

Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall
on 6th October 2025 at 19.00

1. Present; apologies; and conflicts of interest
Present: George Cross, chair (GX); Lea MacNally, treasurer (LMacN); Cecilia Dyckhoff, secretary (CD); Kevin Sutherland (KS); Ken Brown (KB); Philippa Maltby (PM); Gillian Carruthers (GC); Cllr Liz Saggars (LS). Members of the public and observers: Ross Lynn (RL), Glengarry Community Development Trust (GCDT); Kenneth Knott (KK), Mars Projects; 3 other members of the public.
Apologies: Kristen MacLeod (KMacL), Highland Council (HC) Roads Department; Cllr John Grafton; Tom Cooper, (TC) GCDT
Conflicts of interest: no conflicts of interest were noted
2. Meeting with KMacL, HC Roads Department
KMacL was unable to attend, owing to pressure of work connected with the recent road closures due to fallen trees. It was agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting. In the meantime, members agreed to provide details to CD of the issues to be raised, in order to give KMacL advance notice.
3. Minutes of meeting of 1st September
The minutes of the public and private meetings held on 1st September were adopted. Proposed: KS; seconded: PM.
4. Matters arising
Item 11(d), cemetery gates: LMacN said that he had spoken to a contractor who will inspect the damaged gates and provide an estimate of the cost of repair.
5. Financial report
LMacN had sent members copies of the monthly report and the invoice from the village officer (VO). In the main account, there was no income in this period and the expenditure was £1,953.80, being £329.75 for the VO, £526.60 for the August skip, £90 for secretarial services for the August GCC meeting, £1,000 to Invergarry primary school parent council, and £7.25 bank charges. The closing balance was £12,886.94, of which £2,733.03 was ring fenced, giving £10,153.91 available funds. The Post Office account income was £52, with no expenditure, giving a closing balance and available funds of £1,211.05.

The VO's invoice showed that he had mowed and strimmed grass at the Community Hall and its access track, at the church, the chapel, Garry Bank, the road junction, the Post Office, the Black Bridge, Laggan locks bus stop, and for senior citizens, and that he had cut back scrub at the church and the chapel, along the pavement near the school, and on the river bank. He had also dug out silt and gravel from the school burn culvert, washed down the Post Office and bus stop walls, removed a large branch from the river path and picked up litter through the village. He had repaired the strimmer. A typographical error of date was noted and corrected.

6. Correspondence

CD had been unable to circulate the correspondence record, owing to the ongoing power outage. She summarised its contents for information.

7. Coire Glas Liaison Group (CGLG) report

KB reported that the public meeting on 30th September had been informed that although the CG pumped storage scheme has been accepted into the first window of the cap and floor investment scheme, the current terms of the scheme are understood to make it financially non-viable. No works will take place until that changes; this includes road repairs. More information will be available in Spring 2026 and a decision is due in Summer 2026. Work on the project could start a year later, after enabling works. The current terms of the scheme require the project to be complete by 2033 – a timescale about two years shorter than originally planned. SSEN(T) were not at the meeting to comment on the necessary transmission works associated with the project.

The infrastructure works involve trenching a cable from Fort Augustus to the lower site at Loch Lochy. This cannot be done at the same time as planned tree felling there; it will involve closure of part of the Great Glen Way, which is of concern to businesses along the Kilfinnan road. The works will be undertaken in winter 2026, and diversions will be made.

Angus MacDonald MP addressed the meeting. He has made representations in parliament about community benefits, including housing, care of the elderly and local energy discount schemes.

The next meeting will take place on 16th December.

In discussion, LMacN asked if the CGLG would continue to meet even if the work is not continuing and KB said that it would; he also said the public meeting had been told that the buried cable would be left in the ground if the project did not go ahead owing to there being no funding.

8. Community Led Liaison Group (CLLG) report

KB reported that the meeting held on 30th September had been chaired by Riddell Graham and that developers had attended in person or, with two exceptions, had been represented. Gilkes had been invoiced for their contribution to the running costs. RES had resigned from the group following the withdrawal of their application for a wind farm at Beinn Bheag. Balfour Beatty are to be invited to join the group, given their involvement with the Skye Line project; and they have offered financial help to the group.

KB and GX had represented GCC and had reported the council's support for the Highland Convention of Community Councils' calls to the Scottish Government and HC. It was reported that a method of recording traffic incidents is being developed

and that audio monitoring of traffic numbers is beginning. Transport Scotland reported progress on the project to provide a road crossing near the primary school. The progress on creating traffic management plans and in coordinating the parties' works was reported. The cumulative impact of the plans will be discussed. It was reported that the Quoich Tee planning application is to be withdrawn and the related overhead earth line will be dismantled. In relation to the Loch Fearn pumped storage scheme, planning consent is expected in Spring 2027. An investment decision under the government's cap and floor scheme would be taken in 2028, with enabling works beginning in 2029.

The next meeting of the group will take place on 16th December.

In discussion, KB said that there has been a change in road use in relation to the Skye Line project. In general, it was thought that road use had lessened recently. It was noted that a damaged bridge on the C1144 had been repaired. It was reported that another consultation meeting in relation to the Loch Lundie switching station has been arranged for the afternoon of 29th October.

9. Possible Community Liaison Group (CLG) with SSEN(T)
GX, CD and KB had met Maren Ebeling (ME) of SSEN(T) on 23rd September to discuss the formation of a CLG relating to the Skye Reinforcement Line works. KB noted that forming a group was a condition of planning permission. ME is to send draft proposals of how such a CLG could be organised, and GX undertook to circulate this to members, inviting their views. It was noted that the existing CLGs occupy a substantial amount of members' time. A decision about GCC's preferences for this proposed group will be made at its meeting in November.
10. Forestry works impact on footpath access in Craig Liath forest
Members of the public had been concerned about the forestry works intimated by David Robertson (DR) of Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). KB reported that they had spoken to DR at the CGLG reported at Item 7 above, and that their concerns had been addressed by him.
11. Local Place Plan (LPP)
GX reported that the Glengarry Trust has kindly agreed to make GCC a grant towards the cost of assistance by Athena Solutions (AS) in sharing the findings of their community survey for incorporation into the LPP, and that funds are being sent. He had circulated AS's proposal to members, who had all agreed that the proposal should be accepted. AS are to be sending a LPP template by 10th October; and that will have to be completed and sent to HC by 2nd December, along with a supporting statement, so that it can be checked for its congruity with the overall HC Development Plan. AS have had experience of such drafting, and will help with it. The HC template and flow chart for submissions will be followed. AS have advised that they believe that the community consultation undertaken by them has been adequate; but HC may require further information.

GX and KB have met TC and RL of GCDT to discuss details of the map work being prepared for the LPP. They will maintain this contact.

It was agreed that the availability of land for housing is a key concern in the community, though there could be disagreement about its location. This will be dealt with in the draft LPP.

The work towards the LPP is progressing and will be kept under review.

12. Planning

There have been 31 planning applications this year and two have been intimated in the last week:

- (a) An application for consent to modify the road access to the A82 for Invergarry Farm. This relates to an approved application, and it was agreed that no action needed to be taken;
- (b) An application for two new houses east of Inchlaggan for employees of Mars Projects. This will be circulated to members. It was noted that GCC supports more housing for the community.

13. Any other competent business

- (a) GX gave an interim report on behalf of the Post Office sub-committee. LMacN has had a positive meeting with the landowner and TC. A valuation is being undertaken for the owners. The sub-committee is meeting later this week, and a full report will be made after that.
- (b) A member of the public had drawn attention to the new light on the Kingie communications mast. It was agreed that this was likely to have been necessary owing to Ministry of Defence requirements. KB informed the meeting that the flight paths of military aircraft had recently been changed. GX undertook to check the planning conditions.
- (c) It was noted that the A87 overnight closure at Bun Loyn had been changed owing to weather conditions.
- (d) GC said that two rooms at the school have had electrical problems for about two years, in that the switches to the lights there are malfunctioning, with the result that nine lights in each room are permanently on. The problem started after a power cut. HC electricians had dealt with the problem; but a further power cut had caused the same fault, and they have been unable to solve it since then. CD has spoken to the headmaster, Mr McGregor, and he has undertaken to write with full details including, if possible, an estimate of the cost of power used unnecessarily. Though this cost appears in the school's accounts, it is met by HC. CD was instructed to write to HC when she has received the letter. LMacN said that there had been complaints from neighbours in the past about light pollution at the school, which had been dealt with.
- (e) LMacN reported that he had ordered the two wreaths for the War Memorial service and has made arrangements for a piper. A person to read the Roll of Honour is still required, and so is a GCC representative to lay one of the wreaths. He will make further enquiries.

- (f) GC said that residents in the village are concerned about the lack of mobile phone cover during the present electricity outage. It was surprising that no backup generator appears to be working at at least one phone mast, as confirmed by RL. It is thought that there have been changes in the masts' area of coverage; this is certainly the case in the upper glen. CD undertook to check further about this with a resident who has technical expertise. During discussion, it was suggested that a communication hub could possibly be set up at the Community Hall. LMacN said that the Hall had been open as a drop-in centre, but that no-one had attended, perhaps because power had been restored to most of the village. PM pointed out that Faichem still had no power and that no-one there had known about the Hall being open. It was agreed that the community needs a resilience plan, and that this will become even more important when the copper phone lines are replaced by fibre, which requires electricity to work. GX undertook to find and circulate the draft resilience plan which was prepared some time ago.
- (g) PM raised the issue of waste collection, the delivery of new bins, and the communication of information about this. There was general discussion. As at the date of the meeting, grey bins have not yet been delivered to Faichem or to anywhere west of Poulary. Two members of the public who are resident at Kinlochhourn and who also manage a business there said that even the information leaflets about the new scheme had not been delivered to residents and proprietors there. LS undertook to raise the issue with officials in the Waste Management Department, with whom she is in contact, if full details can be supplied to her. It was agreed to coordinate information to her through GX. KB said that he had been contacted by Elizabeth Giddy of HC Waste Management, who had told him that residents' green and blue bins could be used for their original purpose until a grey bin had been delivered. CD said that she had been told by a resident with both domestic and commercial waste that there appears to be some difficulty with arrangements for the latter.

In a related matter, LMacN said that there had been a change in the number of bins supplied to the Community Hall, and that this needed to be resolved by HC. KK, on behalf of Mars, the proprietors of Glengarry Viewpoint, said that his employers are critical of the waste arrangements there, because they believe that the presence of bins encourages more dumping. He suggested that those bins could be moved to the Hall. Though there was some support for this suggestion, it was recalled that the issue of whether extra litter in public places could be connected to the provision of bins had been discussed before without reaching a clear conclusion.

14. Date of next meeting

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