

Draft Minutes

Sunart Community Council

7.00pm, Thursday 8th January 2025, via Zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies:

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

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No amendments

Proposer: J Jones Seconder: A Gainsford

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity – AG had explained to HF Holidays that we had only been able to get one quote. They asked us to send an up-to-date quote for the work, which they would then be prepared to consider. **JJ to get quote, AG to submit to HF Holidays.**
 - b. Public Toilet at Shops – on going **JJ to action**
 - c. Trees at Parking Area Surgery/ Village Hall – to be tackled in Spring. **JJ to action**
 - d. Join Rural Watch Scotland – **JMC to contact PA**
 - e. Laudale felled trees – **JJ to action**
 - f. Laudale Estate Woodland Plans 2025 – **JJ to action**
 - g. Extra / Larger bins for village centre – these are due for delivery before the ‘holiday season’. **JJ to action**
 - h. FLS- lack of Funds for Maintenance of Visitor Facilities – Nature Scot had not replied to the E mail requesting further information. However, it may be possible that as a community Council we could raise funds or access grants to put towards boardwalks etc. **AG to action**
 - i. Community Regeneration Funding Expression of Interest 25/26 – a bank statement needs to be sent to confirm name and address otherwise resolved. **AG to action**
 - j. Community Council Zoom Account – AG will follow up to update password and make sure that the Community Council can access the account. etc. We should be able to conduct meetings with a mix of Face to Face and Zoom however this would not work with the current broadband facilities in the Village Hall. **AG to action**
4. **Police Matters** – the police would like to thank all of those who have worked tirelessly to keep the roads open during the recent snow spell and also the Loch Sheil crew who have been out helping with their machines too. All the efforts are very much appreciated.

5. Planning Matters – no notifications for Sunart

6. Correspondence

- a) Highland Community Safety and Resilience 30th Jan. – This event is to be on 30th January at UHI House, Inverness. **JJ to share with local Resilience group and to follow up to see if remote access can be provided.**
- b) ‘Ready For Winter’, Community Support and Engagement Team (West and mid Highland) – this information leaflet from Highland Council had been shared on the Community Council Facebook and webpage.
- c) Possible sighting of Hemlock Water Dropwort – a holiday maker had contacted the Community Council to share a possible sighting of this toxic plant on the Sunart shoreline. After communication with a number of bodies, the information was shared locally online and in paper poster format. Highland Council had also put it on their Facebook page. People are advised not to touch the plant nor to let dogs etc eat it.

- d) State of Track/Core Path Dail Mhor – Hotel – a member of the public had contacted the Community Council re the state of this path. However, it was unclear as to a way forward for the Community Council as some of the path is privately owned. **JJ to action.**

7. **Dail Mhor** – T MacLennan will ask FM if there is any update

8. **Old Primary School**

9. **Corran Ferry**

- At the most recent Steering Group meeting, the Community Councils representatives had had to go to some lengths to get across the fact that there were currently still issues with the ramps on the Maid. This was resulting in a more than a 'usual' number of drivers complaining of damage to their vehicles.
- Since the Steering Group Meeting, Highland Council had carried out an inspection of the ramps on the Maid. A Naval Architect had conducted an on-site assessment on Monday, 15 December. This included a review of recent refit work on the Maid of Glencoul's ramps, specifically the replacement of worn stools. The written report, received in January, indicated that initially 'there may be opportunities to improve access for 'low-slung' vehicles.' A full review of the ramp design is ongoing in preparation for the Maid's annual refit in March 2026.
- MV Corran – work is progressing but some parts still needed for emergent repairs. It is hoped that the work will be completed to enable the delivery of the MV Corran in February 2026. (Before the Maid goes away in March!)
- Highland Council had also responded with information regarding the MCA Refit Requirements as had been requested at the Steering Group meeting.
- At the Community Council meeting it was stressed that the Maid must not go off for her refit in March, if the MV Corran isn't back (so far, her return is indicated as being February 2026). Also, that when the marshals are present on the Nether Lochaber side, they should be positioned up near the road and not down at the water side. They are then in a much better position to monitor and guide the traffic appropriately. T MacLennan agreed with both of these points and will take them to Highland Council.

10. **Place Plan** - Waiting for population statistics from Highland Council

11. **Treasurer's Report**

Deposit Account: £3,225.61 Current Account: £12,622.43

RWE – Carnoch and Glen Tarbet Schemes – still waiting for a response from RWE re payment for 24/25. Will follow up again ASAP.

SSE – Kingairloch Hydro Scheme Funding – still waiting for response from Carol Masheter re access to systems and payment of Funds. Will follow up again ASAP.

A suggestion was made that the Community Council could put funds towards some oil filled radiators for the Village Hall. The current heating boilers are becoming 'old' and can be unreliable. The meeting agreed. Proposer: J Jones Seonder: A Gainsford.

12. **Any Other Business**

The Community Council also wished to express their heartfelt thanks to all of those who worked hard to keep the roads open during the recent spell of cold, snowy weather.

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 12th February 2026 7pm, Strontian Village Hall