

Ardgay & District Community Council



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Ardgay & District Community Council

17th November 2025

Culrain Hall

1) Present: Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM), Les Waugh: Chair (LW), Robert Sawyer (RS), Anne Henderson (AH), Robert Henderson (RH), Eilidh Forbes (EF), Tommy Gordon (TG), Silvia Muras (SM), Kerry Hawthorne (KH)

2) Chair's welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Hugh Morrison for making the journey. Reminded people to turn phones to silent. Chair asked members of the public to address any comments through the chair and keep comments succinct and to the point

3) Minutes of inaugural meeting – agreed

4) Matters arising - KH advised that there had not been time to put questions to HC as agreed.

5) Treasurer update

Ardgay & District Community Council Treasurer's Report

As of 17 Nov 2025, the balance at the bank was: £62,445.57

This notionally comprises:

Restricted funds: £61,450.48

CC Admin fund: £641.15

Windfarm Admin fund: £353.94

The balances of the restricted funds are:

BnO: £39,534.37

CnC: £27,682.34

BTWF Community Projects: £1,158.37

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Judicial review fees (£6,924.60) (Not yet allocated)

Expenditure since 22 May 2025:

Income since 22 May 2025:

Nil

Expenditure not yet in statement:

Nil

Income not yet in statement:

Annual income from CnC WF pending (circa £24k)

Annual income from BnO WF pending (circa £4k)

BnO = Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm

BTWF = Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm

CnC = Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm

KoSDT = Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

A&DCC = Ardgay & District Community Council

CC = Community Council

6) Secretary Update – little to report as very limited by both time and other commitments to get through the inbox and go through issues. All future meetings will be recorded for the purpose of accuracy and minutes but this has not been set up in time for this meeting.

7) KoSDT update – no formal update had been requested.

SM updated as follows;

- KoSDT board and staff has been working with Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) to look at future delivery and financial resilience.
- KoSDT is committed to move forward in cooperation with other organisations as this will benefit the community. The chair has reached out to local CCs to hold an "open day" where CC members can come along, meet the board and staff, ask any questions they might have and learn about the Trust's work.
- We have produced an exciting KoSDT 5-year strategy plan that will be launched soon.
- The 2024-2025 AGM will be scheduled for early in the new year.

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- Kyle FEEDS project (food larder, cafe, growing, exercise) is funded until the end of March. We are still awaiting information from our funders regarding an extension or application process.
- Helping Hands: all funds from Ardgay CC are now committed so if the CC thinks this is a project worth supporting we will be looking at making an application.

8) Local updates

Culrain

Update on installation of Forest signs by FLS. Timed to coincide with panel of walking trails prepared by HC following consultation.

A sign has again been removed and this has been reported to police.

29th November is Christmas Lights switch on – this will include music, craft stalls etc

Culrain Hall has now completed the kitchen refurb, fitting new front door is next.

KH had not requested an update from Ardgay Hall but updated that Ardgay Christmas Fair was to be held in the hall on the 22nd November.

MoP updated that Gearrhoille Community Wood AGM to be held 14th December 2025 at 2pm in the shelter at the wood.

9) Highland Council Report - Cllr Hugh Morrison

Cllr Morrison advised that as we approach winter it is possible for communities to request salt/grit to enable them to grit if required in the event of adverse weather.

A number of roads issues were raised. Cllr Morrison requested that details and exact locations were emailed to ensure accuracy in reporting to the correct maintenance team.

Community support issues – many other cc's are expressing concern regarding lack of support and CC insurance issues. Elected members have not to date received responses from the head of legal services or the chief executive of Highland Council to enquiries raised on behalf of communities.

10) Planning & Licensing

Nothing significant to report, single application for the area, no comments made

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11) Police update – (LW)1 x assist member of the public, 1 x neighbour dispute, 1 x assist another agency

12) Christmas Lights – (RS) Kyle Action Group Christmas Lights are already well in to the work to prepare the lights for this year. The group have now taken over responsibility for the lights in Ardgay with some of the existing Ardgay team continuing to work with the group for this year's display. Funding has been obtained for new lights for Ardgay. The live Ardgay tree will be decorated with lights for the first time this year. The big switch on event including the much loved tractor flashmob, Santa, craft and food stalls and for the first time this year a memory tree for people to leave a message or memory for lost loved ones will be Saturday 6th December.

13) Case update – KH confirmed that the legal case was continuing. Explained that there had been issues with financial compliance for the proposed crowd funding page and that any surplus funds collected would be lost to the community as signing up meant that they must be allocated to another legal cause and could not be retained. Explained that alternative crowd funding platforms were being looked at and that a crowd funder was still intended but that the legal team are still checking compliance issues to advise as appropriate. Advice from the legal team is that procedurally it is very unlikely that the case will be dismissed at the preliminary hearing and advice from the advocate is that the case will proceed to the full hearing. The most recent hearing has been postponed due to the ill health of the petitioner.

14) Correspondence – nothing reported, inbox still to be cleared.

15) Any other competent business – disappointment from MoP that the railway station works for Ardgay have been granted planning permission/listed building consent without the inclusive access issues being addressed.

16) Date, time, location of next meeting – agreed 15th December, 7p.m., Ardgay Hall

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17) Funding applications

Unanimous agreement to increase core costs from the Coirre na Cloiche WF fund for 5-year awards, to:

Ardgay Hall £4,000

Culrain Hall £4,000

Gearchoille Community Woods £2,000

KoS Heritage Society £2,000

Gledfield PS Parent Council £2,000

Beinn Tharsuinn applications approved via email after Nov meeting and before Feb meeting:

Lairg Learning Centre: £5,000 towards Core

Kyle Chronicle CIC: £3,000 toward core costs

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust: £5,000 toward core costs