



## MINUTES

30 June 2025

UHI North, West and Hebrides, Broadford, 7.30PM

**Members present:** Den Connell, Rhona Coogan (via Teams), David O'Donnell, Hamish Fraser (Chair), Alistair McPherson, Skye Deans

**Other:** Iris Donaldson (prospective Youth Member), Cllr John Finlayson (via Teams), Nicholas Kelly (SSCC), Katy Lawrence (Highland & Islands Climate Hub), Catriona Mackinnon (prospective Youth Member), Members of the Public

**Apologies:** Nick Ferguson, Hermione Lamond, Angus Macphie

### 1. Welcome

- The meeting was opened with thanks to attendees and a note to proceed with the agenda.
- Declarations of Conflicts of Interest – None.

### 2. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Angus, Hermione, and Nick, who might be late.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated and approved.
- Den proposed, and David seconded the Minutes of our meeting on 26 May.

### 4. Matters arising

- Police - Rhona to re-establish contact with police representative, as we have had no contact for a few months.
- SRCBF – Katy Lawrence from Climate Hub recaps why the SRCBF was initiated. The aim was to ensure fair distribution of wind farm community benefit funds across the island. Update - progress has slowed as not all communities have been ready or in agreement. The group is now focused on building broad representation and a united approach, with the remit to be decided by the communities themselves. Katy serves as a local contact for questions and updates and welcomes questions.

### 5. Closed meeting 26th June 2025 (Briefing)

- A closed meeting was held to discuss the old hospital site and future development.
- Plans for a further joint meeting between the CC and the Community Company were mentioned.

### 6. Police report

- No police report was available for this meeting. Rhona to follow up.

## **7. Community update / The South Skye Community Campus SCIO**

- Updates on funding applications, lease transfers, and planning permissions for the campus.
- Balfour Beatty's proposal for a gym facility was discussed, including concerns about staffing, maintenance, and maximizing community benefit.
- The need for a unified community approach to negotiations with developers was emphasized.

## **8. Highland Council update**

- John provided updates from the recent area committee meeting, including discussions on roads, parking, community regeneration funding, waste management, and environmental health. A reminder from John that you can watch committees discuss on the Highland Council webcast.
- A new transfer station is being built in Portree to improve recycling.
- There is a new Councillor in the area, Chrissy Gillies.

## **9. New School update**

- The Broadford school project is progressing well, with tenders within budget and a contractor announcement expected soon.
- Outstanding planning issues are being resolved, and the school is on track to open in autumn 2026.

## **10. Broadford Hospital site community**

- The hospital site will be included in upcoming discussions with the community company.
- Options for the site will be explored in depth at the next joint meeting.

## **11. Membership – Youth Members**

- Catriona Mackinnon and Iris Donaldson were welcomed as Youth Community Councillors, with full rights except for co-option and appointment of other members.

## **12. Planning**

- A brief statement was drafted regarding the borrow pit situation at the substation, with plans to submit concerns about the project's scope and cumulative impact.
- Members agreed to submit the statement and keep each other informed.

## **13. Banking**

- Current account balance: £4,763.10
- General funds: £3,906.97
- Christmas fund: £856.13
- Accounts are being audited, and insurance issues are being followed up.

## **14. Accounts**

- Accounts have been completed and sent for audit.
- Additional information was requested from members and is being provided.
- Once signed off, the grant from Highland Council will be released.

## **15. AOCB (Any Other Competent Business)**

- Thanks were given to Hans Petri for uniting the South End Community Councils.
- A request for a donation to the Elgol & Strathaird Community Trust was discussed and supported. A donation of £400 was agreed.
- The "Friends of An Acarsaid" group was announced, for wellbeing of the residents, with early fundraising success.
- Suggestions were made to apply for the Co-op Community Fund.

- The next meeting dates were set for September 15th, October 20th, and November 17th.
- There will be a space to co-opt a new Community Councilor and potentially appoint a Secretary at the next meeting.

*Date of Next Meeting : Monday 15 September 2025, Elgol Village Hall*