

COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLÈITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in Ardvasar Hall

8.15 pm on Tuesday 24 June 2025

1. Members Present

Andy Williamson (Andy W)

Janet MacDonald (Janet M)

Tim Shone (Tim S)

Duncan MacInnes (Duncan M)

Kate Duffus (Kate D)

Rob Ware (Rob W)

Hans Petri (Hans P - Associate)

Members of affiliated Community Councils

Den Connell & David Macdonald (Broadford & Strath)-

Apologies:

Mairead Macdougall (Mairead M)

Public attendance:

11 members of the public + 1 minor

2. Welcome

Leading on from the AGM (see separate Minutes), **Andy W** welcomed the public.

3. Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 1 April 2025

Duncan M summarised the minutes of the last meeting.

- * **Approval** of the Minutes was proposed by **Tim S** and seconded by **Kate D** and accepted by all.

4. Matters arising and AOCB

- I. **Andy W: 'At the Clan' Pop-up Exhibition in the hall.** Lots of images of historical community involvement connected with 50 years of 'the Clan' at Armadale. He invited everyone to look at it all after the meeting.
- II. **Kate D: Request for the Speed Limit** at Knock be moved north. Examples of issues at Knock Farm entrance and also near An Crùbh. **It was agreed that SCC will draw attention to this with HC Roads Dept**
- III. **Andy W: Footpath safety between Kilbeg and School.** Roadside paths are very dangerous for children going to school. **It was agreed to press for path clearance and more traffic calming measures. Longer term we will support any project through the 'Safer routes to school' process.**
- IV. **Andy W:** Noted the **shambolic staffing issues at BSS**, with the sudden removal of 3rd Gaelic medium teacher and no prior notification even to the BSS head. **It was agreed to support BSS Parent Council on this issue.**
- V. **Tim S: Beaul Community Councils gathering regarding industrial infrastructure projects** across the Highlands and lack of community empowerment. There will be another gathering in August.
- VI. **Kate D:** Lack of any action by HC action in addressing **Japanese Knotweed** along main road. **It was agreed to request HC for action plan.**
- VII. **Rob W: use of copyright photos.** He drew attention to the Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum being fined for using a copyrighted photo taken from a Guardian website. Beware of what you use.
- VIII. **Duncan M:** the next **An Slèiteach** is being pulled together. Articles please. Several papers from this meeting will be included.
- IX. **Rob W: Memorial Trees and Benches in Armadale Gardens.** There has been no information sent to donors of personal memorials about the future management in an Armadale Sale. **It was agreed that SCC will ask CDLT via the Armadale Working Group to provide reassurance about ongoing access.**
- X. **Rob W: The Ferry Committee** now has five names from Sleat. There is no news of a second ferry and the Bhrusda is tied up in Armadale because of lack of crew.
- XI. **David Macdonald, Broadford: Spoke about the plans for a Community Development Fund** across Skye which was receiving little enthusiasm from Community Councils. In general funding offers from Wind Farms are derisory. Katie Lawrence of the Skye Climate Hub is trying to pull ideas together. **It was agreed that Sleat CC does not have the capacity to get actively involved but will follow the lead of Broadford and Strath on this.**

- XII. From the Floor:** request for information regarding **Fibre-optic Broadband**. **Duncan M** had recent information: Openreach state the new fibre-optic would be live before the end of the year. Final installation would be via households' chosen supplier.
- XIII. From the Floor:** discussion about encouraging **involvement of younger folk in community development**. Even if Community Councils tend to be led by older folk, the young need to be encouraged to provide ideas and inspiration. It is difficult to collate their voice in Sleat because of lack of geographical focus. **Andy W:** it can only be achieved through a long-term strategy.
- XIV. From the Floor:** a request for SCC involvement in the **South Skye Campus Board in Broadford**. **It was agreed to continue to offer support and review whether SCC has the capacity to provide another name (noting one current board member is from Sleat)**.
- XV. Janet M:** drew attention to concerns regarding the contents of **Armadale Castle Museum** with details of the proper authority to contact about its ongoing registration.
- XVI. Andy W:** drew attention to the **Fàs Mòr fund-raising blanket** at the back of the hall.
- XVII. Rob Ware:** thanked everyone for support during his 15 years of involvement in Sleat CC which had been a joy and pleasure under a series of good Chair-people, the hard-work of many individuals and good teamwork.

5. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 7 pm in Tarskavaig Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 pm

Membership - Mairead Macdougall subsequently resigned on 1 July 2025