

## Glengarry Community Council (GCC)

Minutes of meeting held in Glengarry Community Hall  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 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 Sammy Cameron (CllrSC).

Members of the public and observers: Tom Cooper (TC), Glengarry Community Development Trust; Deidre Collins; Brendan Collins; Sandra Slater; Ken Slater; Irene Rodgers; Hector Rogers.

Apologies: Cllr Liz Saggars.

Conflicts of interest: no conflicts of interest were noted.

2. Minutes of meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

The meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January having been cancelled owing to bad weather, the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were adopted. Proposed: KS; seconded: PM.

3. Matters arising

GX noted that there had been no offer to take responsibility for co-ordinating emergency resilience responses. Help with this, from a person living within the central core of the village, would be much appreciated.

4. Financial report

LMacN had circulated the financial reports for November and December, and the invoices from the Village Office (VO). He gave the details of the most recent financial report as follows: income of £2,750 from the Glengarry Trust for the repair of the cemetery gates; expenditure of £2,295.90 to Hazel Allen of Athena Solutions for assistance with the development of the Local Place Plan (LPP); and £6.25 bank charges; closing balance of £16,715.90 of which £3,295 is ring fenced, leaving £13,420.27 available funds. The Post Office account had received £52 in the most recent period and had a closing balance of £1,419.05.

The VO's January invoice showed that he had undertaken a total of 16.5 hours clearing snow and gritting pavements, as well as dealing with hardened salt in the bin by the cemetery. He had also picked up litter, cleared fallen branches and other storm debris, and replaced some broken decking on the river path, which had been reported by a member of the community. In answer to a question, LMacN explained that the snow clearing work now falls on the VO, though it was previously undertaken by Highland Council (HC).

The VO had also purchased a wheeled snow shovel. It was agreed that he should be reimbursed for this and that it should become community property.

LMacN has been in contact with the contractor for the cemetery gates work, who will do the job when the weather improves. The payment for this has already been agreed and will not be taken from the ring fenced funds.

5. Correspondence

CD had circulated a handlist of correspondence since the last meeting, which was noted.

6. Post Office sub-committee report

GX reported the recent meeting of the Post Office sub-committee. LMacN, who has been discussing the ownership of the Post Office site with the representative of the Abercharder estate, had received an email confirming that the estate, having received a report on the value of the property, had proposed a purchase price which, in the view of the sub-committee, was eminently achievable. It was noted that there is as yet no agreed final plan of the area involved. The estate had asked that the purchasing party should meet the costs of the transfer. It had already been agreed that GCC should pay a share of the valuation report. It was recalled that GCC holds that there is a community interest in retaining the service of the Post Office and the associated amenities at the site, such as the accommodation of skips and parking. It was reported that the whole control of the site, including the building and its lease, should be passed to an appropriately-constituted community body, and that Glengarry Community Development Trust (GCDT) was such a body. It was recalled that Community Councils are not permitted to hold heritable property (land). GCC has recently been reminded that one reason for this is the question of insurance liability, which differs between Community Development Trusts and Community Councils. Transfer of ownership of the site had been referred to in the Community Action Plan and the LPP. The sub-committee proposed that GCDT should be formally approached with the suggestion that it should acquire the site for the benefit of the community. GCC agreed with the sub-committee's proposals

7. Highland Council (HC) Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

It was recalled that a revised version of HC's Scheme for Community Councils, which includes the form of constitution for Community Councils, was published last year, sent to GCC on 28<sup>th</sup> November, and circulated to members. It was formally agreed to adopt the new version.

8. Community Led Liaison Group (CLLG) report on matters relating to major infrastructure works

KB reported that the CLLG had met on 16<sup>th</sup> December, and was well attended, although the Transport Scotland (TS) representative had been unable to attend. The GCC representatives had presented the LPP, which was praised; and the members agreed to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) data for inclusion in the map. A community member who has professional experience with GIS has offered to help to incorporate this. It was noted that the LPP will help developers to channel community benefits. The acoustic method of traffic movement data collection has been tested; and it aroused interest in the representatives, who agreed to provide baseline data. It was noted that funding support for the system will be needed. It was

reported that a member of the community has enquired about the installation of a speed monitor and that HC's Road Safety Team may consider funding this. A speed limit report by TS has recommended a reduction of the speed limit on the A87 through Invergarry. Proposals for this, including its extent, are to be worked on over the next eighteen months. Balfour Beatty have submitted design and cost proposals to SSE for a pedestrian operated crossing at the school as part of potential community benefits. It is hoped that this could be completed during the next financial year. The Skye Line works programme is still unclear; it will probably start this summer. It has been agreed that contractors' vehicles for the project (specifically those of Balfour Beatty) will be identified as such. HC confirmed that if road closures for the works continue beyond March, permission from the Scottish Government will be required. Many further necessary works have been identified; and the road is in constant need of repair. HC has commented that this is an unusual situation and that it does not know if there is a way of informing GCC about the process of making decisions about closures. SSEN is to form a Community Liaison Group for the works in January or February. A 2.5km temporary road will be needed west of the Quoich dam, to allow for road widening for Loch Fearn project construction. It was noted that SSE's representative will try to supply details of the company's landholdings in Glengarry. It was reported that the haulier company which had been involved in some road incidents in the glen is no longer working on the project. The felling of trees at Kingie, and the proposed biodiversity group, which is briefly referred to in item 11 of these Minutes, were also discussed.

9. Coire Glas (CG) Liaison Group report

KB had attended the recent Liaison Group meeting and reported that there are still issues with the funding of the project. An announcement affecting this situation is expected in spring or summer this year. No road works will be undertaken until this is resolved. Details of the amounts of community benefits for Glengarry have been redacted by HC from the Social and Economic Impact Report about the tunnel project. There has been some variation to consents in relation to the project site. Matters in relation to planning applications for the project are referred to elsewhere in these Minutes.

10. Local Place Plan (LPP)

GX reported that the LPP and its supporting statement have been almost finalised. It will be circulated before being sent to HC in February, aligning with HC's timetable for its Development Plan. Some members of the community have given feedback in the online forms, on paper, and in person to members. Further suggestions from the public are still welcome. There is a desire for targeted benefits for young people and the elderly to be included in the plan. GX said that arguably this concern is addressed by the recommendations, such as for appropriate housing, that appear throughout the document, as these apply to all generations. It was suggested that a specific reference to the inter-generational effect of the proposals should be referred to. The Shinty Club has asked for the reference to its ownership of the shinty field to be clarified. The recent increase in interest in a community garden was also noted. GX said that relevant amendments would be made, and reiterated the future importance of the LPP in relation to funding. He also said that the proposed

improvements to the Plan's mapping tool will ensure that it is kept live for public viewing.

11. To consider representation on a local SSE biodiversity enhancement scheme  
No volunteers have yet come forward. SEN is still maintaining this proposal.

## 12. Planning

- (a) Rokeby Manor: change of house to holiday let and ancillary purposes; a neighbour commented on the notification procedure, which was explained. The water supply was mentioned and thought not to be an issue for GCC to comment upon. Access to the site for building could be a difficulty; and it was agreed to mention this in a generally supportive response to HC.
- (b) The issue about the red light on the EE mast at Kingie is still not resolved, owing to a difficulty with obtaining information from EE. The matter is ongoing.
- (c) Coire Glas: GCC has formulated a strong response to the decision not to open the recent planning procedure to public scrutiny. It was decided to send the letter to a number of relevant parties, including Derek Brown, the chief of HC, various Highland Councillors, and members of both parliaments.
- (d) Loch Fearna: GCC has responded on both the HC and ECU portals about the additional information given.
- (e) Viewpoint and Ardochy application: GCC's response has been sent.
- (f) Allt na Slat: application for two holiday cabins; after discussion of the amendment made, it was decided to support the proposal.
- (g) Daingean: after consideration, and bearing in mind the general principles applied by GCC to similar applications, it was decided to support the proposal.
- (h) Peat works at South Laggan: it was decided to make no comment.
- (i) KB mentioned that a Kinlochhourn proprietor had spoken to him about the borrow pits likely to be required for the U1207 road works and works on the Skye Line. He has mentioned the possibility of there being a workers' camp at Kinlochhourn, or that large equipment may be brought in by sea. One application for a borrow pit has been withdrawn; there are no current live applications. GX said that GCC constantly reviews applications affecting Glengarry residents within its area, even though some proposed sites may be located just over the boundary in another Community Council's area.

## 13. Any other competent business

- (a) Loch Fearna project: It was agreed that Fraser Allison of Gilkes should be invited to the next meeting to discuss the project.
- (b) Mobile phone communications and power outages: GC had drawn GCC's attention to correspondence between Loch Duich Community Council and Angus MacDonald, MP, about the lack of independent electricity supply to communications masts, which therefore become inoperative during power outages. It was agreed to write to Angus Macdonald supporting the call to rectify this.
- (c) Grit bins: Roads and footpaths became hazardous during the recent snowy and icy conditions. Attempts in the past to have more grit-salt bins installed have had only partial success. It was agreed to apply for additional grit bins in the following

- places: the Crescent, Inchlaggan, the Faichem road (where the existing bins are insufficient), and the Post Office layby. It was pointed out that HC does not monitor bins, with the result that they are often empty, or the grit has become solid and unusable. Keeping the grit in sealed bags inside the bins would be preferable. Cllr SC remarked that other areas have the same problem, and that piles of grit-salt left beside the road tend to be eaten by sheep or deer.
- (d) Convention of Community Councils: a meeting is to take place in Edinburgh. KB is planning to attend as an individual and will report.
  - (e) Defibrillators: Defibrillators in the village - at the Post Office and the Community Hall - were acquired some years ago when GCC made donations, with assistance from the Glengarry Trust, to the charity Lucky2BeHere (L2BH). GCC has also from time to time made contributions of £100 and £300 for replacement pads and batteries. LMacN said that it was reported at a recent training meeting that the defibrillator cabinet at the Post Office is an outdated metal one that needs to be replaced. He proposed that GCC should make a donation of £2,000 to L2BH for new equipment, from the Forestry and Land hydro schemes payments for community benefit. This was agreed. A further training session can also be arranged with funds that have been allocated for this by R J McLeods.
  - (f) LMacN has received a complaint from a member of the public about flooding at the lower end of the church access road. This has been investigated with the VO. It is suspected that engineering works by a contractor laying fibre-optic cabling have caused a blockage. This is being investigated.
  - (g) KS asked for an update about the fallen tree on the river path. LMacN said that a representative of the Aberchalder estate had confirmed that the estate does not want the timber, and that arrangements have been made with TC to move it to the GCDT depot, where it can be used for firewood.
  - (h) GC asked if there has been any response from HC about the lights at Invergarry school, which are still not working. This is to be followed up.
  - (i) A member of the public expressed concern about lorries working longer hours at the Coire Glas site, and in particular the danger to pedestrians in the village. She also deplored the long hours of work and the very large number of workers who would be employed at the site. GX confirmed the wording of GCC's response to HC about this and KB said that the contractors had undertaken not to send lorries through the village at school opening and closing times. GX referred to the difficulty of obtaining sight of the HC web page giving details of the conditions applying to the works. Cllr SC said he would take this problem up at a forthcoming meeting with Derek Brown, HC's Chief Executive.

#### 14. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that in order to avoid diary clashes, meetings should be held on the first Monday of each month, regardless of Bank Holidays. The next meeting will be held in the Community Hall at 19.00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.