

WATERNISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 10th March 2026, in person at Waternish Village Hall, 7pm.

Present:

Kathy Sillence
Craig Forrester
Morag Hannah
Raymond Barnett
Luke Seaton
Kayti Peschke

In attendance: Sunshine Harvey, Aileen McKay

Apologies: Chair noted apologies received from Cllr Chrissie Gillies and Johnny McMaster.

Welcome and Introduction by the Chair

No Conflicts of Interests Noted.

Minutes of the previous meeting, 13th January 2026 approved by RB and KS.

Actions from previous meeting discussed with updates noted

Action	Updates
Co-opted members rule	Cllr C Gillies – has queried, cc'd WCC in. RB confirmed has reviewed the guidance and it seems we are ok for co-opted members' rule.
Check Planning sending info to WCC	Cllr C Gillies – On Agenda
Any representations from Police to WCC	Cllr C Gillies– On Agenda
Chase up Community Justice Team, Waternish Viewpoint	Cllr C Gillies update via email, James Bates will be in touch.
THC Community Council Forum, 22nd Jan 7pm	RB attended obo WCC – On Agenda.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

RB attended **Ward 10 Community Council virtual Forum** meeting on 22nd Jan 26
Information and documents emailed to all 21 February. Ward 10 Community Council
Forum well attended. Representatives from THC also in attendance. Encouraging local

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CC to make an Emergency Plan. WCC emergency plan not in place. THC would encourage all community councils to have this. Next meeting will be focussing on roads. Cllr C Gillies chaired the meeting.

Community Emergency Plan – documents emailed round cttee 21st Feb. Useful one page summary document reviewed along with example of Risk assessment Guidance Plan could include topics like, Flooding, Snow, Wildfires, Wild Swimming etc, with resource addresses. **ACTION:** Add Community Emergency Planning to next Agenda. It was noted that this does not have to be WCC members who draft out the plan, if any member of the community be interested in assisting with this, please contact WCC. RB will publicise on our social media. **ACTION:** Query with Cllr C Gillies – could THC facilitate assistance / social media message to assist pull emergency plan together.

Aileen McKay noted that some neighbours experienced BT battery packs not working during power cut due to loss of signal.

WCC Event: It was suggested and agreed that Waternish Community Council would hold a BBQ in the summer, suggested date for this Sat 18th July.

Signage / Repairs / Roads: Cllr C Gilles had previously emailed WCC with an update to say a 'Paver breakdown' has delayed works, however, should see Waternish road tarring shortly resume. Regarding Bridge repair, this is still on list of works.

Skye & Raasay Community Benefit Steering Group Mtg held 3rd March with RB in attendance. As previously noted, WCC could not receive any monies. KS suggested a Waternish Community Trust be set up. It was suggested WCC put a post on WCC social media for any interested parties in setting up a Trust. **ACTION:** Social media post re WCT interest to put out, then collate names of any interested parties.

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Waternish Wildlife Alliance: Sunshine Harvey requested time at meeting to update WCC on Waternish Wildlife Alliance. Chair agreed and 15 minutes were set aside on Agenda. Sunshine gave an update on Waternish Wildlife Alliance, Duncan Bowers is Chair but unable to attend tonight's meeting. WWA are asking for Ardmore North or West to be used as opposed to the South plan, this is they believe vital to protect environment and endangered species such as the Maerl Beds.

Chair confirmed WCC had also written in respect of the SSEN Skye Reinforcement Project to ask that consideration be given to use the North or West route.

Sunshine asked that any updates from Planning, SSEN, MD Marine Licensing be shared with WWA.

MH confirmed that MD Marine Licensing confirmed via email on the 9th March 2026, that the post consultation work is still ongoing and there are no further updates at present. MH confirmed that could not see problem in passing on information, however unlikely to be able to forward emails in their entirety, due to disclaimers on emails. This of course is dependent on the sender but confirmed that no other information received at this time.

MH noted that previously WWA gave a template for those wishing to object to the SSEN Project, and that many emails came into WCC inbox, many were not from Waternish Community.

Planning – Cllr Gillies ensured via email that THC Planning team had WCC email address. Still no planning coming in. No concerns raised in the community regarding Community planning.

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Police – Cllr Gilles ensured via email that contact had been made to Inspector Alistair MacKenzie to advise of WCC meetings. There is work in progress to increase attendance.

Treasurer's Report – RB advised committed balance shows £2879 in account.

Future of Knockbreck Primary School – Online meeting held 2nd March 2026, KS and RB attended meeting on behalf of Waternish CC. Also in attendance was one parent, Mhairi Macdonald, Sara Matheson, Drew Miller and John Finlayson. Meeting concluded that due to lack of pupils and with a new school underway in Dunvegan the likely outcome was that HC will carry out a statutory consultation on formal closure. This could take up to a year to complete and various options would then be open to re-purpose the building through a community asset transfer or it could potentially be used to provide affordable housing. If members of the community want to use the school in the interim then this is a possibility.

Correspondence

- Letter from Siobhan Brown MSP in relation to the Wildfire Strategic Action Plan – emailed 7th March to all, noted. **ACTION: RB will put link for consultation out to WCC Social media.**
- Good practice Principles for Community Benefits for onshore renewable energies, Scot Gov working paper open for responses until 25 March. **ACTION: RB to post on WCC social media.**
- New Community Support Service from the Highland Social Value Charter team – emailed to all 3rd March, for community representatives' impartial advice and support. **ACTION: Add to July AGENDA.**
- Local Place Plans newsletter Feb 26, circulated 21st Feb, noted
- Highland Council seeking views on Participation and Engagement Strategy – closing date 16th March. Circulated to all 21st Feb, RB shared to Waternish CC and Waternish Community Info Facebook.

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- SLCVO newsletter Feb/March 26 shared 21st Feb, noted.
- Webinar Local Governance Review 25th Feb 26, shared 18th Feb, noted.
- SSE Community Benefit consultations (dates/venues) circulated 25th Feb, noted.
- Skye Reinforcement Project – workshops, dates/venues shared and noted.

AOCB:

Waternish WWA asked what WCC action has taken place regarding SSEN planning. AMcK advised the meeting that this is a statutory planning concern and the fact that no-one is challenging is very concerning not only from her as a community representative but also as a business owner. AMcK accused WCC of not making her feel welcome at the meeting with her concerns. Chair apologised and reiterated WCC had sent various emails as previously requested by WWA. MH added that WCC membership is voluntary and no resource to chase this up on a weekly basis, but had done, with the response received on the 9th March 2026, that the post consultation work is still ongoing and there are no further updates at present. A McKay left the meeting.

KS – Complaints received from some residents that felt very vulnerable walking on the Waternish road with heavy tarring vehicles going up and down and not slowing down for pedestrians. One resident phoned THC to complain. Resident would like WCC to raise this as an issue. **Action:** Raise to Cllr C Gillies.

Dates of future meetings:

12th May – AGM

14th July

8th Sept

10th Nov

12th Jan 27

Meeting closed 8:20pm

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