

COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLÈITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in An Crùbh
at 7 pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026 ~ 7f Dimàirt 5 Cèitean 2026

1. Welcome | Fàilte

Andy W chaired the meeting and welcomed the Sleat Members, and the public

2. Attendance and apologies | An Làthair is leisgeulan

Andy Williamson (Andy W)

Janet MacDonald (Janet M)

Duncan MacInnes (Duncan M)

Tim Shone (Tim S)

John Weir (John W)

Public attendance:

4 members of the public

Apologies from Kate Duffus (Kate D)

3. Declarations of interest | Foillseachaidhean com-pàirt

Andy W and **Duncan M** - board members of Sleat Community Trust. **Tim S** - Sound of Sleat Ferry Users Group

4. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Councillors had agreed the Minutes in principle, and they are on the website.

- **Formal Approval** of the Minutes was proposed by **Tim S** and seconded by **Janet M**.

5. Report from the aligned Councillor

Andy W noted that repairs to the A851 and some side roads was ongoing, including the Aird road end. We heard from the floor that the lower Aird Township road had been patched.

Duncan M reported that bad section of the Ord road has been patched.

Janet M passed on the great concern from the Tarskavaig community that the loop road to Tarskavaig is in a really bad condition as is the Tarskavaig to Ord road, with only a few bits patched. It needs a site visit from the roads manager to discuss the options to make this bit safer. Janet will ask HC for an urgent update.

She also passed on a request for a new passing place above the Tarskavaig School House.

There are various roadwork signs left around, some from HC Roads and some from Openreach. Contact has been made for their removal.

6. Road Safety around Bun-sgoil Shlèite

Andy W reported that the email conversation list from various parties has become over-extensive. This has now been simplified for more effective communication.

The road-crossing work at SMO has been finished. There are still road markings to be done and some sort of click button crossing lighting. The Place Plan would not support street lighting.

The next stage is to link this with a path to the Medical Centre. The section past Exhibition Cottage needs assessing and a contact for the owners has been sent to HC. Plan B would be to continue on the north side of the main road, with a second crossing at the school.

Although the School flashing lights should have been sorted there are still issues reported. Police Scotland are undertaking occasional speed assessments.

7. Ferry Committee Update

As of today the Coruisk is back, with no plans to take it away again. There are still ongoing issues with the other ferries with one still yet to leave Aberdeen.

There has been good FB comment and national publicity regarding the loss to businesses here and in Mallaig. It was noted that comments from **Norma MacPherson** of Armadale Stores have been succinct and to the point. **Andy W** has been in contact with Mallaig in support of their comments about decline of trade. Mallaig has been really struggling. It was noted that Calmac has a policy of compensation of Islands, but not Armadale not Mallaig.

We need collectively to move on with the arguments made recently about the effect on the communities either side of the Sound of Sleat.

Calmac wrote to say that they hope that the 'additional' service will be a positive impact to the area. Calmac claim to run 95% achievement of their timetabled service – but that is 95% of all the changes which amounts to virtually no service. The return of the Coruisk was a month late. If Calmac are going to spin the statistics, we need to have data on the reality.

8. Openreach Fibre roll-out update

There was nothing to report from Openreach. New connections appear to be ongoing but random.

9. Wildfire and Dogs

Duncan M reported that SCT had placed a general notification regarding wildfires on FB. Further information needs sending out regarding visitors walking with dogs near sheep and lambs. It was emphasised that it should be the responsibility of everyone living in Sleat to advise against the lighting of camp-fires and accessing our countryside in accordance of guidelines.

It was suggested that there be a flyer distributed to holiday homes regarding crofting and forestry welfare in Sleat.

10. AOB

It was agreed to continue the subscription to the mapping app Parish Online.

The next meeting is the AGM. **Duncan M** cannot attend and it was agreed to asked **Ade Stokes** to countersign the Accounts.

Duncan M reported that the April issue of An Slèiteach is now available online and in various outlets.

Duncan M noted the forthcoming Tormore Community Woodland Open Day on 10 May

Duncan M reminded everyone of Election Day on 7 May

Kate D had requested at the last meeting to stand down as Secretary. Most importantly SCC needs someone to be reading emails. **John W** offered his services. This will be ratified at the AGM

11. Public discussion

From the floor, a late arrival asked about the road-crossing at Kilbeg and an assessment of a need for lighting. He was referred to item 6.

12. Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 3 June 2026 at 7 pm in Tarskavaig

Andy W closed the meeting at 19.59 pm