

Meeting of Gairloch Community Council

Gairloch Community Hall Loft Room

Following the AGM Monday 8th June 2026

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies

Present: Alex Gray, Terry Hooper, Cllr Liz Kraft, Rachel Wareham, Bob Widdows (chair)
Others present: Peter Buxton, Mary Gibson, Pat Gulliver (GAD), Zoe Spyropoulos
Apologies: Luciana Maclean

2. Approval of previous minutes – minutes of 11 May 2026 were approved (P: TH, S: BW)

3. Matters arising

Glebe lease – Secretary confirmed that the Church of Scotland had been advised that we do not wish to take up a new lease. The church has requested compliance with lease terms for removal, and we are seeking clarification as to details, particularly regarding trees planted and children’s playground.

Roads – discussion of potholes and general poor state of road and road signs repair. update on any progress with road signs, white lines etc, in particular the dangerous large pothole on the A832 near Loch Tollaidh, which Cllr Kraft agreed to take up. Cllr Kraft had no specific information on the ‘temporary’ lights on the A835 between Garve and Tarvie, as this is a trunk road and so a Transport Scotland responsibility.

Co-opted member **John Beck** joined the meeting briefly during matters arising to advise that owing to family circumstances he needed to step down from the CC. Accepting the situation with regret, all present thanked him for his service to the CC.

Community resilience planning – James Struthers provided an update on the state of play – working on the proposal that Gairloch Community Hall be a resilience hub a funding bid has been submitted for backup power generation, with a result expected shortly. A major task on the horizon is the development of a full local asset and competence register.

Housing – Minutes were received of the 27 May meeting of housing project group. As John Beck could no longer represent the CC on the group, local resident Zoe Spyropoulos volunteered to take on this role as an Associate Member of the CC. All approved this, and thanked Zoe for volunteering. Alex to forward relevant papers about the group.

Gritting bins – Cllr Kraft forwarded the council’s spreadsheet of gritting bin locations for Secretary to pass to Peter Buxton along with his original audit and a map of the CC area.

First Responders – Grant application to match conditional offer from GAMS was successful, so funding has been secured to cover additional requirements for the coming year. Ongoing contributions from the public will be valued contributions to running costs.

Pier Road car park rubbish – Peter Buxton and David Caruthers cleared a lot of rubbish from the site, and Sितooterie volunteers have since done further cleaning up.

Recycling Centre – still a problem with overflowing white goods. Cllr Kraft reported that some other recycling centres are operating an appointments system for vans and commercial users, but she didn't know if this was likely to be introduced in Gairloch.

Loch Ewe Community Enterprise – James Struthers provided an update on the state of play – he anticipated that the results of the SLF2 funding bid were imminent. The SLF grant will be essentially for purchase only, and LECE has registered a council resilience funding bid with BeConnected seeking support with post-acquisition costs.

Proposed Parking charges – no further news.

An Ard path – maintenance of the path over An Ard from the beach to the harbour, in particular the eroded steps – ongoing. Although stepping down, John Beck has been in touch with counterpart in Lochbroom and would still engage with Gairloch Estate.

4. Treasurer's report

Bank balance £11,191. Unrestricted reserves £8,821. Full details in the monthly report. Most movement in bank balance relates to income and expenditure for First Responders.

5. Planning Only one new application: *26/02001/FUL Construction of entrance porch 20 Strath*. No comment from CC.

6. Correspondence received

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

The following items of note received:

- Fortnightly Highland Council Community Briefings
- Police report for Ward 5 April. May not yet received. In April, 27 speeding offences were recorded across the ward, with three in excess of 90mph at Achanalt. Some incidents at Achnasheen (damage to a car, threatening & abusive behaviour).
- Notes from briefing on the proposed Highland Rural Short Term Let Control Area (STLCA) – including presentation slides, summary of all questions and answers, video of the presentation by Council officers, general FAQs about the proposed STLCA.

7. Any other competent business

- Zoe Spyropoulos spoke about potential for establishing a 'remakery' and/or tool library locally. Pros and cons, and potential locations discussed. Possibilities included old bank, new LECE development and vacant Strath Stores. Pat Gulliver advised that GAD had looked at the latter, but concluded it really needed a complete rebuild.
- Pat Gulliver volunteered to contact Luciana Maclean to discuss attendance and suggest she could join meetings by Zoom.
- The desirability of recruiting one or two further co-opted members was discussed. Peter Buxton to be proposed at the July meeting. Some other suggestions as to people who might be approached will be followed up.

8. Date of next meeting – Monday 13 July 2026, 7.30pm Loft Room.