

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting 25th February 2026

Held at the Harbour Offices

1.	PRESENT		Chris Ambler (Chairman), Angela Johnson (Secretary), Christine MacKenzie, Hugh Morrison (Highland Council). Lawrence Macleod, Denise MacDonald(Treasurer),	ACTION
	GUESTS		Members of the Public – T Morrison, Murdo Macpherson, S Kaczmaik	
2	APOLOGIES		Ian MacDonald	
3	MINUTES FROM 5th Feb 2025	3.0	The minutes from the 3 rd February summarised and one minor change made. The minutes proposed by Christine MacKenzie, seconded by Lawrence Macleod	
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	4.1 4.2 4.3	<p>Housing Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding a new housing development application. • Planning documents to be circulated for member comment. • Enquiry received regarding whether harbour perimeter drains were sewage or surface water. • Confirmed: drains are surface water only, not sewage. • Clarification resolves concerns about new regulations preventing connection to foul drainage. <p>Council & External Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face meeting arranged with Debbie Sutton and John Sutherland (Friday 6 March). • Representative council meeting booked for 13 March. • Structure questions to be prepared in advance. • Local Heroes Nomination <p>Nominations discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to put nominations in as soon as possible • James Morrison (recognised for significant fundraising – approx. £70,000 raised/assisted). 	Chris
5	NW2045 UPDATE. DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Notes Attached 	

6	GEPARK UPDATE	6.1	<p>New Appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Marsden appointed as Education and Engagement Officer (probationary contract). • Initially working 3 days per week while accommodation is arranged. • Previous programmes (including Geopark Club) to be reinstated and further developed. • Importance noted of long-term funding sustainability. 	Murdo
7	HUGH HIGHLAND COUNCIL	6.2	<p>Membership Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership is free for residents within the Geopark. • Increased membership strengthens funding applications. • Members receive newsletters and AGM voting rights. • Encouragement to promote sign-up via Geopark website. • https://nwhgeopark.com/join-us/geopark-membership/ 	
7	HUGH HIGHLAND COUNCIL	7.1	<p>Oldshoremore Beach Steps Project Angling Club / Agreement Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured for Project • Memorandum of Understanding draft includes insurance and public liability requirements for construction. • Clarification needed as current group only holds this cover for angling activities. • Target date July for work commencement if all requirements in place. • Planning approval pending formal online confirmation. 	Hugh Angela
		7.2	<p>Cemeteries Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face meeting scheduled (5th, 2pm). 	
		7.3	<p>Development Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £25,000 annual funding available for 5 years. • Discussion required on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salary levels ○ Office space requirements ○ Probation period ○ Use of Geopark for payroll/administration • Potential for flexible/home working model. • Further clarification to follow at next meeting. 	
8	CORRESPONDENCE	8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Officer (Callum Goss Kirk) requested AGM minutes, accounts, and meeting 	Angela

		8.2 8.3	minutes — to be forwarded (these have been previously submitted to Fiona Richardson). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Groups Sutherland outreach surgery dates noted (Kinlochbervie, 5 March). KLB Community Company AGM: Tuesday 3 March, 7pm at Harbour Office. 	
9	TREASURERS REPORT	9.1	Two cheques reissued (uncashed/expired and lost cheque). KLB CC£14,477.95	Denise
10	AOCB	10.1	War Memorial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue raised with condition of war memorial that seem neglected New gate ordered (includes welded poppy design); fabrication delayed due to backlog. Discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting improvements (solar vs mains power). Potential illuminated poppy silhouettes representing armed forces. Possible installation of poles and red uplighting. Action: Contact Highland Council regarding power supply and installation requirements. 	Sandra Chris / Hugh
		10.2	KLB Community Company Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing difficulty recruiting and retaining directors (constitution requires six). Concern raised about sustainability of hydro scheme funds if company becomes inactive. Issue noted regarding over-reliance on Facebook for publicity; broader communication methods needed. 	All
		10.3	Hall & Community Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall facing possible closure due to lack of active committee members. Significant impact noted (yoga, events, meetings, parties, etc.). Urgent need to recruit committee members. Discussion regarding hall committee involvement and previous contributions. Recognition of individuals who have maintained and supported hall activities. AGM noted; next meeting scheduled for May. 	All Hugh

		10.4	<p>Stopover / Parking Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding council handling of stopover closure. • Concerns raised about consistency compared to other council-operated car parks. • Suggestion of installing physical barriers (e.g., sleepers) to define parking spaces and improve safety 	Denise
		10.5	<p>School Staffing & Funding Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Council representative advised that an email will be sent to all Community Councils, councillors, MPs and relevant parties regarding school staffing and funding concerns. • A three-year campaign regarding school staffing levels had resulted in a temporary increase in staffing, but this is now reportedly being withdrawn. • Concerns expressed about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Insufficient staffing and funding. ○ Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision being underfunded. ○ Impact on school inspection outcomes. ○ Risk of declining pupil numbers if families move children elsewhere. • Reports of heating and operational issues earlier in the year at Durness Primary School (heating failure, temporary electric heaters, no hot meals for a period). • Action: Agreement to support Parent Council efforts once correspondence is received. 	Hugh
		10.6	<p>Dog Fouling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued complaints about dog fouling near the school and playpark. • Multiple dog signage already in place. • Discussion regarding possible known offenders. • Suggestion to reinforce signage and possibly improve lighting in affected areas. • Action: Raise issue again with relevant council contact. 	
		10.7	<p>Care Home Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update received that intention is to begin groundwork in September, subject to progress. 	
		10.8	<p>Spaceport / Orbex Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orbex has reportedly lost funding, with approximately 120 jobs affected. 	

		<p>10.9</p> <p>Electricity Infrastructure (SSEN Poles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crofters retain ownership of the land and hope to maintain annual ground lease income. • Spaceport development continues, though progress uncertain. • Discussion of competition with Shetland site. <p>10.10</p> <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an issue with Highland Council not including CC as a consultee on recent planning applications - including the new housing developments in Kinlochbervie. This has been followed up and access has been given to some applications but no reason why CC were omitted. 	
10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING		<p>Please note change of weekday for future meetings</p> <p>Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7pm at the Harbour Offices.</p> <p>Meetings for 2026 on Wednesdays May 27th – AGM June 24th August 26th September 30th October 28th November 25th</p> <p>Please note – no meetings in April, July or December</p>