



Lairg Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Lairg Community Centre, Kinvonvie Suite

Wednesday 7th May 2025, 7pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Steve Maclean, Chair (SM), Jamie Dick (JD), Robert Johnston (RJ), Jackie Young (JY), Catherine Macdonald (CM), Cllr Hugh Morrison, Highland Council (HM) Miranda Jones, Minutes Secretary (MJ), Michael Baird (MB) Caroline McMorran, Northern Times

Apologies: Iain Thomson (IT), Louise Skinner (LS)

2. Declarations of Interest - none advised

3. To confirm the minutes of the LCC meeting held on 2nd April 2025

Proposed RJ second SM

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

Work to be carried out over the summer at Lairg Primary School (MB) Looking at electrics and plumbing

Letter of support sent to Bradbury Centre

5. LDCI Report

Looking to support Sutherland Adventure Co (Sutherland Girls on Boards). After school activities and equipment currently sited in Brora. LDCI is looking for grants for storage,

and to purchase boards, buoyancy aids etc for Lairg which has 2 instructors in the village. Aiming to be up and running for this summer

Looking at fencing around Ferrycroft Play Park. Two sides do not have fencing (need to keep dogs out) Council contacted, they would like the fencing like that surrounding Ord Place. Fencing would need a gate, double gates for mower access.

MB advised speaking to Hayley Bangs in Bonar has just got fencing - metal gate

Place plans - investigating ownership of land at Ferrycroft with Highland Council.

Food larder, lunch club and friendship club still ongoing b

6. Lairg Place Plan

The draft plan has been completed and circulated to councillors for comments and feedback. Local Plan working group to meet ahead of circulating the plan to local stakeholders. Meeting 14.05.25 7pm

7. Financial Report

Balances at 30.04.2025:

Treasurer's account: £7798.53

In: £500

Out: £221.45

Debit: Service Charges -£4.25 on 29.04.25

Credit: Foundation Scotland £500 on 29.04.25 (unrestricted)

Debit: Ashley Poole -£80.00 on 14.04.25

Debit: Zurich Municipal -£97.20 on 08.04.25

Debit: Lairg Community Association -£40.00 on 02.04.25

Wind Farm account: £57.09

In: £0

Out: £254.25

Service Charges £4.25 on 29.04.25

Voluntary Groups Sutherland £250 on 17.04.25

*£2000 from Treasurers account to be paid into Wind Farm a/c as deposited there by FS in error

8. Highland Councillor's Report given by Michael Baird

- MB meeting on 20mph speed limits where roads still have 30mph written on road - these will be removed
- Acheillidh Wind Farm (Rogart CC) ward 4 motion to object, vote 5-5 chair casting vote, voted with officers (no reason to object) will come back Full Council to be looked at again
Grounds for objection - visualisation and cumulative effect, transport/traffic issues.
- Coille Beath have reduced no of turbines and reduced BESS
- Energie Kontor - mast 3.5km from Overscaig for 36 months
- Trees at Ord Place - housing dept visit, still waiting for tree surgeon. Council housing inspection carried out. SM asked whether the state of council housing stock compared to privately owned noted as it is notably poorer. Money needs to be spent on Lairg Council housing stock.
- JY asked why Ferrycroft visitor centre closed on a bank holiday? Also looks terrible. Highlife Highland owned. HM to find out who's running it

9. Tennis Courts

Members of the village asking about the state of the tennis courts (rented from Greenwards) Rolling lease. SM suggests a volunteer day to clean it up. Area needs cleaning, brushed (tennis court not up to spec) Needs resurfacing and lining, drains need inspecting

SM & RJ to have a look and plan

10. NHS Care in the Community

Social media and newspapers - underperforming service - deadline given to Caithness and Sutherland for improving service. Action plan submitted. No negative reports re

service in Lairg except not enough carers. Councillors present had positive reports of care in Lairg.

11. Planning applications

- Extension to quarry. A Ross & Sons Mid Lairgs Quarry
- Installation of meteorological masts
- Change of Use, short-term letting to house. The Ord, Lairg
- Installation of temporary meteorological mast (36 mths)
- Erection of 3 recreational huts

No objections

12. Correspondence

Force 9 re Balblair wind farm community benefit fund allocation

- 35% to Creich Community Council – £63,000
- 25% to Lairg Community Council – £45,000
- 20% to Ardgay Community Council – £36,000
- 15% to Rogart Community Council – £27,000
- 5% to Dornoch Community Council – £9,000

IT and RJ to contact Scott Vettors, Chair of Creich CC

Email from Chris Lee (Foundation Scotland) re funding trial. "We are piloting a new small grants form and a lighter touch application assessment for applications £5K and under, and I would like to ask if the Lairg CC would consider helping to trial it for the remainder of the year? I think it would be more than sufficient for the projects usefully coming to the Lairg fund and would be less time consuming and more accessible."

Council agreed

13. Any other competent business

Community car - client from BB delighted. In practice, can only use the car for 1 trip per day. There are now 10 volunteer drivers (3 regular).

The SRI are looking at all procedures and processes for the community transport scheme. Optimise software package to be used going forward. SRI looking to purchase the software for the group. Road tax and insurance being paid for another year by SRI. Lairg issue is no charging point - paying highest charging rate at Council point. Need own charging point. All trips so far have been for hospital/dental appointments

HM reports Scourie has one paid driver. Out every day but not after 6pm, does do shopping, charges at council points. CC runs the community car in Scourie.

Ardgay & District Community Council passed a motion to dissolve and there will be a public meeting on 22nd May at 7pm in Ardgay Village Hall

Maree Todd MSP meeting on Friday 9/5/25 Bonar Bridge

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

AGM 4th June 7pm - MJ to send out notice

Ordinary monthly meeting will happen after the AGM on the same evening

Meeting ended 8.15pm

Private Session - Wind Farm Community Benefit

Lairg Gala Week £2000 **Funding Approved**

Archaeology Scotland £4500 **Funding Declined**

Sutherland Women's Football Club £2125 **Funding Approved**

LDCI £5000 **Funding Approved**

Creich, Croick & Kincardine Day Care Association £2200 **Funding Approved**

Micro-Grant Lairg Rovers Juniors **Approved**

Micro-Grant Lairg Rovers Main Team **Approved**

Micro-Grant Lairg Community Centre **Approved**