

## **Wester Loch Ewe Community Council (WLECC)**

Draft minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on 1 April 2026 in Inverasdale School.

Present: Ross Maclean (Chair), John Nicholson (Secretary), Ally Wright (Treasurer), Fred Hughes, Mairi Mackenzie, Jim Buchanan.

1. Recording of meeting: Ross reminded everyone that an audio recording of the meeting would be made to help with compiling the minutes.
2. Apologies for absence: , Willie Scambler, Kenny Mitchell, Councillor Chris Birt.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Minutes were adopted without comment. Proposed by Fred, seconded by Mairi.
4. Financial Report. Ally reported our bank balances as:

Main Account balance 01/04/26:	£7,551.70
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:	£828.27
Ceilidh income balance:	£1,075.09

### 5. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting.

5.1 Pictish Stone protection and Red Smiddy interpretive facility. Jim and Ally are investigating getting funding for the preservation work from the Ward Discretionary Fund. We have completed the base for the the Red Smiddy plinth so we can now go ahead with organising the stonemason to do the building work.

5.2 Sheep in Poolewe Burial Ground: Chris has contacted Highland Council's Head of Bereavement Services to try to move things forward and is awaiting a response.

5.3 Deer management update. We have heard from NatureScot that the deer census scheduled for March was cancelled due to budget cutbacks and the rescheduled date has not yet been announced. Aultbea CC are also pressing for this so we hope our combined efforts will result in some action.

5.4 Highland Council property maintenance. We have still not had a report on progress from HC so will continue to pursue this.

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

5.5 Gairloch affordable housing initiative. We will be attending the next meeting when it is announced.

5.6 Poolewe village signage. Ross and Jim have scheduled a meeting to finalise the designs for the new signage. We agreed to tidy up some of the signage at Poolewe Shop junction.

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

6. Roads. We were pleased to see some pothole patching in Poolewe has been done. We have not heard when the promised tarring and pavement rectification work in Poolewe will be done and we are still waiting for Iain Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager to review the Traffic Regulation Order for the amended speed limits.

7. EV Charger. Chris reported that that EZO have confirmed the faulty charger is beyond repair and that a replacement is scheduled for May or June. He also asked if it might be possible to upgrade it to a more powerful version at the same time.

8. Ideas for making the Wester Loch Ewe community more attractive for visitors and locals. The new bench at Cuil Is Sgardain has been installed. We need to contact our plant pot maintenance team to see what materials they need for the new season.

**Action: Mairi to follow up on planting materials.**

9. Poolewe community land acquisition and helipad. John and Ally reported that the decision was made not to submit our bid for the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline as there is still some important information missing. Instead we will aim for the July deadline which should give us adequate time to complete the bid, and as an additional benefit will give space to hold another public consultation.

10. Correspondence. None.

11. Any other competent business.

11.1 We would like to remind everyone that we are running a coffee stall at the Poolewe market on 12 May, 28 July, and 22 September. This is to raise funds for our community Christmas lunch. Donation of cake for the coffee stall would be most welcome.

12. Contributions from members of the public. None.

13. Date of next meeting. On 6 May 2026 at 7pm in Inverasdale School we will be holding our Annual General Meeting which will be followed by an ordinary meeting at 7.30pm.