

COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLÈITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in An Crùbh 7 pm on Tuesday 4 November 2025

1. A. Members Present

Andy Williamson (Andy W)	Janet MacDonald (Janet M)
Duncan MacInnes (Duncan M)	Kate Duffus (Kate D)
John Weir (John W) joined during the meeting – see 4	
Apologies	Tim Shone (Tim S)
Public attendance:	9 members of the public

2. Welcome

Andy W welcomed the councillors and the public and in particular Josh Vice, who who had been involved in the Save Armadale Campaign and was visiting from USA.

1. Declarations of Interest

Andy W and **Duncan M** are Board members of Sleat Community Trust.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 2 September 2025

- **Approval** of the Minutes was proposed by **Janet M** and seconded by **Kate D**.

3. Ferries

Cancellations through breakdowns, weather and ferry relocation continues. **Janet M** pointed out the ongoing disruption to private and business life in Sleat. The Coruisk was taken off a week early 'because of forthcoming weather' but it remained calm. Booking on the website is difficult as constant changes means that runs are not listed. Calmac have issued a customer survey designed for businesses.

It was agreed to ask the Ferry Group to note our concerns and ask for reassurances from Calmac.

4. Appointment of Additional Council Members

Kate D stated SCC currently has five members and there is room for 8. SCC needs 4 members to be present to be quorate. She had contacted the next 3 people on the public vote and had one response.

John Weir was unanimously co-opted onto Sleat Community Council and invited to join the table.

5. Appointment of SCC member to the SCT Board

Andy W has been the co-opted Member of the SCT Board to represent SCC. SCT hold their AGM in late November and this appointment needs updating.

- **It was agreed** that **Andy W** remain in this role. Proposed **Duncan M** and seconded by **Janet M**

6. Finance

Duncan M as Treasurer reported that SCC finances are simple. The Bank Mandate changes has been agreed after two years. **Duncan M** is working on on-line banking. The HC grant has been received.

- **Duncan M** aims to have everything sorted and up to date at the next meeting.

7. Dates for Meetings in 2026

Kate D said that SCC meetings have been on Tuesdays, but this is not good for our aligned Councillor, John Finlayson.

- **It was agreed** to create a timetable for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for 2026.

Duncan M suggested a consistent time of 7pm.

- **It was agreed** to address the issue of video conferencing (**Andy W** and **Duncan M**)

8. Footpaths

Duncan M spoke about public footpaths and access in Sleat, which are in constant danger of being lost or unmanaged. Concern about Core Paths around Armadale Castle; public comment about the bad state of the path along the main Ardvassar road; continued access to footpaths at the back of Armadale Castle, might be an issue. There is beach access at the Fairy Glen, Ostaig beach, Knock beach and the distillery; and the roadside paths need HC maintenance.

- **It was agreed** to collate paths and access on a map. (**Duncan M** and **John W**)

Andy W - the walking and cycle track project to complete and upgrade the Old Sleat Road from Drumfearn to the A87 undertaken by Ian Hall and SCT has been awarded funding for the first phase and HC have agreed to carry out the work.

9. Roads

Andy W relayed a report from Councillor **John Finlayson**. After current repairs around Dunvegan, the Sleat main road will be undertaken. There remain concerns about the dreadful state of the southern end of the Aird road, Aird Township road and first Caligarry hill. A visual FB campaign from Aird and local comment elicited a HC response that repairs will be 'undertaken as soon as possible' with no date.

We have been informed that South and West Skye will feature more heavily in repairs in 2026. **HC** reports that around £300,000 has been spent in Sleat this year with another £35,000-40,000 allocated for the A851 and £30,000 on the Ord Tarskavaig loop. Public comments were made about the dangerous state of road edges and damage caused by poor drainage, notably on the Tarskavaig loop road and Camus Cross.

It was suggested that the public continue to pass on information about poor roads and to make claims against HC for vehicle damage.

10. Additional HC comments

John F reported that the old **Broadford Hospital** site has been handed to HC and is due for demolition.

HC have reported that a report of the proposed **Visitor Levy** will go before the full HC soon.

The local area Councillors re investigating setting up a **Short Term Lets Control Area**.

11. Fibre Optic

Janet M reported on difficulties of finding out how the Fibre Optic programme is coming along and confusion on progress.

It was agreed that **Kate D** would ask her direct contact in **Openreach** asking for a general update and specifically which cabinets have been upgraded for fibre, what will be offered from these cabinets (FTTP, FTTC) and the timeline for completion of the remaining cabinets. In addition we will ask for connection details for a range of specific addresses to better understand connectivity (noting that ISP's seem unaware of what options are available to many in Sleat).

12. An Slèiteach newsletter

Duncan M said that An Slèiteach is a Sleat-wide newsletter, not just SCT, and invited everyone to send in stories and news. He aims for publication for December 1st.

13. AOB

Hi-Trans Quiet Route project - 29 new road signs between Ardvassar and Tormore cost £60,000 and achieves nothing except upsetting everyone. SCC had requested 20 mph signs and this was rejected.

Notices Boards Janet M seeks £1800 for four new signs. SEN grant will be available March to June 2026.

Tesco, Portree. SCC had received an email reporting on a survey suggesting a 90% plus support with a request it should be bigger and included clothing. It was noted that this survey should be read with caution as it was user-generated and concerns over increased home delivery services affecting local businesses was raised

SEN reinforcement programme. A change of heart from UK Government means that there should now be community benefit of over £10m but no details of how and where funding is available.

The Community Council congratulated **South Skye Campus**, which has achieved its funding target for a new football pitch in Broadford.

It was noted that the development of an indoor sports facility an aspiration of the Local Place Plan and part of the development plan for the Kilbeg development.

14. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 2 December 2025 at 7.30pm in Ardvasar Hall

Andy W closed the meeting at 8.14 pm