



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 @Bonar Bridge Village Hall

**Present:** Scott Veters, Chair (SV), Hayley Bangs (HB), Shona Patterson (SP), Caroline Munro (CM), Iain Bowles (IB), Norman MacDonald (NM), Colin Macfarlane (CM) Cllr Michael Baird (MB)

- 1. Apologies:** Russell Smith (RM)
- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of minute taking
- 3. Minutes of Previous meeting.** These were approved but they need to be further condensed
- 4. Matters arising.** None

### **5. Financial report – CM**

#### **Account balances:**

- Main account: £31,813.46
- Account 1: £615.47
- Account 2: £41,382.44
- Rock by Sea allocation: £26,622.26
- CnC allocation: £14,760.18

### **6. Secretary's Update**

- Replied to emails enquiring about RbS fund
- Reminder email sent to Trust manager re end of fund reporting
- Updated funding records
- Replied to John Heathcote email re Spittal – Beaully
- Sent email to CM for bank inf to pass on for CnC payment
- Email received from CM sent to AC for CnC payment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reminders sent to 2 RbS applicants for spend evidence
- Emailed all funding requests with outcomes
- Funding approvals sent to LC @ HC for payment
- Remembrance email sent to all members

- Replied to Achany extension re EIA folder at library
- Email from Suzanne Kane re Coille Beith extension to 20<sup>th</sup> October due to missing documentation in their application sent to all members
- CnC funding record updated
- BT funding record updated
- RbS funding record updated
- Approved AGM minutes sent to LC @ HC
- Approved minutes & AGM put onto website
- Notification of approved minutes on website put on Facebook
- All recipients of annual core cost awards notified of changes
- Community briefing sent to all members
- Invitation to Kosdt food convention sent to all members
- HC CC payment remittance sent to CM
- Replied to email re Hall Committee request to acknowledge long time local business retiree
- Email from wood transmission & distribution sent to all members re work on Spittal to Beaulieu
- Payment details sent to CM for payment
- Garvery Moor woodland scheme sent to all members
- Replied to Kosdt re attendance at their food convention
- Bonar Hall booked for next meeting
- Email sent to Clee F/S to invite to next meeting
- Facebook post of next meeting and funding deadline
- Replied to Garvery Moor with future meeting dates
- Replied to Ron Macaulay's email re Spittal to Beaulieu individual cc representations
- Replied to David Kelly with questions re Garvery Moor
- Replied to dangerous dog's email
- Invitation to corner shop celebration sent to all members
- Email re meeting with CL foundation Scotland sent to all members
- Replied to CL email re meeting
- Email re planning for SSE workers accommodation sent to all members
- Funding Application already approved in principal at last meeting sent to all members
- Notified applicants of funding award
- Email sent to C Coutts requesting drop in exhibitions for temporary accommodation (150) to be held in Bonar Hall
- Details passed to Cmacf for submitting Spittal to Beaulieu for 12<sup>th</sup> October
- Request sent to S Macfadden re Coille Linne for extension – granted to 30<sup>th</sup> November
- Request sent for extension to Coille Beith – granted to 30<sup>th</sup> November
- Dates sent to all members re current submission dates
- Email crashed worked on getting new one set up
- Attended meeting with Foundation Scotland with RS, SP, NM
- Sent minutes from F/S to 2 members for opinion on using the app going forward
- Sent email from R. Copley to all members re Ardgay Station

- Replied to R Copley email
- Replied to all funding requests with date application will be discussed and sent four additional questions to those as appropriate.
- Sent all funding requests and additional information to all members
- Sent letter to HC planning re Ardgay Station
- Emailed all CC members re remembrance Sunday wreath laying
- Draft minutes sent to all members
- Draft agenda sent to all members for approval/additions
- Email sent to Phil Murray requesting extension to 26<sup>th</sup> February to Achany Extension submission.
- Correspondence for discussion at meeting sent to all members

## **7. Planning & Licensing – HB**

No Objections to House at Balblair Quarry, Forestry Road at Loch Buoy

short-term let conversion on application for Residential to business change of use application should only require business rates registration, not planning permission No objections raised

Ardgay Station: submission requesting barrow crossing

Achness Hotel Licensing: Gary Cameron (licensing officer) confirmed all licenses and health/safety compliance in order

Achinduich Village 150-person accommodation site proposed 2 minutes from village 24/7 operation for 5 years. Consultation held in wrong location (5 miles away vs local hall). Request was sent for consultation in Creich. This was turned down on that basis that the halls were unable to meet their dates provided. CB informed that 4 dates had been given to Invershin hall and only 1 was unavailable. **Action HB to send letter outlining this and intention to raise a complaint.**

## **8. Rosehall - SP, Bonar Bridge- HB & Invershinn – IB updates/matters raised.**

Speeding remains an issue through each area. Response was received from the roads department regarding Invershin and walk to Balblair after almost 6 months. CC felt response was unacceptable due to reason for refusal due to no injuries to date and lines of sight which seem to relate to the Balblair straight rather than through Invershin. It was agreed by the Roads to look into putting a sign at the north end of Invershin. **Action HB to draft response letter and requesting again a speed limit is enforced.**

Flashing speed signs cost £3,000-4,000 each further discussions needed

## **9. HC Councillor's report including Tec Services – MB**

Ward discretionary fund available: £12,469 for projects

Migdale Road Issues: Recently resurfaced road being washed away by water seepage

Large square above chemist entrance “weeping water”

**Action:** Council contacted about gully emptying and drainage

Public Toilets: May reopen now that Ardgay Game has separate waste connection to Scottish Water.

New speed survey happening in village

Fred Olsen may contribute to speed measures in future

7 new gritters coming to north area 50 new footpath tractors

Staff shortages: 1 new member in Lairg, 1 in Ardgay

**Michael:** Highland Social Charter discussion proposes 7K to Highland pot and £5K to communities per MW from windfarm developments. **Action MB to forward charter**

## 10. Windfarm & BESS updates

- Coille Beith – extension granted until 30<sup>th</sup> November- **Action Cmacf to lead**
- Coille Linne – extension until 30<sup>th</sup> November- **Action Cmacf to lead**
- Balblair – Representation submitted 25/4/25
- Inveroykel
- Strath Oykel -
- Braelangwell – No Updates
- Invercassley – consultation in halls. **Action SP to draft complaint re montages to HC**
- Dalchork BESS- objection lodged
- Allt An Tuir- representation submitted 27/3/25
- Garvery – Approved
- Sallachy- Approved update from meeting SV – grid connection 2028
- Acheilidh
- Beinn Tharsuinn repowering, extension & Bess scoping submitted 16/4/25
- Meall Budhie – objection submitted 17/7/25
- Achany Extension- objection sent 2/7/25 – new proposal submissions required by 17<sup>th</sup> December. Extension requested until 26<sup>th</sup> February. **Request denied submission to be sent by CMacf**
- New proposal Fionn Windfarm New proposal 10km north of Rose Hall previously rejected ~decade ago for wild land impact. Now proposing larger turbines up to a total of 29. Covers 6 different estates for access will be requesting an EIA scoping from ECU-**Action send info to Bill**
- 

## 11. Pylons & Carnaig Substation

14,850 vehicle movements expected in peak month (April 2028)

6-meter road width required before permission granted

Construction phase: 5 years with hundreds of thousands of vehicles

Highland Council transport team raising strong objections **Action Cmacf, SP & WL will represent Creich at HC hearing**

**12. Achany / Rosehall fund update SV, SP.**

**Action HB request MOU for Rosehall concerns around the proposal and the need. Minutes were presented from the CC meeting next step is meeting with all 3 CCs**

**13. Correspondence- HB**

Letter from Garvery wood creation outlining transport/access to site – no further comments

Highland Council gritting – this is for individuals to apply for and does not impact parish wide HC gritting.

Anna Patfield is coordinating KOS area resilience and will contact CCs

**14. Any other competent business**

Bank of Scotland Closure in Tain. **Action HB to draft letter to Jamie Stone, post meeting note RS to action**

**15. Date, time, and place of next meeting.**

12<sup>th</sup> January Invershin Hall. **Action IB to book**

**Private session:**

- Declarations Of Interest- none

**Rock By Sea**

- JP funding request agreed for Driving Lessons & Clothing
- MG funding request agreed for driving lessons
- Sutherland Girls on board – declined until they have an exact amount for the course, we would also like to know how much funding was awarded from Lairg and if they are planning any sessions in Creich

**CnC**

- Rosehall Village Hall funding request for £3,000 approved
- Ardgay Hall Committee – Resilience funding request for £108 to set up website approved

**BT**

- St Duthus awarded £333 for equine on condition all other funding requests approved
- Four Seasons Lunch Club £2,500 awarded
- Kyle Chronicle. £3,000 printing cost awarded

There was concern around the high costs of printing and a suggestion that going forward this is an area where KC could perhaps reduce costs which would help with the project becoming sustainable. There were also questions raised about the biodegradability of the paper used. It was agreed to fund the request to help in the first year with printing costs as a new CiC and hope that the support enables the project to work towards sustainability.

- Bradbury Centre £9,185 core costs

The centre had sent in clear information on accounts detailing a shortfall and where else they were planning to apply to mitigate this. It was agreed in principle to award, but the application would need to request the funding against unsupported salary costs to meet audit trails. Organisation will be invited to apply through CnC fund.

Post meeting note organisation accepted conditions, submitted application and were awarded

Lairg Leaning centre request for minimum of £5,000

- Detailed information had been supplied, and it was evident where and why the shortfall and critical situation of the organisation has arisen. It was agreed in principal to award £5,000 but the application would need to request the funding against unsupported salary costs to meet audit trails. Organisation will be invited to apply through CnC fund.

Post meeting note organisation accepted conditions, submitted application and were awarded

- Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust £5,000 unrestricted core funds. Concern was raised how an organisation that had received a windfall of £146k from the sale of FoS and £55k from Achany/Rosehall needed further unrestricted funding. NM left the meeting stating he would consider his position on the CC. The remaining members discussed the Trusts accounts and were unable to identify from them where this money had been spent. It was agreed to request further information regarding the funds received from the sale of FoS and request the application is moved from unrestricted funding to funding for unsupported salary costs for the purpose of audit trail.

Post meeting note organisation confirmed £146k from sale of FoS had been spent in general expenditure but were not in agreement for the application to be changed from unrestricted core costs to supporting unsupported salary costs. A decision they called not competent. The application was subsequently declined.

- **Endowment Fund** – HB advised that she had been informed that the endowment fund can be withdrawn at any time.