Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025 in Kilmonivaig Church Hall

Present: John Fotheringham (Chairman), Ian Langley (Vice Chairman), Melvyn Giles (Secretary), Jenny Hastings, Christine Clephan, Val Steele, and Ian Matheson and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Alison Munro, Sharon Donald, Linda Taylor and Councillor Liz Saggers.

Conflict of Interest Declarations: None

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd September 2025 having been circulated and there being no amendments were approved:
Proposer: Ian Matheson Seconder: Christine Clephan

The Chairman wished to record the Community's appreciation to all those who had worked tirelessly following the damage inflicted by Storm Amy to reconnect and remove trees from our roads. Such events appear to be recurring with an increased regularity so we may have to plan for some community resilience.
At the same time, it was noted that Mary Fraser had retired from the Bridge Café and we wish her well for the future. She and her family were instrumental during the COVID lockdown in starting our community support for those in need and we will always be appreciative and grateful of her efforts.

Matters Arising:

a. **Community Police Officer –** Katy Duncan is on a training course and Paige Macdonald is on leave but the Chairman will be meeting with Inspector Duncan over the next two weeks.
b. **Transport Scotland/BEAR Scotland** – Due to the recent inclement weather all Trunk Road resurfacing both in progress and due has been delayed. Please check with the Scotland's Traffic Website for current programme.
   A reply from Kate Forbes MSP with the offer of Meetings with Hitrans, and Transport Scotland had been circulated, and although we were happy to consult with the former if our colleagues in Connecting Roy and Spean SCIO were also included we only wanted a meeting with Alison Irvine Chief Executive of Transport Scotland not one of her colleagues. The Community Council remains unhappy about the state of the Trunk roads as they traverse our communities. We note that Glengarry Community Council have secured the promise of a pedestrian crossing across the A87 beside the primary school roll 27, but we cannot secure a similar agreement across the A86 to facilitate our primary school roll 105.

The Chairman has responded to Kate Forbes and we await her latest response. He has also requested from BEAR Scotland a detailed breakdown of the procedure and paperwork required for disposal of tailings and scalpings, and a copy of the Active Travel Evaluation Reports for Spean to Roy, and Leanachan Crossroads to Spean Bridge. Both requests have been acknowledged and we await their response. He will also ask about measures to reduce speeds on ort Trunk Roads.

c. **Highland Council** - The Chairman has written to the Principal Waste Management Officer seeking an explanation why our communities do not currently have access to the garden waste service and her response is eagerly awaited.
A section of the U1015 the Glenroy Road will be closed from 1st September till 17th October to allow for essential replacement of bridge infrastructure on the road.
An enquiry from a member of the public about extending the 20s plenty to new locations brought the response that the public consultation had ended and no new locations were being considered.

d. **Environmental Standards Scotland –** We have had an update which has been circulated. The Chairman has responded giving them further information about the current position on the sites in question.

e. **Coire Glas Pumped Storage Scheme –** The Chair and Vice Chair attended the quarterly meeting of the Liaison Group in which Mike Seaton, Project Director gave those present and online a detailed account of the Cap and Floor negotiations with Ofgem. SSE Renewables and Gilkes for EARBA have until 18th November to put in a detailed case including financial data which SSER will need to run the Scheme profitably. Community Benefit remains potentially a point of friction with Developers looking to minimise the payment but politicians and the public believing it should be a substantial sum to alleviate fuel poverty, provide affordable homes and improve care home provision.

f. **EARBA Community Alliance –** The Minutes of the Meeting held in Spean Bridge on 29th September have been circulated.
There has also been communication from Gilkes Energy about proposed works including laying of track and boreholes.

g. **Bunroy Road – T**he Chairman has agreed to write once again to Highland Council to see if they would attend a meeting with residents prior to the completion of the Road Construction Consent Documentation.

h. **Belford Hospital –** Ian Langley has circulated to Community Councillors a Video showing the intended layout of the new Hospital.

i. **Government Consultations** – Nothing of note at present. We continue to monitor new consultations.

j. **Forest Plans** – The Forest Plans for Killiechonate Woodlands, Jahama Highland Estates and Forest and Land Scotland have been circulated. Although the Chairman had responded to both Jahama and Killiechonate, the latter had asked that we might reconsider our decision to object to the drastic reduction in deer population.

It was agreed that we would seek further advice from the Knoydart DMG.
We also received the Mamore and Killiechonate Regeneration Plans from Scottish Forestry, which we are examining.

k. **Gairlochy Telephone Box** – Correspondence between BT and Jonny Bell was discussed but we will only intervene if either party requests it. It seems ridiculous for BT to decide it was surplus to requirements and then to rescind the decision.
l. **Communication Policy** – Amended and will be circulated.

Correspondence:

1. **Engagement with the National Planning Improvement Framework –** following our selection and participation in March 2025 in the Peer Collaborative Review, a six month follow up workshop was held online on Tuesday 16th September and the Chairman attended.
2. **Forestry Scotland** are carrying out felling works necessitating the closure of the Forest Road leading to Upper Inverroy and local Councillors have been circulated. We will request a restriction to timber lorries using the road between 08;00 and 09:00 and 15:15 and 16:15. to allow children to safely use it to and from school transport.
3. **RES Group** – have intimated that their planning application for the Beinn Bheag Windfarm 26km W of Invergarry has been withdrawn.
4. **Crofting Commission** have reminded those owning crofts or crofting land that the 2025 annual notice went out to all Crofters in January and that completion is mandatory.
5. **NHS Highland's** Annual Review for 2025 will be held in Aviemore on Tuesday 18th November.
6. **Andrew Cooper of RBS** reminds local residents of Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge that the Mobile Banking Service visits the villages every Thursday.
7. **Scottish Water –** apologised for any disruption of supplies caused by Storm Amy.
8. **MOWI Stakeholder –** W are invited to contribute to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council's Salmon Audit on selected sites.
9. **NHS Highland Engagement Hub October 2025 Newsletter is available on request.**
10. **Louise Ogg** – The £10million awarded by the Scottish Government for the provision of Changing Places Toilets the deadline for applications is 20th October.
11. **Highland and Islands Climate Change Hub** – Conference in Kingsmills Hotel Inverness on 8th October. Lesley Carr of Dalwhinnie Community Council attending on behalf of the Earba Community Alliance. A Standard Ticket was £40 but if we became a Member £20.

Treasurer's Report

Expenditure this month £500 Micro Grant Halloween Party leaving a balance of £10,161.13

Stronelairg Wind Farm Community Fund Micro Grant:

An Award of £500 was made to assist the Community Firework Display at the Shinty Pitch in November to Scott Andrews. It was suggested that if they were seeking a similar award in 2026 they might like to consider silent fireworks.

Planning:

Planning Application 25/03165/FUL – Erection of Extension at Grianan, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge PH34 4DZ

Planning Application 25/03139/PNO – Peatland Restoration works at Corrour Estate Lubnaclach at land 5.3km SE of Station House Corrour.

Planning Application 25/03144/FUL – Erection of Garage with Ancillary Letting Accommodation at land 25m NE of Stob Choire Claurigh, Gairlochy, Spean Bridge

Planning Application 25/03265/FUL – Erection of House at Land 50m /SW of Tigh-na-Claddach, Gairlochy, Spean Bridge.

Planning Application 25/03277/PNO –Peatland Restoration Scheme Class 20A at land 7560m West of Invermallie, Achnacarry, Spean Bridge.

Planning Application 25/03302/PIP- Erection of House at land 55 SW of Leanachan Cottage, Crossroads, Spean Bridge.

Planning Application 25/03500/FUL – Alterations and Extensions 16 Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge. PH31 4AQ

Planning Application 25/03607/FUL – Temporary siting of Modular Units for use in Team Functions (part retrospective) at Lochaber Camanachd.

All approved after debate**.**

Any Other Business:
A request to repair the fence and trim the Apple Trees behind the Spean Crescent Bus Stop in Spean Bridge and one to increase the number of passing places on the Braeroy Road in Roy Bridge and will be forwarded to Highland Council.
The Chairman will also make enquiries about who is responsible for trimming the bushes on land beside the A82 currently obstructing sight when leaving Nursery Park.
It was also agreed to reconstitute the Resilience Sub Committee in the light of Storm Amy.
Next Meeting Tuesday 4th November.

Meeting closed at 21:00

Melvyn Giles, Secretary