

WATERNISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 12th May 2026 at Waternish Village Hall,
7.20pm.**

Present:

Craig Forrester (Chairperson)
Raymond Barnett (Secretary)
Kathy Sillence (Treasurer)
Luke Seaton
Kayti Peschke
Johnny McMaster

In attendance: Cllr Chrissie Gillies, J Stephens

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairperson
2. No apologies
3. Cllr Gillies noted a conflict of interest for Planning
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held 10th March 2026 proposed by KS and seconded by RB
5. Actions from previous meeting discussed with updates noted below:-

Action	Updates	Status
RB to circulate request for community volunteers to take part in a Community Emergency planning group	RB posted on Facebook 27/04/26 & Waternish Hall newsletter – received 9 responses from community members. See item 8. below.	Added as standing item on agenda
RB to circulate Wildfire Strategic Action Plan	RB posted on Facebook 16/03/26 & included in Waternish Hall newsletter	Complete
Concerns from pedestrians over fast-moving heavy vehicle traffic on Waternish single track roads.	Cllr Gillies advised that HC contractors obliged to follow code of practice and we should contact her with any complaints/issues. Also noted that at the Skye Reinforcement Liaison Group meeting on 18/03/26, traffic management plans to include a code of practice being issued to all SSEN contractors with regards to speed, passing places and courtesy towards other road users and pedestrians. Any issues should be directed to the SSEN project team.	Noted

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WATERNISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING

<p>Waternish Community Trust – collate any interest via Facebook/Waternish newsletter post</p>	<p>Not actioned yet as Waternish Hall have already been actively canvassing community support for the application of funds for a new Community Hall. Unsure whether plan is for this to be done under existing Community Hall SCIO or if separate body to be incorporated. Cllr Gillies suggested that there could be different routes to securing external funding and that a Community Trust wasn't the only legal entity that should be considered. Cllr Gillies offered to put any interested parties in touch with support organisations that can help and advise on an appropriate legal structure. Dunvegan Community Trust seen as being very successful at attracting funding and working with the community – something that could be replicated in Waternish? Agreed that it would be useful to speak with the Community Hall in the first instance regarding their intentions before exploring further. RB to contact Hall committee.</p>	<p>RB</p>
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6. There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

<p>7.</p>	<p>Ward 10 Community Council Forum Next meeting will be on 25th May 2026 and will be chaired by Cllr John Finlayson with Mackenzie Sutherland (Strategic Lead – Operations) and Andrew Bone (Road Operations Manager) from the Roads Team.– RB to attend on behalf of Waternish CC</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Community Emergency Plan A number of community members responded to the recent Facebook & Newsletter posts. Suggested that an initial meeting be organised by Waternish CC to get things moving. Cllr Gillies suggested getting in touch with Hannah Cameron-Ross (Emergency Planning Officer, Highland Council) for any support required. RB to set up meeting at Waternish Hall</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Waternish CC Event – BBQ Saturday 18th July 2026 Agreed that this date would suit most of the Council members. KS to organise planning meeting in June and book Hall for relevant</p>	<p>KS/CF</p>

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WATERNISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING

	dates. CF to seek advice/help from individuals involved with previous barbeque events held at the Hall.	
10.	<p>Signage / Repairs / Roads Bridge repair – JM confirmed that this was first brought to the attention of the Structures Team on 28th November 2024. Cllr Gillies to chase this up again.</p> <p>Trumpan Cemetry Car Park and Viewpoint – Cllr Gillies to chase James Bates/Kevin Gordon regarding outstanding works required.</p>	<p>CG</p> <p>CG</p>
11.	<p>Skye & Raasay Community Benefit Steering Group Update on meeting held 3rd March 2026 provided previously at last meeting by RB. Each Community Council area to nominate one representative to sit on the steering group. Purpose is to explore and develop a community benefit organisation for Skye & Raasay. This organisation will be responsible for holding and distributing funds from wind farms & other community benefit sources in a transparent, fair and strategic manner to support local priorities. Next meeting to be held online on Monday 25th May. RB to attend.</p>	RB
12.	<p>SSEN: Skye Reinforcement Project RB attended Community Liaison Group meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. Update on Project was provided – wooden pole replacement on Fort Augustus to Ardmore route expected to begin June/July 2026. Construction Traffic Management plan currently being developed so areas will have an indication of when busy periods/routes are likely to be. Guidance will also be issued to contractors regarding speed of vehicles, use of passing places on single track roads, courtesy towards other road users including pedestrians and complaints procedure. Balfour Beatty gave an update on Borrow Pit quarry planning application near Skeabost. The Old Quarry near Dunvegan will be the main depot for this area. Meeting minutes to be issued by SSEN.</p>	No Action
13.	<p>Planning It was noted that nothing has come through planning for Waternish CC so far. Cllr Gillies to check with planning department</p>	CG
14.	<p>Police No contact received by CC. Cllr Gillies to liaise with police</p>	CG
15.	<p>Treasurers Report The most recent bank statement dated 28th April 2026 has balance</p>	

WATERNISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING

	of £2,886.04 with a cheque for £80.00 Hall Hire still to come off	
16.	Correspondence Dealt with in AOCB	
17.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Email received from Alan Sillence on behalf of Waternish Wildlife Alliance Concern that Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution have begun construction of hardstanding, brought in containers & portacabins and have fenced off the land required to bring the subsea cable ashore on Ardmore Bay. This is despite the fact that the Marine Directorate has not yet awarded a license for the project. Highland Council have awarded Permitted Development Rights and are responsible for any land-based developments. RB to forward concerns to Dafydd Jones, Area Planning Manager (North).</p> <p>Email received from STL Planning regarding proposal to designate the Highland Rural Short-Term Let Control Area Consultation on the proposal is open from 12th May 2026 until 23rd June 2026. Webinar available for Community Councillors to attend. Separate engagement events are planned by Highland Council for industry bodies and the public to attend. RB to attend CC webinar and do Facebook & Newsletter post to encourage community engagement with consultation</p> <p>Local Area Committees Cllr Gillies advised that the role of local area committees is likely to increase over the coming months</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB</p>

Dates of future meetings:-

14th Jul 2026

8th Sep 2026

10th Nov 2026

12th Jan 2027

Meeting closed 8.25pm

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