

## Wester Loch Ewe Community Council (WLECC)

Draft minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on 4 March 2026 in Inverasdale School.

Present: John Nicholson (Secretary), Ally Wright (Treasurer), Willie Scambler (Vice chair), Fred Hughes, Mairi Mackenzie, Kenny Mitchell.

1. Recording of meeting: Willie reminded everyone that an audio recording of the meeting would be made to help with compiling the minutes.
2. Apologies for absence: Ross Maclean, Jim Buchanan, Councillor Chris Birt.
3. Declarations of interest. Willie declared he is chair of GAMS and is on the board of Loch Ewe Community Enterprise.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Minutes were adopted without comment. Proposed by Fred, seconded by Kenny.
5. Financial Report. Ally reported our bank balances as:

Main Account balance 04/03/26:	£7,365.35
Sub balances included in above:	
Village improvement funding balance:	£164.73
Car Parking balance:	£3,073.69
War Memorial balance:	£47.44
Heritage group balance:	£992.95
Xmas Lunch balance:	£455.27
Ceilidh income balance:	£1,075.09

### 6. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting.

6.1 Pictish Stone protection and Red Smiddy interpretive facility. We have made the shuttering required to cast the base for the the Red Smiddy plinth and will do the concreting when weather permits.

**Action: Willie, Ross, Jim to cast base of plinth.**

6.2 Sheep in Poolewe Burial Ground: We have not heard back from Highland Council management about a site meeting so we agreed to ask Chris to pursue it at a higher level so that we can get the Bereavement Services Manager to visit and get his agreement that the present state of the burial ground is completely unacceptable.

6.3 Deer management update. We have had confirmation from NatureScot that they are authorising all year round and night time shooting on Tournaig Estate and we welcome this as part of the solution to our deer problem. We will continue to press NatureScot to progress the deer census they promised.

**Action: Willie to follow up with NatureScot.**

6.4 Highland Council property maintenance. We are aware that some work has been done but there has been no report from HC about progress and we will continue to pursue this.

**Action; Willie to follow up with HC.**

6.5 Gairloch affordable housing initiative. Ally reported that interviews for the housing officer post were due shortly, and after the meeting we heard that Charlie Burrow has been appointed.

6.6 Local Dentist Recruitment. We will ask Chris Birt to continue to follow this up with NHS Highland management.

6.7 Poolewe village signage. No progress to report as Ross and Jim were not at the meeting.

**Action: Ross and Jim to complete signage**

7. Gairloch & District Times notices. We agreed to continue to place our meeting notices in the G&DT after we were informed that we would now be charged for them.

8. Roads. We are waiting for Iain Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager to review the Traffic Regulation Order for the amended speed limits. We have repeated our invitation to attend this meeting and sent them a list of our meeting dates.

9. EV Charger. We have been informed that EZO have visited the faulty charger and are putting together a plan for its repair. We will ask Chris to follow this up with the HC Contracts Manager.

10. Ideas for making the Wester Loch Ewe community more attractive for visitors and locals. We will install the two new benches at Cuil Is Sgardain and The Sasun when weather permits.

**Action: Willie and John to install benches.**

11. Poolewe community land acquisition and helipad. John and Ally reported that WLET is moving ahead with getting a valuation for the land which could provide an alternative road route into the housing area. There has also been an update from Scottish Land Fund that they will accept applications up until the end of March this year. We had previously been told no more applications would be accepted this year. This is very good news but it may not be feasible to get the Stage 2 bid completed in time. If we miss this deadline, the next fund opens on 3 July.

12. Correspondence. None.

13. Any other competent business.

13.1 We have received some information concerning possible short term let control in our area and data from Ward 20 where the scheme has been running for a couple of years. These documents are available through the WLECC FaceBook page. We await details of the public consultation process regarding STL control.

13.2 Mairi has organised several events to raise funds for our community Christmas lunch. There will be a bingo evening on 21<sup>st</sup> March in Poolewe Village Hall and donations of prizes and baking would be greatly appreciated. Then she will be running a coffee stall at the Poolewe market on 12 May, 28 July, and 22 September.

14. Contributions from members of the public. Michael Leng requested information about the SSEN road closures on the A832, and for the benefit of the wider public, anyone can ask for updates from SSEN by contacting them on: LT14mainlandcable@sse.com.

14. Date of next meeting. Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 1 April 2026 in Inverasdale School.