

Meeting of the Gairloch Community Council 11 Aug 2025 – Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies.

Members present: John Beck, Karen Buchanan, Alex Gray, Terry Hooper, Luciana Maclean, Bob Widdows (chair), Cllr Liz Kraft.
Also present: Mary Gibson, Zoe Spyropoulos. Apologies: Rachel Wareham, Pat Gulliver.

2. Approval of previous minutes

Draft minutes were approved (P: AG, S: JB)

3. Matters arising

- Alex had circulated contact details for Highland Access Ranger and added him to circulation list.
- **Gairloch Museum Roundhouse** Previous presentation, erected outline and draft planning application were discussed at length. Members agreed to suggest relocation preferably to the rear of the museum, or possibly within the existing development envelope, to south of the currently proposed position.
- **Glebe lease** – No word yet from Church of Scotland solicitor – chaser sent.
- **Police report** – No June or July report received. Cllr Kraft reported that councillors had received a report for North area.
- **Roads** – requested patching on the road from Gairloch to Kerrysdale has been carried out. Grass cutting now being followed up. Still no response re faulty road signs reported by AG – **Action: Cllr Kraft to follow up.**
- **Community resilience planning** – on hold until winter.
- **Access to Opinan Beach** – outcome of funding application not expected until Oct.
- **Housing** – John Beck attended July meeting and provided a report supplementary to the minutes. Cllr Kraft reported difficulties in arranging lease to NHS Highland of key worker home, and forwarded documentation of process.
- **First Responders** – Fundraising of up to £15k is needed for their grab bags. **Action: Bob W to look for funding.**
- Still no substantive response from the **Co-op** or its developers re requests, including recycling soft plastics, pods & batteries, and parking bay improvements. May have to wait now until store operational.
- Application process for **Invitation to Pay** fund was discussed. Cllr Kraft provided figures for funds available and forwarded a report of review by area committee. Suggested that we put out a call for local groups that might benefit to approach the CC.
- Community Council Convention on **proposed new powerlines** invited us to attend a further meeting with MPs and MSPs for the affected areas. Decided not to attend, and to request pressure group does not include GCC in its figures for supporters. **Action: AG to write.**

4. Planning

– Regarding previous concerns over proposals for development on sea side of road west of the village, AG confirmed response date had passed before previous meeting. Latest planning lists noted – no responses needed.

5. Treasurer's report

– current bank balance slightly up at £15,559. Available reserve £9,142. Thanks were expressed to all the local businesses who supported the flower tubs.

6. Correspondence received

– following items were noted:

- Fortnightly **Highland Council Community Briefings**. Of note: a new Directory of Services, the Winter Fuel Scheme and the Repair Directory.
- Request for assistance with funding application from **Gairloch Sitooterie**. Agreed to assist with application.
- As noted earlier, **Gairloch Museum** sent a copy of its draft planning application for the replica roundhouse.
- Correspondence from residents and members regarding the state of paths and roads – discussed in AOCB.
- Response from Highland Council on proposed **retiming of Thursday Westerbus** suggested by WLECC. *See AOCB.*

7. Any other competent business

- Concerns regarding the state of **various local paths** were discussed. Particularly:
 - Pier Road / Braeside Road to Beach (An Ard, core path)
 - Crasg down to the beach
 - Path from museum down to Low Road (core path)

Highland Council response is that it feels the paths concerned are generally the respective landowners' responsibility, but it does have discretionary power to do work on core paths. AG reported that a previous CC had agreed with HC to abandon the Crasg path to the beach. It was felt this should have a warning sign of the risks.

[Post-meeting note: Low Road path was trimmed on the day of meeting.]

- A vote of thanks was passed for **Duncan Morrison** for his cleaning up all the weeds on the road along the front. Cllr Kraft advised that support materials and PPE are available for such community action.
- The Needles and Pins groups requested permission to display a poppy net on the community council benches. There were no objections.
- Proposed retiming of Thursday's Gairloch–Ullapool Westerbus 707 was suggested by WLECC, so that a connection with the Citylink bus to Inverness can be made at Braemore. This would mean the Westerbus running about 15 minutes earlier than at present. Members agreed to support this proposal. **Action: AG to advise WLECC.**

8. Date of next meeting

– Monday 8 September.