

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall
on 6th July 2026 at 19.00

1. Present, apologies and conflicts of interest

Present: George Cross (GX), chair; Lea MacNally (LMacN), treasurer; Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), secretary; Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); four members of the public, including John Gordon (JG); and representing SSER re Coire Glas (CG) project: Jade Clark (JC); Malcolm Grant (MG)

Apologies: Kevin Sutherland; Gillian Carruthers ; Cllr Liz Saggars; Liam McLoone (Highland Council (HC) Waste Operations)

Conflicts of interest: none were intimated

2. Minutes of meeting of 1st June

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June were adopted. Proposed: LMacN; seconded: PM.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Financial report

LMacN had circulated the financial report and the invoice of the Village Office (VO) to members. He indicated a typographical error in the circulated version and handed out corrected paper copies. In the main account, income of £4,316.10 had been received as GCC's share of the FLS hydro scheme community benefit payment. Expenditure of £953.88 had been incurred, being £20 for the May meeting of the Community Led Community Liaison Group, £20 each for the April and May council meetings Hall lets, £834 to Lochiel Logistics for the May skip hire, £53.13 for electrical works for the Post Office defibrillator, and £6.75 for bank charges. The closing balance on 29th May was £17,227.73 of which £2,980.53 was ring fenced, leaving £14,247.20 available funds. The Post Office account received £52 in respect of rent and had a closing balance of 1,414.95 on 3rd June.

The VO had worked for 23 hours, cutting grass at the church, the Hall, the war memorial and junction, the Post Office and Garry Bank paths, the games field entrance and the chapel, and for senior citizens. He had also cut bracken on the river path from the White Bridge to the village, and scrub at the chapel and the Post Office path. He had also collected litter. He had bought petrol for the strimmer and the mower. His invoice amounted to £340.50 in total.

KB said that he had noticed a discrepancy between the March and April accounts , which he had not previously noted. As LMacN had not brought the bank statements to this meeting, it was agreed to deal with the question at the next one.

5. Community Liaison Groups' reports

The Community Led Liaison Group (CLLG) and the CG CLG had both met on 16th June. GX and KB had attended them.

The CLLG meeting had been better attended than on previous occasions. It had noted many GCC representations, including its community benefit principles, the statement about the Black Bridge, and road incidents. Kristen MacLeod of HC Roads Department was present and had said that there is an online system for making insurance claims for pothole damage. It had been noted that one member of the community had incurred £2000 of such damage. Transport Scotland was reported as working on plans for speed restriction measures and a pedestrian crossing in the village. They are looking for funding for this. There was discussion of the ownership of the river bed. Skye Reinforcement Line and Loch Fearn issues had also been discussed. It was noted that there had been no progress in the Beinneun II and Bunloinn wind farm projects, but that these were being kept in mind in view of the issue of visible mast lights in the dark sky area. A traffic management plan is to be issued in relation to the whole Skye Line.

In relation to the Skye Line CLG meeting which had taken place on 20th May and which was reported in the Minutes of 1st June, it was further reported that the road works by RJ McLeods have now finished. The next meeting of the group will be on 15th July. KK said that there are still outstanding questions which the group will force SSE to answer. Daisie Elliott has resigned from the group and Femke Ferguson has joined it.

It was reported that the CG CLG had taken place before the decision had been made about cap and floor funding. MG reported that the decision has been made and that there are some minor details about forestry to be finalised. Further discussion of CG issues, including the possibility of a Kilfinnan Road residents' meeting, took place under item 8.

6. Correspondence

CD had circulated a handlist of correspondence since the last meeting, which was noted. GX referred to two HC emails: the survey of playparks, which had been forwarded to members, for which there is a link on the GCC website for parents to complete if they wish; and the survey of off-street parking in which Invergarry Cemetery is mentioned, though, in his view, it appears that there are unlikely to be problems there. It was agreed that GCC would not need to comment on this.

7. Planning

GX said that 12 applications have been received so far this year.

- (a) Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) forestry track at South Laggan: it was agreed that no comment was required.
- (b) Viewpoint project: GX reminded the meeting that the current status of the project is that a Proposal of Application Notice has been lodged, and that no comment by GCC is required. GCC has circulated the notices about meetings provided by Black Sheep.

- (c) Loch Fearn: GX reminded the meeting that preparations need to be made for the DPEA enquiry meeting. The Reporter will be holding an online meeting to determine the process. Fraser Allison is to be attending GCC's next meeting; he has sent some preliminary papers, which have been circulated to members. It was agreed that he should be sent questions before the meeting. GX will produce a draft of these and circulate them to members for comment. Particular questions may include why the improvements already made to the road may not be sufficient for the works, how long the works will take, and whether the road will need to be closed for them.
- (d) Borrow pit 66: GCC's response to the application has been lodged, with a question about whether variation is possible. JG has written to SSE about the proposal, and Cal Lancaster has replied to him. Both of them have allowed their mails to be circulated to members. Various issues were discussed including access to borrow pits, and why imported aggregate was required for the works. SSE holds that it is needed to form the access tracks to the pits whilst the planning applications for more pits are being processed.

JG recalled that several proposed borrow pits had been surveyed in 2021 and that their stone had been tested and approved for use. He asked why this is being done again and why the pits cannot be used. He is to be having a meeting on Wednesday with Linda Mess of Balfour Beatty (BB); he will report on the meeting. BB are working on the borrow pit strategy; he will share any information he receives. It was confirmed that not all the locations of proposed borrow pits are known. In his view, the works are unlikely to start this year. If the works are delayed, there will be time to make more applications for planning permission.

LMacN pointed out that lorries will not be able to cross the Quoich bridge until strengthening works on it are completed.

- (e) Ardoch: GX reported that a new planning application for four houses and two crofts has been lodged. GCC supported the previous application. KB said he is concerned because it is not known how the houses are to be allocated. This is not a planning issue. GX said he understands that local applicants are to have priority; he will write to Glengarry Community Development Trust (GCDT) for information. KB is also concerned at the plan to retain the proposed Skye Line access track under the pylons as a cycle track, because it would be a scar on the landscape and because of the possibility that users of the track might be adversely affected by the line. It was acknowledged that a cycle track to the A87 would be helpful to Ardoch residents, as it would allow them active travel access to the bus stops at the end of the road. After discussion, it was agreed that such a track would not necessarily be a scar, but that whether people would be prepared to use a track under power lines should be investigated. The deadline for responding to the application is 17th July. It was decided to communicate by email about this.

- (f) KB said that the CLLG had been told that three applications are soon to be made in connection with the proposed Loch Lundie switching station.

8. Any other competent business

- (a) Black Bridge: Tim Eagle MSP and others have replied to our paper about the bridge. Replies are being sent reinforcing GCC's position on this and informing those showing an interest that GCDT is now negotiating with FLS. MG mentioned that the footings of the bridge are not owned by SSE. He also mentioned the supporting structures of the Telford bridge by the war memorial. It was pointed out that, as that bridge was originally part of a public road, it should not be assumed that the parts of the structure on the banks are not owned by the banks' proprietor, as a matter of Scots land law.
- (b) Place Shaping Survey: information had been received and circulated to members about research being done into place shaping, and inviting participation. Reference had been made to the Local Place Plan. GX offered to contact the researcher on behalf of GCC, and this was agreed.
- (c) Liam McLoone of HC Waste Operations had hoped to be at this meeting to discuss the problem of fly tipping but was unable to attend owing to the A82 being closed. It was noted that the fly tipping beside Loch Garry is still there, and it was agreed to write to him strongly regretting this and asking him to take all possible steps to have it removed.
- (d) LMacN mentioned the forthcoming Senior Citizens' Christmas party and noted that the community resilience fund had paid for the professional catering at the last three parties. In view of the level of GCC's available funds, it was agreed that the cost of around £2000 should be offered.
- (e) Coire Glas next steps: JC and MG were welcomed. MG said that when Ofgem's 'minded-to' decision on cap and floor funding was announced a week ago, it was good to see that the project had been supported and ranked second out of the four pumped storage schemes considered. The terms of the cap and floor funding are not yet completely clear; there is to be an eight week public consultation until 7th August, to which SSE and other interested parties have the opportunity to respond. There is some concern that the floor should be raised in order to be more attractive to investors owing to the considerable build costs. There is also concern regarding the completion date, which has not been amended to allow for the delay in policy. It is hoped that MG will be able to report on that next month.

JC said that it is unlikely, in the circumstances, that works on the Kilfinnan road will start before next year. However, prior to any works starting, an interim meeting of Kilfinnan road residents and GCC representatives will take place in addition to the CLG.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Community Hall at 19.00 on 3rd August.