

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

Thursday 13th August 2026, 7.00 pm Village Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), A Gainsford (Treasurer), J Millar-Craig (Secretary), C Hunter (Vice Chair), A Herrman

Apologies: A Evans, A Baxter (MSP)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No Amendments

Proposed: J Jones Seconded: A Gainsford

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity – All paperwork had been completed prior to the start of work and thanks to ACT, David Roberston and Robbie Leyden for expediting this. The abutments and the bridge are now in place with just the path work to be completed which should take place next week. A plaque is to be made thanking those who have contributed to the project. **AG to action**
- b. Public Toilet at Shops – JJ had been in contact with Highland Council and we understand that an inspection is to be carried out. Awaiting further information. **JJ to action**
- c. Laudale felled trees – no further information received. **JJ to action**
- d. Laudale Estate Woodland Plans 2025 – noted
- e. Extra / Larger bins for village centre – still waiting for a reply/ action from Highland Council. **JJ to action**
- f. FLS- lack of Funds for Maintenance of Visitor Facilities – waiting on further information. **AG to action**
- g. On Shore Renewable Energy (Community Support) – this scheme is currently closed but AG has established that we should be eligible to submit a request for funding. Waiting for the scheme to open again. **AG to action**
- h. Electronic 'Ferry' Sign – no update available. **PA to action.**
- i. Dog Waste – looking to place a poo bag dispenser in the path at the back of the hotel. **JJ to action**
- j. State of A861 Jetty to Resipole - the condition of the surface of the road between the Jetty and Resipole, is deplorable. A letter is to be sent to A Baxter, K Willis and A. MacDonald. **JJ to action**
- k. Funding Request from Feisean Lochaber Ceilidh Trail – this had previously been approved
- l. Local Transport facilities – a suggestion has been made that a more frequent daily bus service/ transport service between Strontian and the Ferry is needed. AH to carry out a 'straw poll' to establish level of interest. **AH to action**
- m. Martyn's Law Terrorism Act 2025 – thanks were made to N Brooks who had looked into this item for the Community Council. The requirements within this document may fall more upon the Village Hall. A copy of the document to sent to JM. **JMC to action**
- n. Support for Ardnamurchan Mod 100th Anniversary – the funding had been forwarded to the committee.
- o. Craft Hub Update – the Craft Hub /Men's Shed is being insulated and clad and also being given a sloping roof. Thanks to the Community Company and Annie Harpur for their efforts on this project.
- p. Phemie's Wood Walk – JJ had been in touch with D Roberston with regard to repair of the boardwalk. Some funding from the Community Council may be needed to help with the repairs. **JJ to action**
- q. Entertainment License/Strontian Fireworks – JJ is to contact the Scouts and the Secretary of the Sunart and District Agricultural Show with regard to an application for a license. **JJ to action**

4. Police Matters –

Correspondence had been received that indicated that the police are no longer required to attend Community Council meetings and a request had been made that that this item be removed from the agenda. However, Angie and Joanie remain our local contacts and can be E mailed at any time They will also be formally invited to attend the AGM and are of course, very welcome to attend any other meetings. Minutes will also be sent every month. Our very grateful thanks go to them both for

all their time and effort on behalf of the community and we look forward to our maintaining close contact.

5. **Planning Matters** – nothing relevant

6. **Correspondence.**

- a. SCAA, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance – noted
- b. New Online Engagement Portal – this information had been shared.
- c. Community Purchase of Training Mannequins – waiting to receive a breakdown of costs. **AG to action**
- d. Playpark Survey – this item had been shared.
- e. Parking Place Order - JJ had contacted Highland Council to point out that the car park at the shop is under private ownership and does not come within their scheme.
- f. Spean Bridge Planning Enforcement Charter – a communication had been received from Spean Bridge, Roy bridge and Achnacarry Community Council regarding how their area is being blighted by unconsented planning activities. They are seeking support from other Community Councils for their suggested amendment which would strengthen Highland Council's Planning Enforcement Charter. Sunart Community Council is in agreement with their proposal. **JMC to action**
- g. National Islands Plan Update – noted
- h. Consultation re Drimnatorran Land Management Plan Amdt 2 – the proposal is to put in a road to take timber out and to open up and expand the quarry. Noted.
- i. Path Signage and Tree ID Plaques –the signposts in the village centre and the path at the back of the hotel both have broken posts. Funding will be needed to replace these posts however, it is hoped the existing finger signs are still usable. In addition, the ID plaques for the trees in the woodland also need new stakes though the plaques themselves are still usable. Funding is needed for the replacement of the posts and the stakes. Eilidh-Ann to be contacted and costs calculated. **JJ to action**
- j. Communication from Member of Community – an issue had been raised by a member of the community with the Community Council. Highland Council was consulted but it was ultimately deemed that this was not a matter for the Community Council. All are asked to familiarise themselves with Appendix 5 of the document 'Community Councils in Highland'.

7. **Dail Mhor-**

Model of Care Update – it is our understanding that NHSH has made an announcement that they are officially withdrawing from Dail Mhor. There is no threat to the Strontian GP surgery which the NHSH will retain. Urram has indicated that this facility could still be reopened if proper repairs and upgrading is carried out. A range of care and wellbeing services could then possibly be offered from the building. They will continue to push for this to happen.

JJ had had no response to his letters to Highland Council CEO and to the Head of Property concerning Dail Mhor and the old Primary School. **JJ to action**

8. **Old Primary School**

9. **Corran Ferry**

Stakeholders Meeting 11.08.2026

Maid of Glencoul – Sea trials were to be carried out 14th August, and, at the time of writing, she should be back on Sunday 17th August.

The berth for the Maid will need to be moved due to the new infrastructure works.

MV Corran – there had been a two-day outage linked to problems with the Voigt unit. The resilience plan had been brought into play but it was requested that the flit boat must come on as soon possible after the ferry is withdrawn and that information on websites etc. concerning measures put into place, must also be accurate.

The MV Corran is scheduled to be away for her refit between November this year and January 2027.

It was requested again, that while the marshals have been doing a good job, those on the Nether Lochaber side, especially when things are particularly busy, need to be at the top of the marshalling area beside the A 82 to better organise the flow of traffic. It was also

requested that the lines in the marshalling areas be repainted and the signage improved, to better enable traffic management.

It is now expected that the new E ticketing will go live at Christmas 2026. Initially, the current ticketing system will run concurrently with the new one.

10. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account: £3,242.17 Current Account: £19,268.52

The Highland Council's admin. contribution of £802.03 to the Community Council, had been received.

A request has come from the library for help with the purchase of books for the school/library. Money raised by the sale of second-hand books outside of the shop usually goes towards this but recently there has been insufficient funds raised this way. Notification of the final amount needed is still to be received.

11. Any Other Business

- a. Remembrance Wreath – this is to be ordered. **JMC to action**
- b. Sunart Community Council Website – Dean Mann has indicated to the Community Council that he will no longer be available to maintain and organise the Community Council website. The Council very much thank him for his many years of help and support with this and other matters. How the website is to be maintained in future, was discussed.

Sunart Community Council would very much like to thank Bo and Eilidh Wilson for all that they have contributed to the community over the past years. We wish them well in their new endeavours.

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 10th September 2026 7.00 pm, Strontian Village Hall