

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

7.00pm, Thursday 13th November 2025, Village Hall

(Thursday 9th October 2025 meeting -Cancelled)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), A Gainsford (Treasurer), J Millar-Craig (Secretary), C Hunter, P Adams, M Stewart, A Evans, A Hermann.

Apologies: A Baxter (Councillor)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

September 2025, No amendments

Proposer: A Gainsford Seconded: P Adams

No meeting in October 2025

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity - No further quotes had been able to be obtained. AG had contacted HF Holidays to explain that we had only been able to get one rather than the required three quotes for the bridge. They are considering the situation. **AG to action**
- b. Public Toilet at Shops – matters progressing. **JJ to action**
- c. Trees at Parking Area Surgery/ Village Hall – to be dealt with. **JJ to action**
- d. Join Rural Watch Scotland – DM to be contacted to see what could be put on the website **JMC to action**
- e. Laudale felled trees – JJ has been in contact with Bruce Taylor and will also E mail the FLS conservator. Highland Council had also had a look at the trees. **JJ to action**
- f. Extra / Larger bins for village centre- Highland Council still to supply them. **JJ to action**
- g. Fireworks and Bonfire – this event had been well attended and had seemed to go well. If the Community Council wish to continue to organise the event next year, the license will need to be renewed.
- h. Halkirk CC, Renewable Energy – they have put on hold their plan to send a motion directed at local governance level with regard to renewable energy planning. and are focusing on live planning issues.

4. Police Matters – a information sheet entitled ‘Digital Pickpockets.... Are they a thing?’ was shared with the Community Council. A copy of this had been placed in the Village notice board and on Facebook.

5. Planning Matters

- a. 25/03223/FUL Formation of stone quarry for the repair and maintenance of existing and new forest roads, Land 715M NE of Stag Cottage, 2 Glenhurich, Polloch – noted

6. Correspondence

- a. Ardgour Community Council, Mod – additional sailings from Camasnagaul, The sailings had gone ahead.
- b. Laudale Estate Woodland Plans 2026. – The FLS conservator is also to be contacted regarding these works. **JJ to action**
- c. FLS East Loch Sheil LMP Scoping Consultation – poster - The poster had been put into the Village notice board in October. Event now past.
- d. Purchase of more dog poo bags. – This had been agreed and a new roll placed in the dispenser at the back of the Fire Station. A dispenser is on order for the path behind the hotel. Thank you to Tony Burke.
- e. Mowi Stakeholder Announcement – noted
- f. U1321 Strontian Relief Road Closure, 20th October – 8th November 2025, extended closure Work had been delayed by Storm Amy. Noted.
- g. Lochaber Community Partnership Event, 12th Nov. 2025 – noted
- h. FLS West Region warning of storm damage and closure of paths. - A lot of damage had been caused by Storm Amy and FLS were advising that it would take some time to clear paths etc.

The public are alerted to the fact therefore, that, to date, not every trail and route had been assessed and that they are likely to encounter fallen trees, debris and other obstacles which could affect or obstruct access. The clearing process could take some weeks. An information poster has been placed in the village notice board and the Community Council website.

- i. FLS – lack of funds for maintenance of visitor facilities – an E mail had been received from FLS stating that FLS West Region is facing unprecedented resource and financial challenges which are impacting on their ability to replace or repair/ maintain boardwalks at Garbh Eilean and Ariundle. At the present time they do not have the finance to cover these projects. They are investigating cheaper options and are looking to solutions in working with other public bodies and the communities which use the facilities. This situation is deemed unacceptable by the Community Council as these walks are extensively used by the community and are a vital part of both our environment and the local tourist economy. In the first instance it is to be investigate as to whether these are FLS 'core paths'. **JMC to Action**
- j. E mail – roads after the storms. - An E mail from a member of the public had been received who was concerned over the delay in fixing and tidying up dangerous trees and loose cables after Strom Amy. The Community Council felt that absolute necessary work had been carried out. Highland Council is limited to the land within 3 m proximity to the road and that some of the problems lay in very tricky conditions such as in deep ravines and/or up against large rocks. Work needs to be carried out in conjunction with the landowner.
- k. Waste Disposal Charges – The cost of emptying the community bins has increased. A larger bin has been ordered by Highland Council. Noted.

7. Dail Mhor – see below.

- 8. **Old Primary School** - Items 7. Dail Mhor, 8. Old Primary School were discussed together. Possible uses of the buildings were discussed including the Community leasing the building for a peppercorn rent / acquiring it from Highland Council. The facility would have to be run by the community but this would only work if large number of people volunteered to carry out repairs, maintenance, cleaning and of course, to use it. The potential use as an integrated child and adult care venue was one of the options put forward by Ardnamurchan Community Child Care Group. (see 12.a).

9. Corran Ferry –

- MV Corran had left for her annual refit and as of 3th Nov. she was in dry dock and work progressing well. It is expected that she will return early 2026!
- The Maid has returned and has had problems with the ramps being too steep/ long? This has apparently led to damage to some cars. The crew had to direct cars/ on off one at a time, slowing journeys down even more. Things seem to be 'back to normal' now.
- The Steering Group meeting scheduled for 27th Nov. was cancelled by Highland Council as SF was no longer available to Chair. However, it was pointed out that atleast one other councillor had already chaired a meeting and the CCs requested that the meeting go ahead as planned. This did not happen. The next one is scheduled for 8th Dec. This is felt to be too long a wait as there are a number of ongoing issues the CC wish to discuss with HC.
- The CCs are currently looking into issues concerning the MCA license (Marine and Coastguard Agency - certificate of competency) and the period of time that the licence runs for/the time that the vessels are away for refit. A letter has been sent from the CCs to Kate Forbes, Angus MacDonald and Brendan O'Hara requesting their input with Highland Council on our behalf.
- The Foot Passenger fare (including for cyclists) will be charged from 10th November.

10. Place Plan –To be finalised towards the end of the month. AG to Action

11. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account: £3220.49 Current Account: £13,455.60

- Resilience payment
As in previous years the requests from AliEnergy have been split with the Sunart Community Company. SC Company have had request from AliEnergy for 2 payments of £210.00 ie £420.00. Recommendation is to repay to SC Company £210.00 as SC Council's 50% of this payment. Agreed by meeting.
- SSE – Kingairloch Hydro Scheme Funding

The 3 Community Councils met with SSEN and a member of staff from Kate Forbes office on 7 October to discuss potential for uplift on the funding from Kingairloch Hydro Scheme. No potential for uplift as changes cannot be made retrospectively to ongoing projects. Carol Masheter will send access to system so that we can claim our share of 24/25 funding.

- RWE – Carnoch and Glen Tarbert
Report submitted and acknowledged and awaiting funds

12. Any Other Business

- a. Ardnamurchan Childcare Community Action Group –
 - Since the public meeting last year, there had been a series of meetings and discussions between ACAG, CALA (Care and Learning Association) and Highland Council which had led to the formulation of 3 possible options for the way forward.
 - Option 1 – short term – a work-based play club, play leaders would be with the children for a couple of hours morning / afternoon with parents working/ being contactable and available in the very near vicinity. This would be fairly straight forward to set up and would provide atleast some childcare provision.
 - Option 2 – explore a combined 0 – 5y provision at Strontian Nursery. This would be much more complex to set up and would not be without challenges concerning staffing, use of spaces and facilities etc. A longer day could be offered. There is the possibility that this could even be taken on as a community enterprise.
 - Option 3 – longer term - an integrated child and adult care service. This would need very specific staff training, management structure, legislation etc, and staff who could be flexible between to the two groups. There may even be an option for this to be set up in the old primary school/ care home.
 - There followed a discussion and questions from the floor concerning the three options including the status and implications for current Nursery Staff, the need for more staff and specialist staff training, the need for a robust business plan, inclusion of those with special needs, involvement of other communities across the peninsula and commitment from sufficient numbers of interested parties to make use of the service.
 - A survey is to be carried out into stakeholders' feelings on the three options and to establish what is really needed/wanted and what is actually viable. The timeline is to aim for something to be in place by August or even Christmas next year.
- b. Strontian Children's Christmas party – grant application – the meeting agreed to fund the request for money towards a Strontian Children's Christmas Party to the sum of £500.
Proposed: C Hunter Seconded: M Stewart **AG to action**
- c. Community Regeneration Funding Expression of Interest 25/26 – the requested sum of £1,000 was agreed to help fund the Men's Shed, Craft Hub and the facility in Polloch. JJ and AG declared an interest. Proposed: M Stewart Seconded: Pat Adams **AG to action**
- d. Renovation of Village Planter – the applicant was to be contacted and asked to formalise the request as coming from a group, however, the amount was agreed by the meeting.
Proposed: M Stewart Seconded: C Hunter **AG to action**

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 11th December 2025 7pm, TBA (due to local elections)