

Meeting of Gairloch Community Council

Gairloch Community Hall Loft Room

7.30 pm Monday 13th April 2026

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome, apologies

Present: John Beck, Alex Gray, Bob Widdows, Rachel Wareham, Terry Hooper, Cllr Liz Kraft.
Others present: Peter Buxton, Mary Gibson, Pat Gulliver, PC Stephen Weir.
Apologies: James Struthers.

2. Approval of previous minutes – minutes of 9 March 2026 approved (P: TH , S: AG)

3. Matters arising

Glebe lease – For GAD Ltd, PG advised that owing to a range of factors, including a general lack of public support, it no longer wished to manage or develop the Glebe park. The question of possible ownership was raised; Cllr Kraft indicated that the Highland Council feels that holding property opens a CC to greater risk of adverse legal actions. It was agreed provisionally that the CC would decline to renew the lease, but would first advertise this intention to the community.

Roads – no news on faulty road signs reported to Highland Council. Cllr Kraft advised that a new team was in place, and need to organise itself – *ongoing*.

Community resilience planning – written update received from James Struthers reported on second meeting of working group, which focused on identifying practical, deliverable actions. Priority risks were identified and discussed, common consequences and response requirements mapped, and a number of core resilience needs agreed. BobW offered to attend the resilience team if advice regarding back-up power were required.

Housing – understood that a Project Officer has been appointed, but no confirmation.

Gritting bins – updates received from Cllr Kraft and Peter Buxton. Peter plans to undertake a full survey of the bins and their conditions. Cllr Kraft asked that the public also report any problem bins, and pay attention to keeping lids closed.

First Responders – reported that the scheme has launched successfully, and has seen action. Plans are in hand to establish coverage for Isle Ewe, but will need further funding. Modest success with public appeal, but much more funding required.

Pier Road car park rubbish still not cleared, but Cllr Kraft said that plans were now in hand.

Recycling Centre – white goods collection appears still to be a problem. Cllr Kraft advised that problems had arisen with the contractor, and new arrangements were being made.

Loch Ewe Community Enterprise – James Struthers provided a written report.

The Scottish Land Fund stage 2 application has been submitted. Discussions also in hand with Highland Council regarding potential rating liability after acquisition.

Pocket Orchards Update from Peter Buxton re liaison with police re tidying the area. PC Weir had been in touch with Police Scotland estates, who said they would look after it. He also expressed a hope that Police Scotland would be amenable to community action.

4. Treasurer's report

Bank balance £9,196. Opinan Path now paid for apart from signage. Terry H to advise the estate, and get approval for signage. VAT refund of £3652 pending. Unrestricted reserves £8904. Full details in the monthly report.

5. Planning

Following items of local relevance were noted:

26/01026/FUL Subsequent to CC representations regarding parking, Gairloch Museum plans to construct a hard standing at the Carn Dearg end of its archaeological timeline.

24/00395/FUL Application granted for access road and bridge to a house to be built immediately behind the existing bothy on the path by Loch Bad an Scalaig.

25/04825/PIP Renewal of permission for house 800m east of Shieldaig Farm.

26/00914/LBC Listed building consent for "Replacement doors and extract ventilation" at the Old Police Station, Gairloch

6. Correspondence received

As agreed, only items of likely direct relevance to Gairloch CC are individually noted.

The following items of note received:

- Letter from GAD Ltd re Glebe – *discussed under Matters Arising*
- Fortnightly Highland Council Community Briefings
- Highland Community Council Scheme of Establishment 2025 as approved
- Updated Guide to the Planning System for Community Councils
- Flood Risk Management Phase 1 Consultation (ends 22 April)
- Highland Council (Off Street Parking Places) variation order – proposes to introduce mandatory charging for motorhome stays in the Harbour Invitation to Pay car park – Cllr Kraft was unfamiliar with this, but agreed to look into it further – *see AOCB*.
- Police reports for Ward 5 for January, February and March (in Police Reports folder). Offences were dangerous driving, speeding, driving under influence of drugs/alcohol. Working of 20 mph limits discussed with PC Weir.
- Funding Finder for March 2026
- Repair and Re-use Fund reopening
- Scottish Forestry invitation to comment on an application for a grant for reforestation at Bad an Scalaig. *No comment*.
- Views sought on evidence of Rental and STL enforcement failures by Highland Council
- Correspondence on resilience planning – *passed directly to resilience planning group*
- GAP Litter Buster Stats for February 2026
- Opportunity for young people in Wester Ross Biosphere – UNESCO competition.
- Invitation to DTAS Annual Conference Sept 2026

7. Any other competent business

Cllr Kraft was asked whether the mandatory charges to be levied on motorhomes in the ItP car park will still go into the revenue share for community benefit – she will investigate the proposal. CC reservations about the proposal to be communicated to Highland Council. AG suggested that the official Statement of Reasons for the variation do not seem justified in the case of the Harbour car park (and potentially more widely)?

A resident expressed concern that there are no signs around the Pier Road junction to warn motorists of the likelihood of ducks being on the road. Previous signs appeared to have been stolen. Cllr Kraft was asked to see if we can get new signs put in place by the council, but she advised this wouldn't normally be done.

Concerns raised about surface water drainage on the A832 from the ex-bank towards the village. Cllr Kraft agreed to urge Highland Council to attend to this more effectively.

JB raised the question of maintenance of the path over An Ard from the beach to the harbour, in particular the eroded steps. All agreed it is in a poor state, but unclear as to who would be responsible for maintenance. Noted that it is a designated Core Path. The estate to be approached to ask about maintenance.

8. Date of next meeting – Monday 11 May 2026, 7.30pm Loft Room.

[Post-meeting: agreed the AGM date to coincide with the June meeting.]