

## Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall  
on 4<sup>th</sup> May 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); Gillian Carruthers (GC); Cllr Liz Saggars (LS); Malcolm Grant (SSE, Coire Glas project); and two other members of the public.  
Apologies: none were received.  
Conflicts of interest: none were intimated.
2. Minutes of meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April were adopted. Proposed: KB; seconded: KS.
3. Matters arising
  - (a) Kingie mast light: It was agreed to press for resolution of this.
  - (b) School lights and hedge: It was noted that there had been a positive response from Highland Council (HC) and it was agreed to keep the matter in mind.
  - (c) Pavements: CD was instructed to maintain pressure about this.
  - (d) Skips: LMacN said that the first skip would be delivered on 12<sup>th</sup> May and that the signage had been put out. It was noted that the cost has increased from £655 plus VAT to £695 plus VAT and it was agreed to apply to the Glengarry Trust for a grant.
  - (e) GX confirmed that the Beinneum 2 wind farm meteorological mast response has been lodged.
  - (f) KB asked for clarification of the Post Office sub group report reference to handing over management of the Post Office. It was confirmed that negotiations about acquisition of the land and building (which forms part of the heritable property) will be undertaken by Glengarry Community Development Trust and the Aberchalder Estate representative, that the management of the property referred to the tenant's lease, and that the reference to using the Post Office account funds was indicative only.
4. Financial report  
LMacN had circulated the financial report and the invoice of the Village Office (VO) to members. There had been no income to the main account, and expenditure of £155.15 had been incurred in respect of the Council's insurance policy (£141.65) and bank charges (£13.50). The closing balance was £18,555.26 of which £3,138.03 was ring fenced, leaving available funds of £15,417.23. The Post Office account had received £52 in respect of rent, and had incurred expenditure of £264.10 in respect of the Scottish Water payment, leaving a closing balance of £1,310.95.

The VO's invoice showed that he had repaired a damaged drain and the verge on the war memorial east access road and had cut back scrub there. At the Post Office, he

had patched a hole in the soffit and a section of rotten barge board, had painted those repairs, and had also painted the access ramp wall and its coping stones. He had cleared moss from the village noticeboard and cleaned it, and had weeded and removed debris and moss around the picnic area, and cleaned the picnic tables beside the Post Office. He had cleaned the bus stop walls. At the Community Hall he had removed molehills and stones from the grass areas, removed moss from in front of the veranda area, and weeded the access path and the area between the Heritage Centre and the toilet block. He had mowed the grass at the hall and its access area. He had raked and removed leaves and debris at the church, from the pavement opposite the church to the hotel, and from the hall access to the hatchery site. He had incurred expenditure for paint.

5. Correspondence

CD had circulated a handlist of correspondence since the last meeting, which was noted. Referring to the correspondence with BEAR about drainage on the A87, LMacN said that BEAR had been in contact with the Church authorities about the culvert beside the church. GC said that an electrician has inspected the lights at the school.

6. AGM preparation

HC's CC Support team had circulated a helpful checklist in February. It was confirmed that LMacN is using the same template for the annual accounts as last year and is arranging for their inspection. GX said that the contact form has changed. The AGM must take place between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> June; it was therefore confirmed that it would take place before the usual monthly business meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was noted that when the officers stand down at the meeting, in the usual way, a temporary Chair is needed and that this is usually a Highland Councillor. Cllr LS said that she would not be able to undertake this; and it was accordingly agreed that Cllrs John Grafton and Sammy Cameron should be reminded. If necessary another ad hoc Chair can step in. The necessary timing for intimation of the AGM and for publication of the Accounts was noted. At KB's suggestion, it was agreed that members should consider whether to approach possible members of the community for co-option, and contact GX with suggestions.

7. Social media proposal

GX had circulated a proposal by a social media consultant to provide this service, and the cost was referred to, as well as the time and effort involved in engaging in this type of communication. KB and GC referred to the challenges of mediating and monitoring social media communications and responses. Using Ness News, direct email contact, and Facebook was discussed. It was agreed that managing email contact with residents could be hard, and that a dedicated Facebook page might attract attention outside the community rather than promoting contact with residents which would be the main reason for a social media presence. It was agreed to consider using Ness News, which is managed by Deirdre MacKinnon of Fort Augustus who has already offered its services. GC said that she would be prepared to use her own Facebook page. GX undertook to consider the two options proposed, to contact Deirdre MacKinnon, and to report.

## 8. Planning

- (a) Millennium East wind farm: GX reported that HC is raising an objection. Cllr LS said that she had not yet received intimation of this.
- (b) The Local Place Plan had been submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> April and is waiting for final validation. Some late changes were made to provide links to actual Local Development Plans. The invoice from Athena has not yet been received; LMacN will report when it comes in.
- (c) Skye Line proposed borrow pit 66: John Gordon (JG) of Lochhourhead had contacted GCC to express his concerns about the borrow pit near the head of Loch Hourn. He had been critical of GCC's response to the planning application and GX had explained to him the process by which that had been reached. In discussion, it was confirmed that the role of a CC is to listen to the community's views and balance differing concerns about the impact of proposals on different areas. A CC is not expected to undertake a survey of opinions. On request, GX had received more information from JG about the details of his concern, which is that aggregate will have to be brought in to make access tracks to the proposed borrow pits and also that there will be a string of pits along the glen. He believes that aggregate should be obtained from pits nearest to where the works will take place; and he is also concerned about the use of lorries on the road. It is not clear exactly which borrow pit will provide the material for each site. It was noted that Maren Ebeling of SSE has already indicated that Balfour Beatty (BB) will be happy to attend a meeting with GCC, and that questions about this can be put to their representative then. It was noted that it would be important for the BB representative to be a person with engineering and geological knowledge. There was also discussion of the number of borrow pits and the volume of aggregate that had been reported as being needed. Questions can be asked at the meeting with BB about whether there are alternative sources of aggregate, and the relationship between the number and location of the proposed borrow pits, and where the material from each of them is to be used.

A member of the public expressed concern about the number and speed of lorries currently using the road, and the fact that they are taking aggregate both into and out of the glen. It was noted that the tachograph facilities fitted to BB lorries now use telematic data that is said to be more easily monitored. It was also noted that BB has already been asked to provide a Construction Traffic Management Plan. Monitoring and control of lorry traffic was agreed to be important to all residents.

GC presented a letter that had been sent to residents at Glenelg about a consultation to be held there on 13<sup>th</sup> May about the Skye Line project, for information.

- (d) KB said that there would probably be a public local enquiry about the Loch Fearn project. He referred to the issue of scoters and said that the time scale for arranging the enquiry would probably be short and that GCC would be given only fourteen days in which to decide whether to opt in as consultees. Other options such as invitation and compulsion are also possible, though unlikely. There was

discussion about whether GCC should employ a representative. It was understood that whilst advocates are often instructed, reporters usually treat with courtesy those lay representatives that appear. LMacN suggested that a special meeting should be arranged to discuss GCCs approach; and GX undertook to consider drawing up a synopsis of our opposition.

- (e) GX confirmed that he had lodged GCC's response to the proposal for a meteorological mast at the Beinneun 2 wind farm, as discussed at the last meeting.
- (f) A member of the public asked if it was yet known when HC's Planning Committee would consider the Viewpoint planning application, and was told that there was as yet no information about this.

#### 9. Any other competent business

- (a) Principles of community benefit funding: GX has drafted and circulated a paper to members on this topic, for comment. It was discussed whether it should be shared with the community groups named in an appendix as possible beneficiaries. KB said that some organisations with a substantial national reach had recently amended their formal statements of interests to include activity in Glengarry, possibly with a view to obtaining community benefit funding. He undertook to supply a list of them. After further discussion it was decided to make GX's draft document, without the appendix, available to all members of the community by the usual means of advertisement, and to invite comments from all.
- (b) Consultation: GX said that recent correspondence has raised the question of consultation. In discussion, it was agreed that whilst members are not obliged actively to canvass views on any topic, they will naturally become aware of issues of concern, because of their connections within the community, and will be responsive to them. A decision made by GCC is based on that knowledge and the members' own good sense and intelligence.
- (c) It was reported that there had been an issue in the Garry Bank area with noisy motorbikes. KS and GX had visited there and helped resolve the problem.
- (d) Burnt-out house in Garry Crescent: In response to the request from the Empty Homes Officer for any information about the property, members reported that no activity had been seen there.
- (e) 3 Glens AGM: it was noted that the AGM would be held at 14.30 on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Fort Augustus, and that a community taxi service is being trialled. GX said that he is aware that members of the community support this service, and that he will attend the AGM to confirm that.
- (f) KB said that he had just received a message from Richard Tuxford of Tomdoun reporting that several thousand trees are about to be delivered to the estate and that help with planting them would be appreciated. Callum Stewart, the estate manager, should be contacted about this.
- (g) PM reported that the potholes on the Mandally road are deteriorating. It was agreed that HC should be contacted about this.
- (h) LMacN reported flytipping beside Loch Garry, which is a recurring problem that is beyond the VO's capacity to cope with. It was agreed to contact the HC Waste

Disposal officers who deal with flytipping, and also to investigate the possibility of employing contractors to deal with it from time to time.

- (i) Malcolm Grant of SSE, who was present as a member of the public, reported that activity at the Coire Glas site is restricted to tree felling at present. A decision on cap and floor funding of the project is expected in the next two or three weeks, though; and it is hoped that it will be able to go ahead after that. Undertaking the tree felling is a calculated risk. He will continue to report to the Coire Glas Community Liaison Group.

10. Date of AGM and next business meeting

The AGM will be held in the Community Hall at 19.00 on 1st June 2026; the next ordinary business meeting will take place immediately thereafter.