferry Stakeholders Group which would meet quarterly on MSTEams, This would take place the day after each Lochaber Area Committee and would be to receive updates on ferry operations and to discuss community concerns.

CCs strongly protested, as at the last meeting it had been agreed by the CCs and a number of other attendees that the need was for the Steering Group to continue and that it was important that they met regularly every 6 weeks to 'discuss' the many ongoing issues that still existed and continued to come up.

MCA Licensing

Concerns were expressed regarding the timings and duration of MCA licensing and how it seemed to penalise communities such as ours. After much pushing by Community Councillors and Councillors, Highland Council agreed to produce a bullet point list showing why other issues connected with the operation of the ferry, cannot be changed. The MCA will also be contacted to explain the issues.

Service Outage Strategy.

Highland Council has produced a Service Outage Strategy plan to cover issues such as ferry-off procedures, media updates, a replacement service for foot passengers (the new flip boat which is to be delivered in March) and provision of a shuttle bus to the Camusnagaul Ferry. Feedback on this document is being sought.

MV Corran

Refit progressing with completion still scheduled for early 2026 – which will be after January!

Maid of Glencoul

Ever since the Maid came back, there have been problems with the ramps. A large number of car owners – both local and tourist- have been commenting on the damage caused to their car's undercarriages, bumpers etc when getting on and /or off the vessel. It was strongly denied by Highland Council that any increase in incidents of damage were happening, that any adjustment that had been needed to the ramps had already been carried out and that nothing untoward was happening. After vehement protestations to the contrary, Highland Council has agreed to have the ramps inspected by Maritime Architects. People are also encouraged to report any such damage to Highland Council to evidence that the ramp needs to be made fit for purpose.

(Councillor A Baxter had subsequently sent a strongly worded letter to Highland Council with regard to the state of the ramp and the way in which matters were being dealt with).

Parking at the new Slipway.

The number of general parking spaces at the proposed new slipway has been increased from 8 to 18. The contract will shortly be agreed and be binding.

10. **Place Plan** – it had proved difficult to extract the necessary information from the census data. AG awaiting population statistics from Local Place Plan department of Highland Council. **AG to action.**

11. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account: £3,222.84 Current Account: £12,622.43

The Community Council portion of the 'resilience' payment had been made to the Community Company.

SSE Kingairloch Hydro Scheme Funding – awaiting response from C Masheter re access to systems and payments of funds.

12. Any Other Business

- a) Check status of Community Council Zoom account – **AG to action**

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 8th January 2025 7pm, Strontian Village Hall