

## Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall  
on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 19.00

### 1. Present; apologies; and conflicts of interest

Present: George Cross (GX), Chair; Lea MacNally (LMacN), Treasurer; Cecilia Dyckhoff (CD), Secretary; Kevin Sutherland (KS); Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); one member of the public.

Apologies: Gillian Carruthers; Cllr Liz Saggars; Cllr Sammy Cameron; Tom Cooper, Glengarry Community Development Trust (GCDT).

Conflicts of interest: None were intimated.

### 2. Minutes of meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March were adopted. Proposed: LMacN; seconded: KB.

### 3. Matters arising

(a) Kingie mast light: The assistance of Maren Ebeling (ME), SSE, in investigating this was acknowledged. It was agreed that, as it appears that no resolution is possible by GCC's own efforts, Keith Johnstone of the Planning Department, Highland Council (HC), should be asked to initiate enforcement proceedings.

(b) Hedge at school: No response having been received from HC about this problem, it was agreed that HC should be contacted again about this.

### 4. Financial report (including report by Village Officer (VO) and connected matters relating to roads and footways)

LMacN had circulated the Treasurer's report for February and the VO's invoices. In the main account, income of £2,074.31 had been received from the Shinty Club as GCC's share of the community payments made in respect of the Green Highland hydro scheme. Expenditure had amounted to £2,991.49, being £399.99 for the VO's January invoice and the cost of a snow shovel, and £322 for his February invoice, £209.50 to Glengarry and District Community Association for the Senior Citizens' party, £20 for each of the Hall lets in November and December, and for the Community Led Liaison Group's meeting, and £2,000 to Lucky2BHere for the new defibrillator at the Post Office. The closing balance of that account was £15,343.55, with a ring fenced sum of £3,138.03, leaving an available balance of £12,205.52.

The Post Office account had income of £52 in respect of rent. There had been no expenditure, and the closing balance of available funds was £1,523.05.

LMacN intimated that the work on the cemetery gates had been completed and that payment was due in the amount of £4,368.

The VO's invoice shows that he had cleared a number of ditches and culverts after the recent heavy rain, including a blocked grating and the silted burn at the school,

the blocked water catch at the Faichem road access and the drain along the Faichem road, which in the VO's view requires digging out along its length, and the ditch at the Hall. He had cleared moss and weeds from the Garry Bank pavements, and he had tidied the playpark and paths and cleared storm debris. He had washed the Post Office walls and ramp, and had cleaned the gutters and scraped moss from the roof there. He had cleaned the church gutters and made a temporary repair to a gutter there. His work had taken 23 hours. Members expressed their appreciation of the VO's work.

Members of the public have reported to the VO and to LMacN various road and pavement problems, which are beyond the VO's capacity. These include: potholes along the Mandally road as well as flooding on the Faichem road, and the broken steps from the playpark to Garry Bank. It was agreed that these should form part of a general intimation to HC of road and pavement deficiencies, some of which, such as the state of the footway outside the flats beside the hotel, are of long standing.

LMacN intimated that he had been warned that the cost of waste skips was to be increased. Last year the cost was about £526 for each of the five skips; this year it is likely to be £750 per skip. It was noted that the content of the skips has to be carefully checked, as the inclusion of not-permitted items leads to an extra charge. After discussion, including consideration of the level of reserve funding that GCC should hold, it was decided to apply to the Glengarry Trust (GT) for a grant of £3,000 to assist with the cost of the skips, as well as for assistance with the VO's cost of approximately £4,500 per year, as had been done in the past.

#### 5. Correspondence

CD had circulated a handlist of correspondence since the last meeting, which was noted. During discussion, it was agreed that a reply to our emails to BEAR about the footway beside the flats, and to HC about the hedges at the school, should be sought, and that HC and BEAR should also be reminded of the blocked gullies on the A87.

#### 6. Post Office report

GX, for the sub-committee, reported that they had met three representatives of GCDT on 27<sup>th</sup> March, to discuss the future of the Post Office site. It was agreed that the Post Office is important to the village, and that GCDT would be prepared to purchase the site, subject to negotiation. GCC would introduce the relevant parties but would not take part in the negotiation. GCDT are instructing solicitors, but GCC will not do so. It was agreed that GCC would hand over responsibility of the management of the Post Office to GCDT in due course. It had also been intimated, as previously agreed, that GCC would assist with the fees incurred, using the funds in the Post Office account. The sub-committee will keep GCC informed of progress in discussions about insurance, the lease and contact with the Post Mistress. It was intimated that the insurance premium would be due in May and that GCC will deal with this for the forthcoming year. It was agreed that GCDT will be advised of the estate's solicitors.

GCC agreed that the Post Office account funds should be used as suggested, but that it would be prudent to retain part of the funds for eventualities until the management responsibility is transferred. The insurance and water rates payments about to fall due were noted.

7. Skye Reinforcement Line: community benefit fund principles; and SRL Community Liaison Group (CLG)

- (a) Skye Reinforcement Line Community Benefit Fund: GX had circulated a draft of proposals for the principles that should be applied to community benefit from all energy infrastructure works in Glengarry. It included a statement that granting planning permission and providing community benefits should not be mutually dependent, and that there should be three levels of benefit funding: a long term wealth fund, for landscape, ecological, environmental and societal restitution; medium term, for community needs identified in Local Development Plans, Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans; and short term, for distribution to local people with specific requirements. Long term funds could be received and administered by GCDT or by GT, medium term funds by GCDT, and short term ones by GT.

In discussion, it was suggested that Glengarry and District Community Association (GCDA), the proprietor and manager of the Community Hall, would be a worthy beneficiary of funds, in view of the importance of the Hall to the community. The Highland Games was also mentioned, as was the possibility of a seed corn fund on the model of the Prince's (now the King's) Trust. It was noted that the constraints of the community benefit fund would require funding to be non-profit making bodies. In relation to the granting of funds to individuals, a member of the public suggested that it would be desirable to have a quicker process than the one presently used by GT.

GX will amend the draft of the proposals and circulate it. Members were reminded that SSE's online form for suggestions about the process would be open until 10<sup>th</sup> April.

- (b) Skye Reinforcement Line CLG: KS and KB had attended the meeting to set up the group. The others present from the community had been Daisie Laarveld, Luke Church and David Durney, with Kenneth Knott representing Mars Projects. An SSE engineer was also present; he has expertise in transport planning, and is in charge of the underground sections of the line between Invergarry and Fort Augustus. A transport management plan should be ready three months before the works begin. On the understanding that they are intended to start in June or July, it would appear that the plan is behind schedule. The group's terms of reference had been drafted by Maren Ebeling for SSE. KS was appointed chair, and it was agreed that the group should meet quarterly and that members of the public should be invited to some of the meetings. The next meeting will be in April or May.

8. Local Place Plan (LPP):

GX reported that, as expected, HC had intimated some necessary amendments to the LPP, including work on validation and mapping. Hazel Allen (HA) of Athena would be able to do this in a day's work for each aspect. Her fee would be £1,000. It was agreed that she should be engaged to do this.

9. Coire Glas: GCC statement and Community Liaison Group (CLG) report

- (a) GCC statement: GX reported that Bob Robertson of HC has replied to GCC's statement of views about the planning process. It was noted that our criticisms of the planning process, and the lack of consultation after changes that appear to be material, still stand. The current relevant issues are the increased size of the dam, the spoil management, matters relating to archaeology, working hours, and the lack of an environmental management document.
- (b) CLG report: KB had been present. It had been reported that the future of the project still depends upon the outcome of the as yet undetermined Ofgem financing arrangements. The spoil will be temporarily stored at Kilfinnan Farm. The CLG was told that the spoil would not be carried on public roads, but would be disposed within the defined boundary of the works. However, it appears that the Kilfinnan and Mandally roads would be used, although it might be possible to avoid trunk roads by using the forest tracks above Loch Oich. In answer to a question by LMacN, KB said that the meeting had been told that the spoil from the tunnels would be used for the dam, though there may be a question about whether even the larger dam will require the increased volume of spoil produced from the second, larger tunnel. Because Kilfinnan Farm is to be used for spoil storage, the proposed workers' camp, for about 2,000 people, will not be there. Planning permission may have to be obtained for the camp, depending upon whether it is possible to place it within the works boundary. A number of possible sites outside the boundary have been mentioned in the past. Community benefits had been described at the meeting, in similar terms as previously. The proposal is for benefits to comprise a lump sum at the start of construction. Details of the Minute of Engagement between SSER and GCC, establishing the terms of the arrangement, are yet to be finalised.

10. Community Led Liaison Group update

KB and GX had been present. KB reported that the representation by contractors, either in person or by written reports, was disappointing. The representative from Transport Scotland (TS) had reported that the process for reducing the speed limit in the village has started. It will extend from 50 metres from the A82 to just past the Hall. It appears that the rest of the present 40mph area will not be changed. The process is under the control of the Scottish Government and may take up to eighteen months. KB will circulate the TS email about the proposal. A pedestrian crossing at the school is also planned, though it has not yet been determined which authority will meet the cost.

11. Road maintenance and vehicle damage

It was noted that damage to the C1144 glen road and its culverts and verges was being caused by the lorries used there for engineering works. Work on extending

passing places on the C1144 has revealed that the fibre communication infrastructure is close to the surface, and may be vulnerable; and Openreach has been contacted about this. A resident in Kilfinnan has also reported similar damage to the road and culverts there. Residents' tyres and cars have been damaged. It was agreed that keeping a record of accidents and damage is important, though there was no consensus on how the lorries responsible could be monitored or controlled. It was agreed that HC should be informed about the possible issue with regard to the fibre infrastructure. KB and KS agreed to keep GCC informed about the works that they have become aware of on the C1144, including the planned reinforcement of the Quoich bridge.

## 12. Planning

- (a) HC has published a new Guide to the Planning System for Community Councils, which is available for consultation.
- (b) The Culachy windfarm application has been refused.
- (c) Permission has been granted for the Melgarve cluster line to Fort Augustus.
- (d) In the application for change of use of a house in the village from residential to letting, the exclusion of short term letting has been withdrawn.
- (e) No date has yet been fixed for HC's consideration of the Viewpoint application. This may take place at the May meeting. GCC will be informed of the date.
- (f) An application for a temporary meteorological mast at Beinneun 2 has been made. It was agreed that GCC's view on this is neutral, but that it should be intimated that we would oppose the addition of a visible red light on the mast.
- (g) GX attended the HC planning committee meeting on the Loch Fearna application. He reported that there had been substantial discussion, including scathing comments about the visualisations provided by the applicants. HC had maintained its opposition to the scheme. GX has received a large volume of photographs which can be shown on request.
- (h) The application for holiday cottages at Ardochy has been refused.

## 13. Any other competent business

- (a) GX noted that the new Scheme of Establishment mentions the use of social media by Community Councils. He has received an estimate for the cost of setting up and managing a social media presence for GCC. This would amount to an initial cost of £140 and about £250 per month for ongoing management. He will circulate the details of the proposal for further consideration.
- (b) KB said that the Common Scoter Special Interest Group had been offered funding from Gilkes for predator mapping and feeding, after having been unsuccessful in an application to NatureScot for funding.
- (c) It was noted that one passing place on the C1144 has been removed, without prior intimation.
- (d) LMacN recalled that it had been agreed to fund the cost of new tubs and plants for the Hall. It was confirmed that he should obtain these.

## 14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Community Hall at 19.00 on 4th May 2026.