



## NORTH LOCHS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting:

Held in North Lochs Community Centre, Leurbost  
On Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 7:30pm

### Present:

Robbie Mackenzie (Chair), Sarah Macdonald (Vice-Chair), Iain Macaskill (Treasurer), Kevin McAndie (Secretary), Peter Mackenzie, Anne Macleod, Cllr Angus Morrison, Eilidh Macinnes, Isla MacArthur, Christine Morrison, Bruce Mackenzie, Donna Fairbairn, Anne Macleod

### Apologies:

Annabel Maclean

Item		Action
1	<b>Chairperson's welcome</b> Robbie Mackenzie welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2	<b>Minutes of meeting 15 January 2025</b> The incorrect figure of £2m has been corrected to £7m from the Councilor's Report on 15 January 2025.  With that correction, the minutes of the meeting of 06 November were approved as a correct record and proposed by Peter Mackenzie and seconded by Eilidh Macinnes.	
3	<b>Matters arising from Meeting minutes of 15 January 2025</b>  Hi-Vis vests prices to be obtained from the Crofters and McGregors.  Arrange event for Autumn 2025 for road safety campaign and distribute the vests from the school, café, etc. Potential of a sponsor to be looked into.  Potholes are being fixed.  The Playpark fence potentially could be fixed instead of replaced.  WhatsApp group for the Community Council has been set up.  Cemetery extension is currently being looked at and CnES are monitoring the number of deaths per month. The extension is proposed to be between the existing cemetery and the war memorial.  War memorial light will not be fixed by the Council. Robbie will get a bulb and arrange for the bulb to be replaced.	RM

4	<p><b>Heastabhal and Grimshader Wind Farm Proposals</b></p> <p>Mr Kershaw has been made aware of the inappropriate manner of the company working on the Grimshader proposals. Mr Kershaw indicated they will be spoken. A meeting is planned for Thursday 6 March.</p> <p>CnES have set up a Major Development Oversight Board to deal with the windfarm infrastructure projects.</p> <p>The North Lochs developments start at Creed Road, so there is potential Community Development Money?</p> <p>Community Council responded to SSEN and Heastabhal and Grimshader proposals</p> <p>NLCC has made representations at other development meetings including community benefits meetings where the shortfall in offers has been discussed.</p> <p>Stornoway and Muitebhal - CNES representing the proposals with a “%” of these may be “community owned”.</p> <p>The Stornoway wind farm (consented already) NLCC will have to have discussions over road upgrade proposals.</p> <p>Cycle lane has the option to divert away from the main road. Dialogue with Stornoway Port Authority and SSEN relating to the Arnish Road upgrade and main road opening, including SSEN depot secondary entrance. SSEN converter station main entrance opposite Lochside arena.</p> <p>SSEN converter station building location will be determined by the depth of peat at the site.</p>	
5	<p><b>Councillors’ Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Angus Morrison indicated that CNES has passed the budget on the 25 February 2025.</p> <p>7.5% increase in council tax was agreed. CNES has used £1.5m in savings and £2m from reserves.</p> <p>Lochs Development Officer post has been secured for the next 2 years.</p> <p>CNES budget concerns going forward to 2026 and beyond. A budget seminar is being held in April 2025.</p> <p>Streetlights are now switching off at 23:00 hrs. instead of the previous 22:00 hrs.</p> <p>The Challenge Fund will remain.</p>	

	<p>Slaughterhouse Made a loss in 24/25. Sheep numbers are down but cattle and pig numbers have increased. "Use it or lose it" message. Local butchers confirm that lamb is not as popular now.</p> <p>Quality Meat Scotland confirmed that the abattoir is one of the best in Scotland from a food hygiene perspective so there could be the potential for additional funding.</p>	
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Account balance currently £9853.59</p> <p>£1k spent on the over 65s dinner.</p>	
7	<p><b>NLCA Business</b></p> <p>Several events have been held including: School quiz night, 6 Nations rugby</p> <p>Several events are planned: Over 65s dinner on 26 April with Donald Smith (Chief Cook) in the kitchen. Silver Darlings have activities planned including 18 March and a minibus driver is needed. Ladies Tea party on 17 May Lochs FC sponsored run on 22 March, over 27 miles.</p> <p>The men's Breakfast Club meets on Saturday mornings in the Creagan Café</p> <p>Warm Hub Fund funding is available for £15k but will need to be applied for.</p>	
8	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p>Concerns raised regarding traffic on the Lochs Road: Inadequate road markings. Blind summit signs are small and difficult to see. Some parts of the road are sinking with the end of the cycle lane towards the Creed Park entrance the worst part. Heavy Lorries and other traffic will be a major concern once the proposed windfarms developments and Hub stations commence.</p> <p>Pavement from MacDonald Gardens to the Community Centre is dangerous in its current state. This has been mentioned by the Councillors.</p>	
9	<p><b>Date and Time of next meeting</b> Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 7:30pm</p>	