



# **BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Broadford and Strath Community Council meeting

27th October 2025

UHI North, West & Hebrides - Broadford 7.30pm

Present: Martyn Ayre, Rhona Coogan (online), Den Connell, Iris Donaldson (YM), David O'Donnell, Cllr John Finlayson, Nick Ferguson, Hamish Fraser (Chair), Catriona Mackinnon (YM), Angus Macphie, Alistair Mepherston

Police Scotland, PC Mellenyi

1. Welcome from Hamish.
2. Apologies – Norma Morrison (BSCC)
3. Minutes of September 2025 – David proposed, Nick seconded. Carried forward.
4. Matters arising - none
5. Co-option of Martyn Ayre – proposed by Alastair and seconded by David. Members unanimously approved Martyn's co-option.
6. Police report – PC Mellenyi – report for last 6 months: 70 crime reports, 41 solved, 9 unsolved, 20 still under investigation. More than half are road traffic matters, including drugs, alcohol and speeding offences. A couple of officers have been trained in drug testing.

In total 367 calls for the past 3 months. The reported crimes have been a mixture of serious assault, assault to injury, assault to no injury, breach of the peace, threatening and abusive behaviour, vandalism, fraud, embezzlement, breach of bail, supplying drugs, theft, attempt theft, and unfortunately, a few sexual offenses, including sexual assaults and indecent communication.

Sadly, there is a case of a missing hillwalker on Blaven, who has not yet been found.

Unfortunately, there are currently minimal officers on duty and they have a large area to cover.

Encouragement for members of the public to use Crimestoppers to report any crimes anonymously.

## Discussion:

Concern voiced from members of the CC regarding lack of cover, as officers are expected to cover as far as Uig to Lochcarron.

Have the police commented on the prospect of the workers camp at Ashaig? It has not been mentioned at a constable or sergeant level.

Thanks to PC Mellenyi for attending the meeting.

## 7. Community update/The South Skye Community Campus SCIO - David

### Fundraising

- Awaiting announcement of Island Programme funding - £327,393
- Looking at nature restoration fund for area between houses and car park – not progressed as yet
- Looking into revenue funding for dedicated PO support
- Thanks to HC for their support to date

### Planning:

- Planning has been approved, subject to some conditions including a Noise Management Plan
- Meeting requested with school construction team, specifically for utility connections, works programme and the path connection
- We're looking to employ a company to help with the whole process from the contractor tendering process, building warrant and managing the contractors. We need to get quotes for this as per our procurement process, which is tricky. We have Sports Labs and The Name of the Game, if you know of any others then please let us know.

### Proposed Gym facilities:

- Balfour Beatty have rolled back on their offer to place a gym on the SSCC and are now offering to give us £100k worth of used equipment at the end of their stay on the island. Very disappointing. They have highlighted timescales as their main issue so we have contacted Planning to see if we can work within their timescales.
- I will raise this at the SSEN Community Liaison meeting tomorrow.

### Legal

- Deed of servitude with solicitors, no recent contact – thanks to HC for covering fees for both parties
- HC still reviewing lease – getting critical for funding purposes

Sleat & Strath AFC has received a draft Minute Agreement from their solicitor that needs to be approved by their committee

## 8. Highland Council update – Cllr John Finlayson

Mackinnon hospital – positive news. Email from Helen Cameron. The purchase has been settled. Demolition contract has been signed off. Contractor expected on site in November. HC looking for a suitable time for meeting with our Community group to discuss best use of site and the viability of that. Ideally looking to maximise the number of homes for NHS key workers. There is a proposal for a low rise two-storey building with flats and accessible entrances for less able residents. Four units are to be leased to NHS Highland, though a higher number would be welcome.

Full council meeting this week. Medium-term financial plan will be discussed. There is a budget gap for the next three years of 37 million pounds, despite savings that have been made over the last few years. Unfortunately, both UK gov and SG will not announce their budgets until very late in the year so it may be that the council may be into next year before having an idea of budget settlement. Adult Social Care is a real concern, as is NHS care. Highland Investment Plan updates will be given. This includes the two new schools at Dunvegan and Broadford schools. The Visitor Levy will also be discussed.

Skye & Raasay Area Committee – beginning of December. Discussion of Skye becoming a short term let control area. There will be a paper circulated containing the statistics of this area, which are quite shocking. Upon discussing at committee, there could then be consultation with the people of the area to take this forward.

Questions -

NHS area - are there any meetings for this area and area we represented at these? Concern of turnover in NHS Highland expressed.

Short term let control area – clarification that the decision on this is made by the people who live here. It will not be retrospective; it will be from the time that the decision is made.

9. New School update – everything is moving forward, hopefully more updates next meeting.

10. Broadford Hospital site community – see HC update. Action: Hospital group to arrange meeting with HC.

11. Treasurers report one payment to Lumberjack digital £93 for our annual web hosting fee. Balance £5149.91. We are still to submit our annual accounts. Bank statements have been requested for this.

12. Planning:

Balfour Beatty Ashaig workers camp – members vote and agree to submit an objection to this due to implications for the community. Objection to be drafted and circulated to members for comments. The deadline for our submission has been extended until 10 November 2025.

Good news – the temporary workers' camp application on the Torrin road (24/05143/FUL) which was heavily objected to, has officially been withdrawn by Sodexo / SSEN Transmission.

13. Accounts

Covered in Treasurer's report

#### 14. AOCB

Wreath laying – Alistair and Den to coordinate. David requests Alistair gives details of wreath payment for reimbursement.

Thanks to George Woods for his contribution to War Memorial preparation. Thanks also expressed to the Community Gardener, Sarah, for the great work on the memorial steps and surrounding area.

THC planning application regarding the storage of components has had some documents added.

Christmas light power connection – Hamish to speak to Fraser Struthers, Bear Scotland.

SSEN T have announced an increase in CB funding . Revised guidance.

**Date of next meeting: Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**