Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026 in Kilmonivaig Church Hall

Present: John Fotheringham (Chairman), Melvyn Giles (Secretary), Alison Munro (Treasurer), Jenny Hastings, Christine Clephan, Sharon Donald, Val Steele, Ian Langley, & Councillor John Grafton and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Matheson, Linda Taylor and Councillor Liz Saggers.

Conflict of Interest Declarations: None

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting on 1st September 2026 having been circulated and there being no amendments were approved:
Proposer: Ian Langley Seconder: Alison Munro

Matters Arising:

a. **Community Police Officer** – PC Dawid gave an update on the issues currently concerning the local Team. A Missing Person enquiry, and the usual spate of road traffic issues are stretching their limited resources. As winter approaches residents should be watchful against fuel thefts and any unusual activity. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and update.
b. **Transport Scotland/BEAR Scotland** – Both the Chairman and local residents had written to Transport Scotland regarding the A82 and A86 lifeline Trunk Roads that cross our community council area. The responses have been circulated but the Roads Agency are unwilling to extend the 30mph to the west or north of Spean Bridge, reduce the A82 through Spean Bridge or the A86 through Roy Bridge to 20mph or erect a pedestrian crossing ins Spean Bridge. They will be carrying out some remedial work on the pavement to the Commando Memorial in November and look at the A86 more generally next year. BEAR Scotland gave no satisfactory explanation why the most modern section of the A86 trunk road constructed between 1999 and 2003 could not have been resurfaced in daylight under convoy instead of at night under full road closure. The section at Kinlochlaggan which has suffered an embankment collapse will be repaired next year but once again no explanation what has caused the collapse and whether adjoining sections are vulnerable to similar problems. An entirely unsatisfactory state of affairs.

   Rock stabilisation works are taking place at Grotaig, 5.6 km south of Drumnadrochit between 29th September and 24th December and traffic lights will be in place and

traffic restricted to one lane. A request to repair a faulty drain cover in Roy Bridge will be passed on to BEAR Scotland.

The contact for reporting trunk road defects is 0800 028 1414

c. **Highland Council –** We note the Temporary Road Closure of the Leanachan Road on 16th October from 0800 to 1600.

d. **Planning Enforcement –** As requested the Chairman had circulated all the Highland Community Councils, all the Highland Ward Councillors, and all the list MSPs with our proposal to amend Section 124 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. We also wrote to Malcom Macleod the Chief Planner in the Scottish Government, our Constituency MSP and MP, and the Lochaber Times who printed an article. Most of the responses have been extremely positive and supportive and both Andrew Baxter and Maree Todd MSPs have taken in further with letters to the Cabinet Secretary. The response from the Chief Planner's Team suggested that an amendment to the Act was not currently being contemplated and that in their opinion the current enforcement procedures available to Councils were sufficient. The Chairman also wrote to Highland Council on 2nd September seeking a response to specific enforcement cases listed but still awaits a response. We have noted some action in relation to Tulloch Farm requiring the Agent to answer some queries and provide additional information by 28th October.

e. **Coire Glas & EARBA Pumped Storage Schemes –** Nothing to report on Coire Glas but note that Gilkes Energy too were in negotiation with OFGEM about the finer points on the Cap and Floor Agreement and hope to finalise an agreement by the end of the year. Preparatory drilling has taken place to a depth of 100 metres with two drilling rigs and 8 workers. The EARBA Community Alliance are meeting in Laggan Village Hall on 7th October at 1pm, although neither the Secretary nor Laggan CC will be represented. Our representatives have concerns about Secretary's role and the lack of accountability. Vandalism and Damage has occurred at one of the Ardverike's Run of the River Scheme which Police Scotland are investigating but it does not involve EARBA.

f. **Nature Scot** – The Chairman has continued the ongoing dialogue with Nature Scot's representatives and kept the Community Council fully informed.

g. Environmental Standards Agency – Nothing currently to report.

h. Belford Hospital – Nothing to report.

i. Resilience Committee – The Secretary attended the Fire and Rescue Service Resilience Workshop on 22nd September and circulated the information obtained. He gave a short summary of the important items including the impact of the Cairngorm Heath Fire, and strategic threats. He felt that we could not rely on others to assist immediately in an emergency and had to become more resilient ourselves. There were possibly new threats for us to consider and plan accordingly such as food shortages.

j. **Community Council Format and Minutes –** The Chairman and Secretary have been reviewing our current format and are looking at ways to spread the load. We really need a Minute Secretary and have struggled over the years to recruit one. It may be that we need to record the meeting and write the minutes from the recording deleting the recording immediately thereafter. We have also noted that Matters Arising and Correspondence may need updating. The former is more historic than current and if we were to insert action points in the minutes the matters arising would be limited only to any response to those actions. The important items of Correspondence are circulated periodically so merely listing them in the Minutes should suffice. It was agreed that we would trial for three months the matters arising only from action points from previous month, circulate a draft agenda 14 days before the meeting to allow members to raise matters for the formal agenda and circulate all relevant correspondence.

Correspondence:

1. **The Royal Society of Edinburgh** has reopened the Healthy Planet, Healthy People. Catalyst Awards aimed at supporting community led research projects with funds up to £5000. Closing Date 1st December.
2. **SSEN –** A roadshow relating to the Coire Mashie Sub Station will take place on Wednesday 7th October in Laggan Village Hall between 3 and 7 pm.
3. **Killiechonate Woodlands –** Notification of disturbance and damage to a gate in the woodland. Advised alerting Police Scotland.
4. **Lochaber Community Partnership –** Hosting a Partnership Networking event in the Mallaig and Morar Community Centre 5th November Noon – 4 pm. Circulated.
5. **Rural Convention of Community Councils –** Open Letter to Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs regarding Energy Concerns. Circulated.
6. **Fortnightly Highland Council Community Briefings –** Circulated and noted**.**
7. **Dalwhinnie Community Council –** regarding enquiry into Police Manikins. It was agreed that we would seek to buy 5 three for Spean Bridge and two for Roy Bridge and ask the Fort William Men's Shed if they could glue them on to marine ply. The Treasurer will investigate and submit a Micro Grant Application.
8. **ASSC** – Copied into a letter to Highland Council from the Association of Self Caterers regarding Short Term Let Control Areas – Clarification and Safeguards for existing Operators – Noted.
9. **Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes Community Group SCIO** – An invitation to attend their AGM on 7th October at 18:30 in Achnacarry Village Hall.
10. **SEPA** – Notification of their Prepare and Be Aware Flood Resilience Campaign circulated to Resilience Sub-Committee.

Treasurer's Report: The current Bank Balance is £4526.99 which is made up of Micro Grants £1920.32 and Community Council £2606.67.

Stronelairg Wind Farm Community Fund Micro Grants: Two applications were received this month and as we had just under £2000 left in the kitty both were considered. The Historical Society's application for £350 to replace an information panel was agreed but the request for fireworks by an individual for a community event was rejected on a vote by 4-2. The Chairman is seeking addition Funds to continue the Micro Grants.
The two Awards for last month which had not been considered due to concerns about funding namely £500 for Braes Music and £493.50 for Lochaber Camanachd were also approved.

Planning:

Planning Application 26/03830/FUL – Erection of House, Shed, and Associated Drainage at Land 45m SE of Schoolwood, Roy Bridge –Approved.

Planning Application 26/03806/PNO Formation of forest ATV and forwarder tracks (maintenance and deer management 1990m long 2.5m wide) at land 665m NE of 12 Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge - Decided and Approved

Any Other Business:
Next Meeting Tuesday 3rd November 2026.
The drainage and flooding problems in Roy Bridge Square were highlighted and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to Highland Council to ask them to investigate.

Meeting closed at 20:00.

Melvyn Giles
Secretary
Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council