

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

7.00pm, Thursday 14th May 2026, 7.pm Village Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), A Gainsford (Treasurer), C Hunter, M Stewart, A Evans, A Hermann

Apologies: J Millar-Craig (Secretary) K Willis (Councillor) T MacLennan (Councillor), A Baxter (Councillor)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No Amendments

Proposed: C Hunter Seconded: A Gainsford

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity – The quotation from ACT has been confirmed as £24,300. SCBF approved £7,000. An application has been submitted to HF Holidays for £13,000 and the result of the application will be known in June. £4,300 application to Sunart Community Council was approved, subject to confirmation of HF Holidays funding -. **AG to action**
- b. Public Toilet at Shops – No progress on toilets. JJ has asked HC to inspect, and this has been acknowledged. **JJ to action**
- c. Trees at Parking Area Surgery/ Village Hall – this has been completed. Trees around bottle banks need cutting back. HC to be asked to do this. **JJ to action**
- d. Join Rural Watch Scotland – Carried over for information from PA. **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. JJ has also contact Forestry Land Scotland. AG advised that Laudale are extracting further timber and stacking is on a site on Liddesdale, not sure where this is coming from. **JJ to action**
- 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 and they have asked where the additional bins are to be sited – Car Park outside the hall or by the shop. **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 – MS confirmed these were available in the Library for 3 weeks – no further action required.
- j. On Shore Renewable Energy (Community Support) – AG has requested information from Carol Masheter of SSEN – awaiting reply. **AG to Action**
- k. Village Clean Up – this was completed on the same day (Sunday) as the Dualchas Exhibition in the Church – few attendees but completed satisfactorily.
- l. Electronic ‘Ferry’ Sign – there is no sign in or around Strontian to say that the ferry is off. Carried over. **PA to action**
- m. Highland Council Parking Charges Off Street Parking – the parking area at Strontian Shop had been included in the listing. JJ wrote to HC to advise that this was private parking and should not be included. He requested confirmation that this area had been removed from the list. HC confirmed by email that it has been removed.
- n. Dog Waste – further posters required – PA to action so carried forward. T Burke has sourced cheaper additional poo bags which will be distributed as required. **AG to pay T Burke**
- o. State of A861 – Strontian Jetty to Resipole. AG brought up the state of road. JJ also mentioned the issue of the trees affecting the line of site at Longrigg junction and other parts of the road. JJ will have a discussion with local HC road crew. **JJ to Action**

- p. Short Term Let Control area – document circulated by HC to all community councils – Statement of reasons for creating these areas. 30-page document. The outcome of the document is that all future applications for Short Term lets must go through the planning process. Those in place at the moment will not be backdated. The reasoning behind this is the perceived lack of housing in the area. – Noted

4. Police Matters – nothing intimated.

5. Planning Matters –

6. 26/01330/FUL Erection of House (Renewal of 22/02570/FUL) Land North West of 27 Anaheilt Strontian – noted

7. Correspondence.

- a. Wet Course, British Divers Marine Life Rescue – carried forward
- b. Closure of B8043 Kingairloch Road – and update of dates - Noted
- c. Consultation re RSPB Glencripesdale Reserve LTFP – very short notice on feedback i.e. 7 days – not sufficient – **JJ to raise with local RSPB representatives.**
- d. Funding request from Feisean Lochaber Ceilidh Trail – discussion on funding centred on participants from Sunart area. **JMC to follow up on this. Members approved £300.00**

8. **Dail Mhor-** The Playpark group via AH asked if the benches outside of DM could be moved into the playpark. HC unsure and undertake the upkeep of the playpark and would need to agree to the move and the benches would need to be anchored down due to H & S requirements. They were also donated to DM so would need permission.

9. **Old Primary School** – Grass in playground requires cutting – not been done as part of the village grass cutting. JJ has emailed Finlay MacDonald on several occasions with no response forthcoming. JJ will email the CEO Ken Brown and copy in Councillors and our new MSP Andrew Baxter.

10. **Corran Ferry** - no update available. Work is obviously progressing on both sides of the water. Guillemots are being made homeless again. Price increase was approved without any notice and without any discussion. AB objected but to no avail. Ward manager to be contacted regarding usage statistics for the ferry. **AG to Action**

11. **Place Plan** – AG has requested that due to other commitments this work be placed on hold until the autumn. Members agreed. AG is still waiting for information regarding

12. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account: £3,235.24

Current Account: £15,677.09

Expenditure included IT support to Dean Mann and Flower Planter expenses to Susan Metcalf.

Kirsty MacIntyre will check over the accounts in time for the AGM in June.

Funding from SSEN for Kingairloch Hydro Scheme has been formally applied for on their own system and a payment of £2,880.31 will be received in due course. This covers 2024/25 and 2025/26.

13. Any Other Business

- a. Computing and Cookery classes S1 to S3 - AE advised the members that there was the possibility of computing and cookery classes for S 1,2 and 3 not being available in the Ardnamurchan High School as from August 2026 due to a funding shortfall.

UHI staff used to teach both computing and cookery classes. These subjects would still be available for S4 to S6 students, but with no basic grounding in the subjects, it might be difficult for students to catch up. Given the importance of cookery, computing and IT skills in this day and age the members advised that the PTC should take this up with the CEO and the head of education at Highland Council and with our local Councillors to see what influence they might have on this matter. **SCC to review this point at later meetings.**

- b. Local transport facilities – AH brought up the issue of local transport facilities out with the Shiel Buses service. Her son has had to move out of the village and not live at home to attend college due to the lack of daily transport at an appropriate time. AE asked if there was any way a transport facility could be put in place which will allow local residents with no access to vehicles to travel from Ardgour to Strontian (and beyond) on a regular basis or on a bookable basis so that they could attend night classes, go to the cinema etc. Transport between Fort William and the ferry is at least hourly going to Kinlochleven, Glasgow, and Oban. Members will consider this again and have discussions with the Community Company board, other Community Councils as well as local Councillors. **AH/JJ to action.**

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 11th June 2026 7pm, Strontian Village Hall. This will also be the Sunart Community Council AGM followed by the normal June Meeting. **JMC to post agenda for AGM and Meeting on Facebook at least 2 days in advance. PA to put posters on Noticeboard, in Post Office and Library.**