



*Vice Chair*  
**Sandy Jack**  
41 Borge  
Isle of Lewis  
01851 850446

*Chairperson*  
**Roderick Martin**  
8 Melbost, Borge  
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01851 850445

*Clerk*  
**DA Macdonald**  
27 Borge  
Isle of Lewis  
01851 850751

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## **AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**AGM: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Venue: Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre, Borge @7.30pm**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

#### **PRESENT:**

Kenneth N Graham  
Donald A Macdonald  
Iain Murray  
Roderick J Martin (Chair)  
Murdo Nicholson

Alexander Jack (Vice Chair)  
Mairi Macdonald (Treasurer)  
Matthew Maciver  
James McCartney  
Marina Matheson  
Iain Maciver

#### **COUNCILLORS:**

John N Macleod

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Donna Dorris; Shaun Macdonald;  
Jemma MacVicar

Robert Gillies; Alice Murray;

Cncllrs: D Macsween; K Macleod

#### **RESIDENTS:**

Donald J Morrison  
Laura Van Wijngaarden  
Ivo Rijnja  
Elenor Macleay

#### **OTHERS:**

N/A

**1. Chair welcomed all present, apologies noted as above, and there were no declarations of interest.**

**2. Minutes of previous AGM (28<sup>th</sup> May 2024)**

Approved and adopted – proposed by Iain Murray, seconded by Mairi Macdonald

**3. Chair's Annual Report**

Attached. No questions were raised.



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#### **4. Financial Report - for consideration and formal approval incl. questions**

Attached. The Report was approved, no questions were raised. Sign-off agreed by Chair and Treasurer.

#### **5. a) Demit of current office bearers**

All existing office bearers stood down – RJ Martin, A Jack, M Macdonald, Mairi Macdonald. It was noted that the Clerk role was currently/recently vacant.

##### **b) Election of new office bearers**

Nominations were sought from within the membership for new office bearers. The following nominations were the only ones proposed:

**Chair:** R Martin, proposed by Donald Macdonald, seconded by Iain Murray

**Vice Chair:** A Jack, proposed by Murdo Nicholson, seconded by Marina Matheson

**Treasurer:** M Macdonald, proposed by Donald Macdonald, seconded by Roderick Martin

**Secretary/Clerk:** DA Macdonald, proposed by Roderick Martin, seconded by A Jack

All those nominated accepted the respective offices.

##### **c) Appointment of Honorary Treasurer**

It was unanimously agreed to ask Donnie Macdonald to continue in his role as Honorary/external Treasurer, including production of financial reports on behalf of the community council.

#### **6. Provisional Date of next AGM – agreed as end May/early June 2026 (diarised).**

#### **7. Close of Meeting – Chair thanked all for their attendance and support.**



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## Chairmans Report May Meeting/AGM 2025

Airidhantuim Community Council has been busy in the past twelve months with projects and meetings with various bodies regarding the welfare and improvement of our community.

The Northland N4 windfarm project is currently seeking planning to erect 380m high turbines close to the shore. This project is causing some considerable debate locally. The sea area beyond the high-water mark is managed by crown estates and this project could proceed without our consent. We intend to closely monitor this development and will strive to keep the community engaged and informed throughout.

Discussions are ongoing with Aquatera regarding Northland's promised £4.5 million annual community benefit package. Aquatera plans to provide advice on investment and fund allocation for communities affected on the West of Lewis. If this project proceeds, it is crucial for these funds to be invested effectively for the benefit of everyone. Some suggest that the amount offered, whilst significant, is still relatively small compared to the windfarm's projected profits. Additional meetings are scheduled regarding this topic for later this year.

The village of North Galson was officially within the boundaries of Ness Community Council. Both Community Councils agreed to include North Galson in the Airidhantuim CC area. The Comhairle is going to revise the boundary accordingly.

Addressing the increasing populations of deer and geese has been a priority for some time. Managing this is challenging and is overseen in our community by the Urras. There are two fully licensed gun syndicates operating in the Urras area, but these can only function in certain locations and directions. Due to safety concerns, shooting in our relatively flat, populated landscape with high-powered weapons is prohibited. The issue of processing game meat also remains unresolved, as there are no facilities on the island to handle deer and geese carcasses.

To commemorate the location where the SS Clan MacQuarrie ran aground in January 1953, we resolved to install a stone marker detailing the rescue efforts and featuring a QR code that links the full story to our Community Centre, and to the Clan Line Shipping Company. The decision to use a locally sourced memorial stone was made following unsuccessful funding applications towards much more costly memorials. We are however very pleased with the striking nature of the new marker and it has already received a pleasing level of positive comment locally.

An information lectern/panel has been installed at the old Borge bridge, detailing its history in Gaelic and English. You can now read the story, then relax on one of the benches there, close your eyes, and imagine the highly-skilled people who built that impressive structure so many years ago. Thanks to Annie MacSween and Donna at CEN for their grammar and translation skills, and to our members and residents who participated in these installations.

The resurfacing of South Galson main road has now been completed, and we hope the Ballantrushal road will soon also get the same treatment. Ditches and drains throughout the ward have also been maintained. Please continue to report any road issues, potholes or flooding either to us or via the CnES website.

Our attempt to obtain funding from Historic Environment Scotland for the Steinacleit Road was unsuccessful. The Lower Shader Grazing Committee oversees this unadopted road, which is subject to significant tourist traffic due to



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visits to the ancient Cairn and Stone Circle. We consider this road unsuitable for such traffic and are now recommending the installation of signage to inform visitors of potential hazards.

The Community Council worked in conjunction with the Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre committee and the Urras and provided financial support for the very well-attended over-60s dinner last winter. The event was highly successful, and we hope to continue this collaboration in the coming years.

Projects presently on our agenda include passing places on Lower Shader and High Borge shore roads. We also hope to extend the Shader River walkway and to create a footpath alongside the main road between Airidhantuim and Borge. Funding permitting, of course.

Our secretary, Sophie, has accepted a new position and will not be able to continue in her ACC role. We thank Sophie for her contribution and wish her well in her new job. Our members and other volunteers within our community sacrifice their valuable time to improve the lives of others and, without them, we would be much the poorer.

We are presently collaborating with NCC and the Urras in assessing our community's readiness for any public emergency. We are also working alongside the Urras in their evaluation of housing needs within our communities. Furthermore, during the year, we have been proactive in dealing with issues such as speeding traffic, dog fouling and scrap management. Such efforts and others will, no doubt, continue.

I thank the committee for their continuous support and dedication for the past year and we look forward to the next one with enthusiasm and goodwill.

Ruairidh Martainn,  
Chairperson



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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2024/25

## 1 Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

<b>Income:</b>	£	£
<b>Administration &amp; General</b>		
CNES (Admin & Social Grant 2024)	1,000.00	
		<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
<b>Administration &amp; General</b>		
Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre (Over 60s Dinner)	1,000.00	
North Lewis War Memorials Committee (Restoration works)	500.00	
Clerk Fees (Donald Ba MacDonald & Sophie Carter-Clavell)	500.00	
CNES (Remembrance Day Wreath 2023)	37.44	
CNES (Remembrance Day Wreath 2024)	31.80	
		<b>2,069.24</b>
<b>SS Clan MacQuarrie Memorial</b>		
The Draftsman (design fee)	250.00	
Intermedia Services (manufacture of plaque)	102.00	
Roderick Martin (installation materials)	67.00	
		<b>419.00</b>
		<b>2,488.24</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>(1,488.24)</b>

## 2 Statement of Funds as at 31 March 2025

	£
Opening balance @ 1 April 2024	10,661.60
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(1,488.24)
Closing balance @ 31 March 2025	<b>9,173.36</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>	
Cash at Bank	<b>9,173.36</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roderick Martin (Chairman)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mairi Macdonald (Treasurer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_