

Wester Loch Ewe Community Council (WLECC)

Summary of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on 1 October 2025 in Poolewe Village Hall.

1. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting.

1.1 Pictish Stone protection and Red Smiddy interpretive facility. We are continuing to investigate sources of funding so that we can decide whether to go ahead with the conservation work on the Pictish Stone. We will be taking up the offer of a laser scan of the burial ground and Pictish Stone as it has been offered free of charge. The paperwork for the installation of the interpretive panel at the Red Smiddy is complete and has been submitted to Historic Environment Scotland so we can move ahead once permission is received.

1.2 Sheep in Poolewe Burial Ground: There has been no progress on making permanent repairs to the wall and reinstating the fence on top of it so we will arrange a meeting with senior Highland Council management to see if we can move the matter forward.

1.3 Poolewe football field. The repairs to the fence have not been done by Highland council yet. As a result of a suggestion from a member of the public we will take the opportunity to ask HC to replace the standard stock fence with deer fencing to help reduce the number of ticks in the area.

1.4 A832 proposed closure. We wrote to SSEN stating our objections to their original plan. SSEN have now issued notice of two new consultations on a revised plan which will be held on 27th October 6-8pm in Aultbea Hall and 28th October 6-8pm in Badcaul Church.

2. Roads. We have arranged a site visit by Highland Council Roads to see our road defects and to agree revised speed limit signage. It is currently scheduled for 21st October and we are pleased to see two senior managers from HC (Ian Moncrieff, Roads Operations and Tracey Urry, Roads & Infrastructure) will be attending as we consider their presence crucial to getting our roads issues resolved.

3. Wester Loch Ewe helipad and land acquisition. The WLET application to Highland Council's Community Regeneration Fund has been submitted. Extensive survey work on the land to be purchased has taken place as part of the planning work required for the Scottish Land Fund Stage 2 funding application. The ground survey work has not thrown up any unexpected issues. Conceptual drawings showing the various projects have been produced and these were shared with the public at two well-attended drop-in sessions.

4. Community Christmas Lunch. We have provisionally booked the Golf Links Cafe for Thursday 18th December. There are a few places available and we invite any Wester Loch Ewe residents, who have not previously attended and would like to go, to get in touch with Mairi on 781424, or Alison on 781202.

5. Bank closure. We discussed this and accepted that there was little we can do to stop this going ahead. However, we will write to ask what steps the bank intends to take to provide services for the substantial proportion of our community who do not have internet access.

6. Strathburn House. We wrote to the manager of Strathburn House to congratulate him and his team on what they have achieved in getting the facility reopened and in the unannounced inspection.

7. Date of next meeting. We will not be holding a meeting in November so the next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 3rd December 2025 in Poolewe Village Hall.