



Lairg Community Council

Minutes for meeting held in Lairg Community Centre, Shin Suite

Wednesday 12th February, 7pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Steve Maclean: Chair (SM), Jamie Dick (JD), Catherine Macdonald (CM), Iain Thomson (IT), Jackie Young (JY), Cllr Michael Baird: Highland Council (MB), Caroline McMorran: Northern Times, Miranda Jones: Minutes Secretary (MJ)

Apologies: Robert Johnstone, Louise Skinner

MJ requested contact details for John Sutherland to ensure he is informed of council meeting dates and any changes

2. Declarations of Interest

none advised

3. To confirm the minutes of the LCC meeting held on 8th January 2025

Proposed by JD, seconded JY, minutes approved

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

Clothing bank to be installed near bottle bank

MJ to write to Debbie Sutton (HC) re state of public toilets, refurbishing options

5. Joint meetings with neighbouring community councils; Ardgay & Creich

MB reported that in Caithness a number of community council chairs (or whole council) get together with a Highland Council officer in attendance to receive updates,

disseminate information, police reports etc. Chief Inspector Calum Smith is in favour of face-to-face meetings with community representatives and would attend.

Lairg Council would be in favour of joining these meetings if the other local councils were also in favour. Proposed meetings be once or twice annually.

6. Lairg Primary School, maintenance issues and letter from HC

Letter received from HC. Lairg PTA had submitted a letter to HC complaints department re the number of days the school has to close due to lack of heating (faulty heating system). Notice to parents of closure goes out with very little notice, very disruptive to parents who have to work.

MB escalated the issue but has yet to receive a response. He will be at Council tomorrow and can try and seek some response.

SM explained the issue is that there are 2 heating systems which used to be maintained locally but now the HC use one contractor based in Inverness and when the call goes in the school is not informed of when the engineer will arrive and the school has to shut.

Council suggested that the Northern Times should report that they are shocked at this situation forcing a primary school to close and impacting childrens' education

7. Lairg Place Plan

A timeline for delivery of the plan was agreed

- 5.03.2025 Public Consultation 2-6pm, Lairg Community Centre
- Working group meet
- Local Plan drafted and sent to local stakeholders for consultation
- Local stakeholders invited to feedback meeting
- Working group meet
- Local Plan published for public consultation and feedback
- Plan finalised, sign off from Lairg CC, submitted

8. LDCI Report - none received. MJ as board member gave a verbal update.

LDCI received from HC £840 to run the lunch club and cover the cost of transport/hall hire. The Achany Wind Panel has granted the application for funding for a project officer for a further 3 years. At the AGM, 2 board members stood down, Kaye Hurrion and Alison McGee. A new Chair will be appointed at the next LDCI board meeting.

9. Financial Report

Balances at 31.01.2025:

Treasurer's account: £6949.76

No transactions in January

Windfarm account: £569.84

Payment to Skymount Ltd £225 on 10.01.25

Payment to Shinness Social £250 on 22.01.25

10. Highland Councillor's Report

Shinness flooding: roads department still have to sort out the culvert.

Recycling: no further update

Query re capacity of Lairg cemetery: Space available for the next 5 years, any expansion will be at the same site

Trees: no further update

Play Park: Seasonal cutting work at Ferrycroft will be maintained by HC. Ord Place also to be maintained by HC.

Hedge at Ferrycroft: Roads department confirm it is not on an adopted road and will need to be maintained privately - Highlife Highland - could they apply for funding?

Funding: £2000 for Lairg in Bloom awarded from the Ward Discretionary Fund.

Allocation now spent.

Visitor Consultation Levy survey running until the end of March - comments: If you pay council tax in the Highlands you should be exempt - true tourists should pay.

CM could there be a highland resident card?

[Visitor Levy Consultation | Visitor Levy | The Highland Council](#)

Community Council Scheme Review consultation open on proposed boundary changes and amendments to the scheme of establishment for community councils

[Community Council Scheme Review 2025 | Highland Place Planning](#)

SM asked if there was any news on Council Tax increases.

MB: meeting tomorrow to ratify council tenants 8% increase. Housing & Property recommending 8%, Lib Dems have a motion in recommending 6%. Garages set at 6%
Water rates to go up by possibly 9%

11. Planning applications

Dalchork BESS

Demolition and replacement of extension, West Shinness

12. Correspondence

National Sheep Association to be discussed in private session re funding

13. Any other competent business

CM highlighted issue of poor state of roads at Rheanbreck & Tomich

Complaints received re cars parked outside Lairg garage on Main Street, some residents can't reverse into their drives.

Burnt down house - Maree Todd advised the council that Barney's house has one surviving sibling ignoring council's letters. Nieces and nephews don't want anything to do with the house. HC advises the structure is safe.

Potential for community buy-out? The site has parking (overgrown) but the steading is in good repair.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Weds 5th March. 7pm

Private Session - Windfarm Community Benefit

National Sheep Association - £1123 award agreed