

Wester Loch Ewe Community Council (WLECC)

Draft minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on 6 May 2026 in Inverasdale School.

Present: Ross Maclean (Chair), John Nicholson (Secretary), Ally Wright (Treasurer), Willie Scambler (Vice chair), Mairi Mackenzie, Jim Buchanan, Kenny Mitchell.

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: Fred Hughes, Councillor Chris Birt.
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Minutes were adopted without comment. Proposed by Willie, seconded by Jim.
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:	£1028.27
Ceilidh income balance:	£1,075.09

5. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting.

5.1 Pictish Stone protection and Red Smiddy interpretive facility. Jim reported that Laser Gulf had completed the laser scan of the burial ground and a detailed scan of the Pictish Stone. Our thanks to Willie for arranging this, and getting it done free of charge. There is still some work to do to render the data into a useable format. Jim is investigating with Historic Environment Scotland whether creating a replica of the Stone would be feasible and a better use of funds rather than spending money on restoration, since it is already eroded to a point where non-experts would not see much of interest. Kenny has spoken to the builder who will build the Red Smiddy plinth and it will be done as soon as time permits. Willie is sourcing the stone for the build.

5.2 Sheep in Poolewe Burial Ground: We are pleased to see our local HC squad has done some interim repairs on the stonework. We will continue to press Highland Council's Head of Bereavement Services to get a long term solution for the problem with the encroaching trees.

5.3 Deer management update. Nothing to report.

5.4 Highland Council property maintenance. We have observed more repairs been done in Poolewe and we have still not had an report on progress from HC so we will continue to pursue this.

5.5 Poolewe village signage. Ross and Jim have finalised the designs for the new signage. We will erect 2 signs in Riverside car park asking for donations. We also agreed to investigate whether it would be feasible to add a QR code for donations by sharing the charitable donations system that Wester Loch Ewe Trust use for donations to the toilets.

Action: John to speak to WLET

6. Roads. Having consulted the residents who potentially might be affected, we agreed to write to HC to inform them we see no need for the traffic order banning overnight parking at the burial ground. We will continue to ask for a visit to our meetings by someone from HC Roads so that the public can ask questions directly. There has been no progress by HC on the amended speed limits traffic order.

7. EV Charger. We were delighted to see both chargers operational and we are in contact with EZO who manage them to make sure they will be properly maintained. We will continue to press HC to complete the traffic order which will ensure cars parked illegally in the EV bays are dealt with. Our thanks to Councillor Chris Birt for his help in getting the chargers operational.

8. Ideas for making the Wester Loch Ewe community more attractive for visitors and locals. We need to confirm that Audrey will be able to continue her excellent work on looking after our planters. Mairi will follow this up.

9. Poolewe community land acquisition and helipad. John and Ally reported that work continues to prepare for the July deadline and they will be having a visit from their HIE advisor who will give valuable guidance. Dates for a second and final round of public consultation will be announced shortly.

10. Correspondence. We have received a Subject Access Request from a local resident asking for all information about parking and related issues in Poolewe Village centre. We agreed to publicise this on our FaceBook page as the work involved may have an impact on the important community work we have to do in other areas.

11. Any other competent business.

11.1 We were saddened to hear of the death of Amy Macdonald and on behalf of the community we would like to acknowledge the many years of public service she gave in Inverasdale School and on Wester Loch Ewe Community Council. Our condolences to her family.

11.2 At the time of our meeting our community had been without a postal delivery service for several days and we had been informed it was purely due to poor scheduling of staff holidays. We agreed to write to Royal Mail management to ask that this does not happen again.

Action: John to follow up.

12. Contributions from members of the public. None.

13. Date of next meeting. Our next meeting will be on 3 June 2026 at 7.30pm in Inverasdale School.