

Meeting of the Gairloch Community Council

Gairloch Community Hall Loft Room

7.30 pm Monday 12th January 2026

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members present: John Beck, Karen Buchanan*, Alex Gray, Terry Hooper, Rachel Wareham*, Bob Widdows, Cllr Liz Kraft*; [**by Zoom*]

Also present: Charlie Burrow, Peter Buxton, Pat Gulliver.

Apologies: Mary Gibson, James Struthers.

2. Approval of previous minutes – minutes of 08 Dec 2025 (P: TerryH S:JohnB)

3. Matters arising

- **Glebe lease** – following discussion with church, proposed changes to lease have been submitted. Church advised response will be delayed owing to sick leave.
- **Police report** – Nov & Dec reports noted. Nothing specific to Gairloch area. Some discussion of lack of personal attendance by local police at CC meetings. Up to two members were invited to attend by Teams the **Inspector's quarterly community council meeting**, online 13 Jan – Karen to attend for CC and report back.
- **Roads** – No update yet on faulty road signs reported to Highland Council – *ongoing*.
- **Community resilience planning** James provided a draft Working Group plan and draft email to invite proposed members. In James's absence, his progress report was tabled. All accepted, and thanked James for progressing this.
- **Access to Opinan Beach** Contractor proposed starting this week, but on hold as estate wants a site meeting prior to commencement. Terry & John to arrange asap
- **Housing** – The Housing Project Officer post is open for applications; Charlie Burrow explained the role. Next Housing Partnership meeting not yet advised – anticipated it will be after appointment of new officer. At this point it would also be appropriate for JB to confirm invitation to the estate to attend.
- **Gritting bins** – no sign of work on required refills/refurbishments. Further discussion of related issues, Cllr Kraft advised emailing specific concerns re gritting to Iain Moncreiff. It was suggested the refurbishments might be done in summer, but Cllr Kraft advised the relevant staff would be deployed on roads capital projects then.
- **First Responders** – training booked at end of Jan for six volunteers. GWC has made a generous grant towards kit, awaiting GAMS decision to complete initial funding. CC invited to send a rep to a discussion of proposed coverage areas of responders.
- No further update from Highland Council on **weak footbridge** to beach path.
- BobW gave a brief report on matters arising at **GALE AGM**. Members restated desire for a GALE rep to attend meetings regularly; Charlie offered to follow up at GALE.
- Peter Buxton has offered support to John Wood in tidying up **Pocket Orchards**
- No moves yet on looking at **Dark Skies Accreditation** for the area. JB summarised the idea and indicated it would be a long-term project, working towards accreditation.

- No action yet on request for council to clear long-term rubbish in **Pier Road car park**
Cllr Kraft advised that HC staff were wary of removing material that might be wanted.
PeterB advised one abandoned boat was his and could be removed.
- **Wester Ross Biosphere** – membership applied for, but nothing heard back yet.

4. Treasurer's report

- Bank balance £31,510.01, up mainly owing to receipt of GWC First Responders grant.
Available reserves little changed, at £9,142.83.
- Shares in **Loch Ewe Community Enterprise** – agreed to subscribe £100.
- One response following up on interest in applying to ItP to fund an individual's
mountain cycling training award course costing about £470. Members approved.

5. Planning

- 25/03362/FUL: Museum Roundhouse, still pending planning decision
- New applications in GCC area:
 - **Torliath, 8 Strath, Gairloch** – Change of use from residential to HMO. CC is a
statutory consuler for this, and members had concerns regarding inadequacy of
access road and of septic tank soakaway for the likely increase in occupancy –
comment to be submitted regarding these aspects.

Further discussion of apparent failures to give required neighbour notifications –
Cllr Kraft to follow up with planning dept.
 - **Gairloch Museum** – Geological timeline from museum to Carn Dearg – noted
 - **Shore House, Big Sand** – Erection of extension to house – noted.

6. Correspondence received

The following items noted as available in the shared folder or by external links.

- Request to complete **Child Poverty Action Plan** survey by Monday 19th.
- **DTAS Newsletter** Winter 2025 edition including newly-launched manifesto
- **TCV Greenzine** | Nature-filled Bumper Festive Edition
- **Foundation Scotland** December 2025 E-Bulletin.
- **STP Funding Finder** January 2026 edition.
- Free training programme from **Planning Aid Scotland** Jan to March.
- **North Highland Initiative** Annual Review 2025.
- **Parish Online Newsletter** Christmas/year-end edition.
- **Connecting Carers** - Initial findings of research on unpaid Carers with disabilities and
long-term health conditions.
- **Energy Efficiency Scotland** Community Benefits funding invitation.
- Seasonal newsletter from **Highland Community Interest Company**.
- Highland Third Sector Interface – **Community Safety and Resilience event**, co-hosted
with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Inverness 30 Jan 1000-1600
- Fortnightly **Highland Council Community Briefing**.

7. Any other competent business

- Farm & Garden concerned at Co-op apparently competing on sales of firewood/coal. Members felt a general assurance had been give for non-competition on broad lines of food, but that this was not absolute. AG to advise Co-op management.
- **Recycling Centre** white goods area was reported as full with no date for emptying; Cllr Kraft agreed to follow up.
- Peter B suggested planting bulbs in **flower tubs** to provide a spring display prior to the summer flowers Members agreed – AG to settle details and finance with PB. Also approved expenditure on litter-picking box and materials for Pier Road.

8. Date of next meeting – Monday 9 February 2026, 7.30pm Loft Room.

AG advised he may be unable to attend, so someone else may be required to take minutes and set up Zoom.