

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

7.00pm, Thursday 9th April 2026, 7.pm Village Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), J Millar-Craig (Secretary), C Hunter, P Adams, M Stewart
Apologies: A Gainsford (Treasurer), A Evans, A Hermann, T MacLennan (Councillor), A Baxter (Councillor)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No Amendments

Proposed: C Hunter Seconded: J Jones

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity – The quotation from ACT has been confirmed as £24,300. An application has been submitted to HF Holidays for £13,000 and to SCBF for £7,000. This leaves £4,300 for Sunart Community Council to contribute if all applications are successful. **AG to action**
- b. Public Toilet at Shops – JJ is now to write to question the funding of this facility and to request an inspection. **JJ to action**
- c. Trees at Parking Area Surgery/ Village Hall – ongoing **JJ to action**
- d. Join Rural Watch Scotland – PA has started putting literature provided by Rural Watch Scotland, onto the Sunart Community Council Page. This literature provides links which give useful information regarding scams, current illegal activities, home security advise etc. **PA to action**
- e. Laudale felled trees – JJ has been in touch with the appropriate persons in order to see if further clearance can be made. He is also going to contact Forestry Scotland.
- f. Laudale Estate Woodland Plans 2025 – see above **JJ to action**
- g. Extra / Larger bins for village centre- JJ has E mailed the council again. **JJ to action**
- h. FLS- lack of Funds for Maintenance of Visitor Facilities – ongoing **AG to action**
- i. New Fort William Hospital Access panel, Plans – these are to be placed in the library for a period of time. **MS to action**
- j. Have Your Say Participation and Engagement Strategy – no further action needed.
- k. Urram Questionnaire – completed.
- l. Zurich Insurance – this has been paid for year 2026/2027.
- m. New Community Support Scheme – Green Energy – this E mail had been forwarded to Sunart Community Renewables.
- n. Voluntary Action Lochaber 30th Annual General Meeting – no further action needed.
- o. On Shore Renewable Energy (Community Support) – to be carried forward **AG to Action**
- p. Wildfires Strategic Action Plan – JJ had met with CS of the Sunart Resilience group and had also been in touch with the relevant authority. They confirmed that whilst the action plan had been sent to community councils, the Action Plan was part of a National Framework and it was not intended that Community Councils etc work on it or hold any of the equipment mentioned. However, local preparedness was always to be recommended.
- q. Website for Community Projects, Community Regeneration Fund – to be carried forward.
- r. Village Clean Up – this was now scheduled for 19th April. PA to put information onto Facebook and to put posters up in the Village. PA to also get bags and gloves. **PA to Action**
- s. Strontian Playpark – Sunart Community Council had agreed to grant £4,000 towards new equipment and had sent a letter of support to Strontian Playpark Renovation Working Group. An E mail expressing their thanks had been received.
- t. Wooden Planter, Village Centre – The Community Council had granted a sum of £360 towards the replacement and replanting of the current planter.

u. Electronic 'Ferry' Sign – there is no sign in or around Strontian to say that the ferry is off. **PA to action**

4. **Police Matters** – nothing intimated.

5. **Planning Matters** –

26/00639/S42, Section 42 application to develop without compliance with Condition 4 of permission 20/01602/FUL to allow the self-catering unit to be occupied prior to the completion of the house. – noted

6. **Correspondence.**

a) Community Resilience Plans – Stress Testing Model – noted

b) Updated Guide to Planning System for Community Councils – noted

c) SSEN 2026 Powering Communities – This will be followed up with C Masheter when she is contacted again with regard to the Kingairloch Hydro Scheme **AG to action**

7. **Dail Mhor-** Urram continue to look into ways of making Dail Mhor work for the community. JJ had also written to F MacDonald with regard to Dail Mhor, the Hall and the Old Primary School. He has had no reply and has written again. If still no reply, the next step is to contact our local councillors.

8. **Old Primary School** – see above

9. **Corran Ferry**

Much against the wishes of community council representatives, Highland Council were now only scheduling the Steering Group meetings every three months. This is despite there being a lot to discuss concerning the ongoing provision for the crossing and the functioning of the MV Corran. This was exemplified when on return from her recent refit, she almost immediately broke down and was out of action again for several days. The Maid, which had been due to go off for her refit, was kept on in service. This had necessitated an extension of her operating license – something which Highland Council had previously, consistently insisted could not be done!

Community liaison meetings are now taking place to discuss the progress of the infrastructure improvement scheme. These meetings are open to the public but are aimed primarily at those in Ardgour. They are designed to update the public on the progress of the works and to answer any queries regarding the build. They are not a forum for questions regarding the 'ferries'. So far, there has been two meetings and subsequent ones are scheduled to be on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in Ardgour Village Hall.

GC has written a document which gives an overview of the handling and the approach to the management of the Corran Ferry by Highland Council, over the last few years. It is intended to be a reference document and will be sent to a variety of councillors, media outlets, newspapers etc. The other community council representatives on the Steering Group supported the production of the documents.

It is worth noting that the new electric ferry is still not yet ordered and has been added to an order consisting of a number of ferries!

10. **Place Plan** – A further E mail had been received from Highland Council but which still did not supply the population statistics needed for completion of the Place Plan. A phone call will be made. **AG to action**

11. **Treasurer's Report**

Deposit Account: £3,232.58

Current Account: £19,496.87

Book sales had brought in £174.45. Expenditure included Zurich Insurance, Zoom facilities, eVoice resilience phone line, Hall Hire and a grant to the Men's Shed. Money had also been paid to cover the lonos IT support,

All transactions are complete and draft accounts are prepared for checking.

12. Any Other Business

- a. Highland Council, Off street parking – to be held over for the next meeting.
- b. Dog Waste – problems are increasing again with dog waste not being picked up. The Community Council provides free bags at the back path but the areas most mentioned now are along the shore and the path down to Ardnastang beach. Posters to be made to encourage people to pick up after their dogs. **PA to action**
- c. It was brought to the Community Council's attention that the A861 from the Strontian Jetty all the way along to Resipole, is very rough, uneven and badly potholed. It is urgently in need of repair. **JJ to Action**

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 14th May 2026 7pm, Strontian Village Hall

Please note that the Sunart Community Council AGM will take place, Thursday 11th June, at 7pm in Strontian Village Hall. This will be immediate followed by the June meeting. All are very warmly welcomed to attend.