

COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLÈITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held in Ardvasar Hall

7.30 pm on Tuesday 7 October 2025

1. Members Present

Andy Williamson (Andy W)

Janet MacDonald (Janet M)

Tim Shone (Tim S)

Duncan MacInnes (Duncan M)

Kate Duffus (Kate D)

John Finlayson (JF) Aligned Highland Councillor

Public attendance:

10 members of the public

2. Welcome

Andy W welcomed the councillors and the public.

3. Declarations of Interest

Andy W and **Duncan M** are Board members of Sleat Community Trust. **Tim S** is on the Ferry Group

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

- * **Approval** of the Minutes was proposed by **Andy W** and seconded by **Janet M** and accepted by all.

The AGM minutes will be placed on the SCC website

5. Roads Update

John F gave an update from HC Roads Department. In Sleat, £281,000 has been spent on repairs including tarmac in Ardvasar, surface dressing, white lining and pothole patching. Another £70,000 is due to be spent. The Ord-Tarskavaig loop will then be patched. Other side roads will have to be left because of other more important arterial road works.

John F pointed out that Skye has 630 miles of roads (outwith the main trunk road), 112 bridges and 878 under-road gulleys. Roads are a Skye-wide issue. Mac and his team were thanked for the work undertaken.

John F pointed out that in some areas there have been local partnerships in undertaking road repairs.

The continuing poor state of roads in Caligarry and the end of the Aird Road, as well as many parts of the Ord-Tarskavaig loop, were noted.

It was agreed that details be sent to HC.

Andy W pointed out the difficulty is getting responses from HC staff. There needs to be a better and strategic improvement in communication. **John F** said to pass such issues direct to him to follow up. He noted that it is difficult for HC to recruit staff in current market.

From the Floor – poor maintenance of roadside drainage adds to the problems; regular maintenance would reduce potholes.

6. Storm Amy

A duplicate of the previous storm but much worse. There was no power, telephone, water, mobile and internet in many areas, with a lack of strategic generators to support water and telephone services.

It was agreed that **SCC** will write to Scottish Water requesting an urgent need to update resilience. SCC will also write to Kate Forbes regarding the need to improve infrastructure resilience in the light of the move to a fully digital telephone network.

Local helpers on tree clearance, Ardvasar Hall in providing a Saturday café, and the hard work of Armadale Stores staff were acknowledged, as was the work of SSSEN and Highland Council staff.

7. Notice Boards

Janet M reported that 4 or 5 of Sleat's 11 Notice Boards need attention. Notice boards still have an information function. New metal ones can be bought for around £500 but will need posts and installation.

It was agreed that **funding** be sought for these. SCC to look at HC Ward Discretionary Fund and SSSEN Resilience Fund. It was suggested that if the SSSEN resilience fund is a possibility we investigate using it for a wider community resilience project, which includes notice boards but potentially also incorporates emergency generator for Armadale Stores and communications (radio and satellite). SCC will liaise with SCT over this.

8. Additional Council Members

Janet M reported on the need to replace the 3 lost community councillors. **Andy W** pointed out the joy in being a Councillor and asked for interest from the floor. The three who were next on the candidate list will be approached, but two have said they cannot undertake it.

It was agreed that other individual approaches be made.

9. Local Place Plan

Andy W said the LPP was still to be ratified by Highland Council, but it can be used as a voice of Sleat. It had already been part of an SCT bid for DTAS development funding.

It was agreed that items for an Action Plan be on the next SCC agenda.

10. AOCB

It was noted that **John F** is now the official HC aligned Councillor for SCC. He was thanked for his attendance and support. Tuesday is not a good day for him and alternative ways were mentioned – different days or more use of hybrid meetings where premises and equipment allowed.

It was agreed that SCC will pursue moving the **40mph limit northwards of Knock Farm**.

The lack of **20mph signage in Ardvasar** was questioned.

Road safety around Bun-sgoil Shlèite remains an ongoing problem with speed, and reliability of **lights and temporary limits** at the school was raised. It was suggested that involvement of the children is most likely to achieve results. Part of the solution for safety along the main road is a better footpath, which requires the agreement of SMO and adjacent land-owners for space for a new path. **Duncan M** will approach the owners of Exhibition Cottage and **Andy W** continues to talk to SMO and HC, and will talk to the BSS Parent Council.

It was asked why **Salt Grit piles** were in place so early, and how can they avoid being destroyed by cattle.

John F said this was because of complaints last year that grit went out too late. Solutions as to how best to store it for easy access to all but the cattle were welcomed.

11. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7 pm in An Crùbh

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm