

Meeting of the Gairloch Community Council

Gairloch Community Hall Loft Room

7.30 pm Monday 8th September 2025

Draft Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies. Present:** John Beck, Alex Gray, Terry Hooper, Cllr Liz Kraft, Rachel Wareham, Bob Widdows (chair). **Also present:** Peter Buxton, Pat Gulliver. **Apologies:** Karen Buchanan, Luciana Maclean.
2. **Approval of previous minutes** – approved (P: Bob Widdows, S: John Beck).
3. **Matters arising**
 - **Gairloch Museum Roundhouse** Museum reported that it would be submitting a planning application for a slightly repositioned location. Various aspects discussed, and agreed to make submission noting proposed contravention of adopted development and place plans.
 - **Glebe lease** – Lease finally received from Church of Scotland solicitor – several members will review, secretary will pass it to GAD for information.
 - **Police report** – Police reports for July & August received. Members would like to know the nature of the reported vandalism of harbour toilets.
 - **Roads** – Still no response re faulty road signs reported to Highland Council, Cllr Kraft said she had passed details on but had no response yet – ongoing.
 - **Community resilience planning** – on hold. Noted that under the banner ‘Get Set September’, northern councils are running resilience awareness weeks for the public.
 - **Access to Opinan Beach** – outcome of funding application not expected until Oct.
 - **Housing** – No August meeting of local Housing Partnership, next is 16 Sept. Duncan Mackenzie happy to meet the Partnership to discuss options. JB to join the Communities Housing Trust AGM by Zoom on 19 Sept, and also to forward minutes of the Housing Partnership to the CC.
 - **First Responders** –SAS is attempting to arrange a joint training session for both Gairloch and Torridon late Sept/early Oct. Fundraising for at least six grab bags more urgent now. GWC has been approached for funding, other suggestion to be followed.
 - Informal meeting with the new **Co-op** manager set for 18 Sept with PG & AG
 - Wrote to Community Council Convention on **proposed new powerlines** to request pressure group does not include GCC in its figures for supporters.
 - Agreed to progress Invitation to Pay car park grant application made for **Gairloch Sitooterie** bulb planting, and consider application including flower tubs next year.
4. **Planning** – Representations received from several Melvaig residents asking CC to support objections to proposed pods [25/02915/FUL](#) . Agreed that no community-wide material reasons to object. However, CC will comment on apparent failure of process regarding neighbour notifications and lack of communication from planning. Cllr Kraft outlined possibility of short-term let controls being introduced which could bring powers to limit over-provision of such accommodation in future.

5. **Treasurer's report** – bank balance slightly up at £15,739. Available reserve £9,322.
6. **Other correspondence received** – following items were noted:
 - Multiple emails received concerning aforementioned **Melvaig planning** application.
 - Fortnightly **Highland Council Community Briefings**.
 - Invitation to attend an SSEN presentation on the **Western Isles Link** cable intended to pass through Little Lochbroom. Badcaul 11 September 6-8pm. Cllr Kraft urged members to attend in support of Lochbroom CC.
 - **The Conservation Volunteers** community network membership has been renewed.
 - Invitation from DTAS to attend online **Community Right to Buy** consultation event (clashed with CC meeting).
 - Community grants offered by the **Electrical Safety Fund** for electrical safety projects.
 - **SSEN Community stakeholder** details have been updated. Cllr Kraft explained work on the Social Renewables Charter aiming to get fair compensation both for directly affected communities and the region as a whole, to avoid a 'postcode lottery'. She also forwarded more detailed papers and contact names for the scheme.
 - John Beck to pass details of **Community Housing Trust** AGM to housing partnership.
 - Car Park **Invitation to Pay** scheme grant application form received. Cllr Kraft agreed that it is not ideally suited to its purpose and will feed back to council.
 - Letter from Highland Caravan and Campsites Association (considered in AOCB).
7. **Any other competent business**
 - **Highland Caravan and Campsites Association** asks for our support of its campaign to stop what it calls Highland Council's unregulated overnight parking of motorhomes. General consensus that rather than drawing revenue from local campsites, it was more likely to be drawing in people who would otherwise park in other car parks and random spaces locally. While recognising the various concerns, on balance members supported the scheme. However, formal confirmation was sought from Highland Council that the council does not need to register the car park as a caravan site.
 - **2 Raonmor** – AG to pass on details of lettings agents to the empty homes officer to pursue bringing the house back into use.
 - Cllr Kraft reported that she and road safety officer would be visiting Gairloch Primary in connection with its campaign for a better **road crossing** by the new Co-op.
 - AG to ask Phil Waite to prioritise Highland Council attention to **weakened footbridge** on beach path.
 - **Peter Buxton** was thanked for clearing up scattered branches in the cemetery after the recent storm. Cllr Kraft to ask relevant people to take away dead branches. Peter also offered to refurbish the old bench on the beach path.
 - Terry Hooper will follow up issue of **strimming at flower tubs** with Douglas Miles.
 - Peter B noted the imminent entry to service of a new **air ambulance**, and provided information regarding donations to the service.
8. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 13 October.