

Minutes

Sunart Community Council

Thursday 10th September 2026, 7.00 pm Village Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: J Jones (Chair), A Gainsford (Treasurer), J Millar-Craig (Secretary), C Hunter, P Adams, M Stewart and one member of the public

Apologies: A Herrman, A Evans

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)

No Amendments

Proposed: A Gainsford Seconded: C Hunter

3. Matters Arising

- a. Bridge on Fairies Road / HF Holidays Pathways Fund Charity –awaiting the funds from HF holidays. AG plans a ribbon cutting, formal opening of the bridge. The bridge is to have plaques on it denoting those who contributed funds and who have helped with its build and replacement. **AG to action**
 - b. Public Toilet at Shops – Highland Council visited the toilets and has deemed that on the day of inspection, they were ‘satisfactory’. Still some follow through required. **JJ to action**
 - c. Laudale felled trees – N Robertson to be invited to a Community Council meeting. **JJ to action.**
 - d. Extra / Larger bins for village centre – ongoing **JJ to action**
 - e. FLS- lack of Funds for Maintenance of Visitor Facilities – ongoing **AG to action**
 - f. On Shore Renewable Energy (Community Support) – waiting for scheme to open again **AG to action**
 - g. Electronic ‘Ferry’ Sign – waiting for a reply from Highland Council. **PA to action**
 - h. Dog Waste – a dispenser is now available but will need permission to install it. EAP to be contacted. **JJ to action**
 - i. State of A861 Jetty to Resipole - waiting for a reply. **JJ to action**
 - j. Local Transport facilities – AH had sent in a report stating that she had contacted Urram and is waiting for a reply and that she is also waiting for some parents to get back to her. **AH to action**
 - k. Martyn’s Law Terrorism Act 2025 – JMC had contacted the Village Hall committee with the information, they passed on their thanks, however they were already aware of this Terrorism act.
 - l. Phemie’s Wood Walk – in order to repair the non-core paths, we would have to provide the materials and any board walks worked on would have to be made/repared using hand tools in order to meet insurance requirements. EA P and the paths group to be contacted. **JJ to action**
 - m. Entertainment License/Strontian Fireworks – license application in progress **JJ to action**
 - n. Community Purchase of Training Mannequins – still waiting to be given an indication of money needed. Other Community Councils, who also benefit from training mannequins being held locally, to be approached. **AG to action**
 - o. Spean Bridge Planning Enforcement Charter - an amendment has now been received. Sunart Community Council still looking to support. **JMC to action**
 - p. Path Signage and Tree ID Plaques – waiting to hear the quantity of wood needed for the posts. Hopeful of being able to reuse the ‘fingers’. **JJ to action**
 - q. Remembrance wreath – wreath has arrived. A Sunart Community Council label to be made. **JMC to action**
 - r. Sunart Community Council Website – a name had been suggested for the take-over of the management of this. **JMC to action**
4. **Planning Matters** – 26/03344/PIP Erection of House, Land 75m South of Craigstuart, Strontian – noted
5. **Correspondence.**
- a. Closure of Fort William Post Office – this closure is very much regretted.
 - b. New Strontian Ambulance Technician – Accommodation – name of the individual is on the waiting list. Community Council members to keep ‘ears open’ for any other possibilities.
 - c. Communities Housing Trust AGM Fri 18th Sept. Zoom. - noted

- d. Local Fire and Resue Plan for Highland – CS of the Resilience Group has been contacted regarding this item.
 - e. Permanent Shelter on the Village Green – waiting to hear the results.
 - f. Community Facility Projects for Local Development Plan Delivery – noted **AG to action**
 - g. Highland Council A884 Lochaline Road, Temporary Closure from 15th September. JMC had asked for this to be placed on the SCC webpage. This had been done.
 - h. Piping and Drumming tuition. – E mail regarding the need for local tutoring and other matters - noted
6. **Dail Mhor-** JJ had sent a number of E mails with regard to the situation with Dail Mhor and the Old Primary School Building, he has had no reply. Now writing to D Brown. **JJ to action**

7. Old Primary School - see above.

8. Corran Ferry

There has been no Stakeholders' group meeting since the last CC meeting. Community Council representatives have been trying to establish whether any pre-inspection reports were prepared before the Maid went away, as the Group had requested. This is with a view to hopefully shortening the time she has to spend in dock by knowing in advance the work needing carried out and enabling parts to be pre-ordered.

The Maid is now back and is currently berthed in Fort Willaim. The annual refit of MV Corran will commence on 1st November at which time, the Maid will cover as the relief vessel.

9. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account: £3,244.28 Credit Account: £13,599.26

Request for funding for purchase of books for school/library

Detailed costs for the books is £215.00 and the funds raised from the sale of 2nd hand books is £213.69, cost to the Community Council therefore is £2.31

10. Any Other Business

- a. Resilience Group – CS is to be invited to attend the Community Council meetings. **JMC to action.**
- b. Horse Manure on Various Paths around the Village – some of the paths around the village are very narrow and horse riders are politely asked if they could move any horse manure over to the side of the path. This will help those with push chairs, of limited mobility etc better access the paths.
- c. Overnight Parking – a number of campervans are using the Show Field car park as an overnight stop. Highland Council had been contacted regarding the 'No Overnight Parking' sign which has apparently been removed. Permission has been given to put up a temporary sign. TC will erect another formal sign. **PA to action.**
- d. Heating in Village Hall – a query was raised as to why the heating was always on in the Village Hall. This is to better protect the fabric of the building. Noted.
 Highland Council Visitor Levy – a member of the public raised the issue of Highland Council's proposal to impose a Visitor Levy. If such a levy were to be introduced, then a percentage charge was considered to be fairer than a flat rate charge. This is particularly relevant in the case of levy charges for example, on tents in camp sites. Therefore, if replying to the consultation, those who are in favour of a levy, are asked to request a percentage charge rather than a flat rate.
 Concern was also expressed that 'wild campers' and 'roadside parking' campervans etc would not pay any levy. It was feared that this would further adversely affect local businesses such as campsites.

Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 8th October 2026 7.00 pm, Strontian Village Hall