

APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Monday 3rd November 2025 in Avoch Pavilion

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| Present: | | |
| Members: Fraser Brunton, Chair (FB), Drew Mann, Vice Chair (DMn), Tim Phillips, Treasurer (TP), Rosie Brunton, Secretary (RB), Derek Mclver (DM), Alistair Adie (AA), Nicolass du Preez (NdP), Stuart Bruce (SB), Cllr Morven-May MacCallum (MMM) | | |
| In Attendance: David Brims (DB), Debbie du Preez (DdP), Steve Baker (SBak) | | |
| Apologies: Caroline Eccles (CE), Jenni Carmichael (JC) | | |
| 1. | Welcome and apologies | Action |
| | FB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were as above. | |
| 2. | Membership update | |
| | <p>FB confirmed that he, along with DMn, RB, AA & NdP had all been formally elected following The Highland Council (THC) Ballot.</p> <p>At the inaugural meeting (which took place immediately before this meeting) the following office bearers were appointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: FB, nominated by DMn and seconded by DM • Vicechair: DM, nominated by FB and seconded by RB • Treasurer: TP, nominated by SB and seconded by DM • Secretary: RB, nominated by AA and seconded by DMn <p>In addition to this the following associate members were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie du Preez: Chair, Avoch Primary Parents Council • Jenni Carmichael: Local Business owner • Caroline Eccles: Nature Plan • David Brims: Asset Management • Andy McLeman: Chair, Avoch Amenities Association • Kathy Taylor: Skifties • Lizzie Campbell: Broadlands • Steve Baker: Local resident <p>The associate members were all proposed by FB and seconded by TP.</p> <p>AKCC are aware of and are very appreciative of the continuing works carried out by other local residents.</p> | |
| 3. | Minutes of meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025 | |
| | The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. These were proposed by AA and seconded by TP. | |
| 4. | Matters arising register | |
| | 4.1 Provision of additional brown bin: It was agreed that the additional bin for community use will be located within the school grounds. It was suggested that it should be kept locked to prevent misuse. | MMM to confirm if bin can be locked |

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| | <p>AA agreed to have this bin registered in his name. RB to forward contact information & location of bin to MMM.</p> <p>The current bin for the community garden (provided by a local resident) is to remain registered to that address.</p> <p>The provision of the permits for both these bins is to be free of charge. MMM to confirm this in writing and to ensure the details are updated within THC.</p> <p>4.2 Signage for Public Toilets: Signage to redirect members of the public to the nearest facilities in Fortrose is still required. MMM to follow up with THC.</p> <p>As an interim measure it was agreed that laminated notices should be put in place. RB to create notices and put in place.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Ladies & Gents signs should be covered over or removed until there are public toilets available for use. RB to look at how this could be done.</p> <p>MMM requested that RB forward the point of contact used within THC for issues arising from the public toilets.</p> <p>4.3 Vehicular access to the railway line: the gate to the track is permanently locked which makes it difficult to remove large amounts of debris. CE has agreed to attempt to identify who holds the key and establish if we could gain access.</p> <p>4.4 Works required on Pavilion bridge: The works will be completed by the Men's Shed. There had been a query around using treated timber for handrails which had now been resolved. There is also a need to replace additional posts. It was noted that the weather may now be an issue.</p> <p>4.5 Bank signatories: The updating of the signatories is to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. It was suggested that this might be the time to change the Bank in order to remove the need to pay charges.</p> <p>4.6 Football nets: The nets that are currently stored near the pavilion have not been removed. NdP to recontact Avoch Rovers to ask that they be moved.</p> <p>4.7 Pavilion Payment: AKCC have made a donation to the Avoch Amenities Association (AAA) for the use of the Pavilion. This remittance has not yet been acknowledged, FB & DMn to take this up with AAA.</p> <p>4.8 Defibrillator Pads: Scotmid appear to have the defibrillator registered to them, making them the guardian and responsible for battery check replacement pads etc. DdP to confirm.</p> <p>4.9 Sharing Shed: There is currently a combination lock on the sharing shed, which although not engaged gives the appearance to those looking to access the shed that it is locked. TP to speak to Jo Graham (JG) to ask for the lock to be removed.</p> | <p>RB to forward information to MMM</p> <p>MMM to confirm FOC & details to THC</p> <p>MMM to follow up</p> <p>RB to add notices</p> <p>RB to cover signs</p> <p>RB to send details</p> <p>CE to attempt to confirm keyholder</p> <p>RB to add to agenda</p> <p>NdP to contact Avoch Rovers</p> <p>FB/DMn to contact AAA</p> <p>DdP to confirm</p> <p>TP to contact JG</p> |
| 5. | <p>Routine Community Council matters</p> <p>5.1 Finance report: TP advised that he has produced a report for this meeting which still needs to be added to the Drive. TP noted that funds are currently low as we are awaiting a grant from the North Highland Initiative; he will follow up to</p> | <p>TP to add report to drive & confirm NHI grant</p> |

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| <p>ensure the grant has been funded. TP also noted that Cameron Dickie has made a donation of £50 for the sharing shed, which was much appreciated.</p> <p>5.2 Planning Applications: Please note MMM does not participate for this item. The only application received was for the erection of private garages on Station Road. There are no concerns in relation to this application. It was noted that local residents have been advised of the application and that a soakaway is being added as part of the works.</p> <p>5.3 Community concerns arising:</p> <p>5.3.1 Church of Scotland: AA queried who had bought the church, suggesting it would be useful to know as a Community Council what the premises would be used for. DM stated he may be able to establish who the new owner may be.</p> <p>5.3.2 Lack of dog waste bags: There is a need for additional boxes and bags to be made available at the top and bottom of School Brae path. TP to source additional boxes. Once purchased the fixing in place will be organised.</p> <p>5.3.3 Lack of pavement: DM raised a concern around the lack of payment between the supported accommodation in Gowan Place, along the Dock and into Rose Street. He stated that the condition of the road at Rose Street is also a significant concern which he has reported to THC. MMM to check status of this report.</p> <p>5.3.4 Knockmuir to Fortrose Road: SB & AA noted concerns over the dire condition of this road stating that it was dangerous. There are significant potholes and no drainage resulting in sheet ice forming over the winter months. It was also noted that this road becomes the “main road” when the A832 is closed. MMM agreed to raise these concerns with THC.</p> <p>5.3.5 Harbour wall: It was noted that the harbour wall has not been repaired. There is now a second breach of the wall. The tyres currently supporting the wall on the harbour side are about to be removed which could result in further collapse. MMM to speak to THC to confirm what progress has been made.</p> <p>5.4 Police liaison report: RB advised that the recent reports had been sent out via email. RB also attended the quarterly Inspectors meeting. Inspector Daniel Jack facilitates this meeting for all Community Councils. He advised that there was an increase in fraud within Highland. SBak queried what needs to be done about that. It was agreed that all we can do at present is to raises awareness and advise individuals to be vigilant. RB stated that she would contact police Scotland for any promotion materials available to raise awareness of Fraud. The next meeting is on Tues 13th January which RB will attend.</p> <p>5.5 Correspondence</p> <p>5.5.1 Email dated 26th September from Nicola MacLean advising that her son is very keen to support AKCC by helping out with any outdoor work and activities. AA has been in touch with them to help Ross become involved.</p> <p>5.5.2 Email dated 16th October from Lynn MacNeil reminding AKCC of the Community Networking event taking place in Fortrose on the 6th of November.</p> <p>5.5.3 Email dated 16th October promoting the NHS Highland Annual Review which takes place on the 18th of November.</p> | <p>DM to confirm owner</p> <p>TP to source boxes</p> <p>MMM to check status of report & progress</p> <p>MMM to raise concerns with THC</p> <p>MMM to confirm status</p> <p>RB to contact Police Scotland</p> <p>RB to attend next meeting</p> |
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| | <p>5.5.4 Email dated 16th October advising that the next Mid Ross Community Partnership meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 17th of December.</p> <p>5.5.5 Email dated 28th October promoting the Highland Sustainable Development Summit which takes place at the Kingsmills Hotel on the 25th & 26th of November. RB to forward the promotion to DB</p> <p>5.5.6 Email dated 28th October from a concerned member of the community stating that they had found the sharing shed to be locked and requesting the combination number of the lock. This had been discussed under item 4.9</p> <p>5.5.7 Email dated 30th October (forwarded from Anne McMichael) advising of funding that may be available to support our local conservation projects. CE has agreed to compete various applications on behalf of AKCC.</p> <p>5.5.8 Email dated 30th October from Angus Watson, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Ross & Cromarty, advising that he will be unable to attend the local parade on Armistice Day. FB and DMn agreed to attend to lay a wreath on behalf of AKCC. MMM advised that she will also be attending to lay a wreath for THC.</p> <p>5.5.9 RB advised that the AAA AGM will take place on Monday 10th November. FB & DMn agreed to attend on behalf of AKCC.</p> <p>5.5.10 DdP advised that there was concern from parents about recent events involving a 79 year old resident and their proximity to the school. This is a police matter and is being investigated as such. DMn stated he could not participate in the discussions.</p> | <p>RB to forward e mail</p> <p>CE to complete applications</p> <p>FB & DMn to attend parade</p> <p>FB & DMn to attend AGM</p> |
| 6. | <p>Avoch Amenities Association update</p> <p>It was agreed that there would be an update our next meeting following the AAA Annual General Meeting.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Black Isle Community Councils & Place Plan update</p> <p>DM attended the last meeting. TP has been asked to continue to be a member of the BICC meeting. Chair of BICC to be invited to attend our meeting. DM to arrange.</p> | DM to invite BICC |
| 8. | <p>AKCC Website update</p> <p>TP advised that whilst the final stage of the Website has stalled, 90% of the content has been drafted and developed. He passed his thanks to FB who has been heavily involved in this project. Caroline Lindsay is no longer able to support any further progress. Support is required from Plexus in order to complete the works. TP requested approval to fund the completion works, this was proposed by RB and seconded by FB.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Public Toilets working group update</p> <p>RB handed over the Public Toilets project folder to DM who is now the lead for this project.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Sharing Shed update</p> <p>Emergency Contact numbers still to be posted on to the shed. TP to complete</p> | TP to add numbers to shed |

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| 11. | <p>Flood Prevention report</p> <p>FB thanked everyone for their comments on the report, particularly CE & NdP. Comments will be incorporated into the next reversion which should be available for the December meeting. FB has also been in contact with James Bunyan who will provide maps to be included.</p> | |
| 12. | <p>Nature Plan & Community Improvement</p> <p>Thanks were noted to CE for her excellent update which was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>AKCC Assets: maintenance and records</p> <p>SB expressed his concern around single handed responsibility for our assets. NdP and DB agreed to support SB with this. They agreed to discuss the way forward.</p> | NdP & DM to support SB |
| 14. | <p>Christmas Lights</p> <p>NdP currently has the lights in his workshop, reviewing repairs etc. prior to the lights going up. Replacement parts could cost up to £200; this spend was approved by TP.</p> <p>AKCC may wish to purchase additional lights at a future date. Additional funds would be required to do this.</p> <p>30th of November is the agreed date to put the lights up. DM & DMn will co-ordinate volunteers etc.</p> | NdP to carry out repairs DM & DMn to organise lights |
| 15. | <p>AOCB</p> <p>SBak raised concerns around the state of the bus shelter at the Station Hotel. It has no protection from the sides, a panel is missing and has a decaying metal cable and box hanging from the inside. He also noted that there has been an issue with the cancellation of buses for people trying to get to work. MMM agreed to take these concerns to the next transport meeting. AA advised that there was also an old motorbike behind the shelter. FB to investigate ownership.</p> <p>AA raised concerns about the potential of missing out on grants & funding due to applications not being completed in time. AA to discuss with CE and TP.</p> <p>DM proposed a vote of thanks to FB for all of his efforts to keep AKCC afloat during the recent events. A round of applause was very well deserved.</p> | MMM to raise concerns FB to investigate AA to discuss with CE & TP |
| 15. | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Monday 15th December in Avoch Pavilion.</p> | |