

# Meeting of the Gairloch Community Council

*Gairloch Community Hall Loft Room*

**7.30 pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## Draft Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Members present:** John Beck, Alex Gray, Terry Hooper, Bob Widdows, Cllr Liz Kraft (*Zoom*).

**Also present:** Peter Buxton, Mary Gibson, Pat Gulliver, James Struthers.

**Apologies:** Karen Buchanan, Rachel Wareham.

### 2. Approval of previous minutes – minutes of 10 Nov 2025 approved (P:TH S:JB)

### 3. Matters arising

- **Glebe lease** – following discussion with church, proposed changes to lease have been submitted. Church's formal response awaited.
- **Police report** – November report awaited. Up to two members invited to attend by Teams the **Inspector's quarterly community council meeting**.
- **Roads** – No action yet on faulty road signs reported to Highland Council – *ongoing*.
- **Community resilience planning** – discussed as item 6
- **Access to Opinan Beach** Estate has confirmed approval of project. Contractor has confirmed original pricing will stand. Waiting on start date.
- **Housing** – Latest Housing Partnership meeting 18 November, no report as KB not present. Some discussion of aims and constitution of housing partnership.
- **Gritting bins** – Peter Buxton reported little progress on council filling/refurbishing grit bins, but some grit piles have been deposited. Cllr Kraft to resubmit bins survey.
- **First Responders** – training to go ahead in January for 6-8 volunteers. Kit bags should ideally be obtained in February. Awaiting GWC & GAMS funding requests – *ongoing*.
- Update from Highland Council on **weak footbridge** on beach path. Following meeting with contractor they plan to replace the bridge with a culvert as it could be wider and require less future maintenance. Consents being sought from SEPA.

Discussion also brought up renewed plea for major capital funding to replace single track road through **Kerrysdale**. Cllr Kraft explained some of major capital projects funding process. Stromeferry Bypass also needing very large investment.

### 4. Treasurer's report

- Bank balance £26,582, cash down £294 mainly owing to paying coming year's Glebe rent. Available reserve £9,215.
- Sitooterie/car park ItP grant received and paid out to Sitooterie, which sent grateful thanks. Two further expressions of interest in applying to ItP fund, but neither confirmed yet; both under £500.

## 5. Planning

- Re 25/03362/FUL: Roundhouse, still pending planning decision
- New applications – no CC comment on any of these:
  - Erection of agricultural shed, Sannda Mhor, 12A Big Sand.
  - Erection of an extension, Camus Mor, Big Sand.
  - Alterations and extensions to the School Flat, The Old School, Opinan.

6. **Resilience Planning** – following circulation of James Struthers’s proposed strategy for developing a rigorous resilience plan for the area, there was a wide-ranging discussion and general agreement with the plan. Also noted the importance of future years’ management and revision of the plan once developed. James’s offer to manage implementation of the initial strategy was gratefully accepted. John Beck volunteered to be a member of the necessary working group to be constituted under the CC.

## 7. Correspondence received

Following items received, actions where noted:

- Updated **Highland Community Council Scheme of Establishment** has been agreed. Gives Gairloch population as 1080, so 9 CC members max, 5 minimum, quorum of 4. Two youth members, and associate members may be appointed.
- Info from Andrew Thompson of **Bad an Sgalaig Croft**, on plans for protecting and expanding native woodland on the croft.
- Update and request from John Wood for support maintaining **Pocket Orchards**, and ideas for further developments in this area. Peter Buxton to discuss with him.
- Fortnightly **Highland Council Community Briefing**.
- **Highland Social Value Charter** received via Liz Kraft.
- **WLECC & ACC draft minutes**.
- Conservation Volunteers **TCV Greenzine**, and short survey.
- **Scottish Water’s Engage: Stakeholder Edition Autumn/Winter 2025**, newsletter.
- Invitation to attend **GALE AGM 11 Dec** – Bob W to represent GCC.
- Highland Council **Tree Management Policy** from Cllr Kraft.
- A **petition** organised by the **John Muir Trust** who want the Scottish Government to review planning legislation, saying wild places must be protected from runaway industrialisation, and communities must be listened to when assessing major energy developments.
- Information about a permanent **job opportunity** working across West Highland – Manager (Pupil Residential Services).
- **North Highland Initiative Autumnal Recap** newsletter. Invites applications for Community Infrastructure Support Programme grants of up to £2000.
- **Scottish Community Alliance** newsletter.
- Scottish Community Development Centre research into **Trust and Transparency in Government** – survey closes 10 December.
- The **Highland Sustainable Development Summit** report

## 8. Any other competent business

- Members were invited to a **preview evening** at the new Co-op store
- Suggestion for guests to perform **Co-op opening ceremony** – include the Junior Road Safety team.
- Agreed to take up **Wester Ross Biosphere** associate membership. Noted that its AGM has been postponed, and it has core funding challenges.
- James S suggested that CC should consider membership of the new **Loch Ewe Community Enterprise** – all agreed. Shares to be held by officers.
- Agreed to pursue a **Dark Skies policy** for the local area, with a view to accreditation
- MG reported maintenance **problems with litter picking box** in Pier Road – Peter B will check it out.
- Peter B asked if council could clear long-standing **rubbish in Pier Road car park** – Cllr Kraft to forward request.

## 9. Date of next meeting – Monday 12 January 2026, 7.30pm Loft Room.