



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

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Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday 25
June 2025 at 11.00am

PRESENT

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| Mr Kenneth Macleod (Convener) | Mr Donald Macsween |
| Mr Paul Steele (Leader) | Mr John A Maciver |
| Mr Duncan MacInnes, MBE, (Depute Leader) | Mr Calum Maclean |
| Mr Kenneth J Maclean | Mr Donald F Crichton |
| Mr Iain A MacNeil | Mr Malcolm K Macdonald |
| Mr Iain M Macleod | Mr Gordon Murray |
| Mr Mustapha Hocine | Mr Angus McCormack |
| Mr Uisdean Robertson | Dr Frances Murray |
| Mr Kenneth M Macleod | Mr George Murray |
| Mr Robert Mackenzie | Mr Rae Mackenzie |
| Mr Angus Morrison | Mr Finlay M Stewart |
| Mr Ranaid Fraser | Mr Norrie Macdonald |
| Mr Norman Macdonald | |

APOLOGIES

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| Ms Susan Thomson | Mr John N Macleod |
| Mr Paul Finnegan | Mr Iain M Macaulay |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

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| Mr Malcolm Burr | Mrs Emma Macsween |
| Mr Calum Mackenzie | Mr Colin G Morrison |
| Mr Allan MacDonald | Mrs Shona Hadwen |
| Mr Derek Mackay | Mr James Mackinnon |
| Mr Colm Fraser | Mrs Marina Macaulay |

Prayer

The Meeting was preceded in prayer, led by Mr Calum Maclean.

Tribute: John and
Lorna Norgrove,
OBE

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated John and Lorna Norgrove, Uig, who were each awarded an OBE for their services to women and children abroad and in Scotland. The Convener stated that they had set up the Linda Norgrove Foundation, which focused on supporting women and children in Afghanistan, in memory of their daughter, Linda, who died during a rescue attempt by US forces in Afghanistan in 2010.

Tribute: Angus
Campbell, OBE

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Mr Angus Campbell, Kilbride Shellfish Ltd, South Uist, who had been awarded an OBE for services to the Scottish Fishing Industry.

Tribute: Donald
John MacSween,
MBE

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Mr Donald John MacSween, Point, Isle of Lewis, and former Councillor for Sgìre an Rubha, who was awarded an MBE for services to the Western Isles community.

Tribute: Cllr Angus
Morrison

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, referred to Cllr Angus Morrison, whose mother-in-law had passed away on 8 June 2025.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended sincere condolences to Cllr Morrison, his wife Peggy and all the family.

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| Tribute: Mr Norman MacDonald | <p>The Convener referred to Mr Norman MacDonald, Chief Financial Officer, who would be retiring from the Comhairle in July. The Convener stated that Mr Macdonald had been employed by the Comhairle since April 1986 and had held a number of different positions before becoming Head of Accountancy and Exchequer Services in 2011. In 2021, Mr Madonald became Chief Financial Officer, on an interim basis in the first instance.</p> <p>On behalf of the Comhairle, the Convener extended best wishes to Mr Macdonald on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service, in particular his leadership and guidance over the last number of years.</p> |
| Tribute: Caitrina Macfarlane | <p>The Convener referred to Caitrina Macfarlane (Tinie) who was retiring from the Comhairle after 50 years' service.</p> <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, thanked Ms Macfarlane for her many years of service and extended best wishes to her on her retirement.</p> |
| Tribute: Anna Macdonald | <p>The Convener referred to Miss Anna Macdonald, who was retiring from the Comhairle after 47 years of service.</p> <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, thanked Miss Macdonald for her many years of service and extended best wishes to her on her retirement.</p> |
| Tribute: Mr John Morrison | <p>The Convener referred to Mr John Morrison, Broughty Ferry, originally from Ness, Isle of Lewis, who had passed away on 17 June 2025. Mr Morrison had been Chief Executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach for 12 years, until his retirement in 2020 and was greatly involved in promoting the Gaelic language and culture throughout his life.</p> <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended sincere condolences to Mr Morrison's wife Fiona, his son Ruairidh, his sisters Norma and Anne and the extended family and to his friends and his former colleagues at this time.</p> |
| Tribute: Comhairle @50 Celebrations | <p>The Convener referred to the recent Comhairle @50 Celebrations which had taken place in Lewis in May and Uist and Barra in June. The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, thanked all those who were involved in the preparations for these events, which had been a great success.</p> |
| Tribute: North of Scotland Challenge Cup | <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended congratulations to the S3 Boys Football Team from The Nicolson Institute, who had won the North of Scotland Cup on Tuesday 20 May, beating Mintlaw Academy 6-4 in the Final.</p> |
| Tribute: Cuach na Cloinne 2025 | <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated all the teams who had participated in the Cuach na Cloinne Gaelic Primary Football competition organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig and funded by a na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and The Highland Council. This year, 101 teams from Primary Schools throughout Scotland had registered to play and in the final Sgoil an Rubha beat Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.</p> <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, also congratulated The Nicolson Institute Team, which had won Cuach nan Àrd-sgoiltean, beating Sir E Scott School in the final.</p> |
| Tribute: Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships | <p>The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Ewan Amos and James Anderson, The Nicolson Institute, who had both won awards at the recent Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships. Ewan had won silver medals in the U20 age group for long jump and high jump while James had won a Gold Medal in the U17 High Jump and a Bronze Medal in the U17 Long Jump. James had also recently broken The Nicolson Institute's record in both high jump and long jump.</p> |

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| Tribute: CIRCOM Awards | Prix 2025 | The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated MG Alba on the Gaelic Language drama series, An t-Eilean which had won the Grand Prix Award at Prix CIRCOM 2025 Awards on Thursday 22 May, the highest honour at the Awards. The series was also the overall winner across all genres at the award ceremony in Barcelona. |
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| Tribute: Media Awards | Celtic Festival | The Convener on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated BBC Radion nan Gàidheal, which had won Radion Station of the Year at the recent Celtic Media Festival Awards in Cornwall. |
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| Tribute: Mods | Local | The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated all the competitors at the recent local mods which had been held in Lewis and Harris in the first two weeks of June. |
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The Convener commended all the competitors for all their hard work in learning poems, songs and instruments and for all the teachers/tutors and parents who had helped prepare the children for the mods.

The Chairman ruled item 4 as urgent to allow the matter to be considered prior to the next meeting of the Comhairle.

MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 7 May 2025 | 1 | The Minute of Meeting of 7 May 2025 was approved . |
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| Declaration of Interest | 2 | There were no declarations of interest. |
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QUESTIONS

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| Written Questions to the Convener and Chairmen of the Committees | 3 | There were no written questions to the Convener or Chairmen of the Committees. |
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GOVERNANCE

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| Creed Court | 4 | The Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, submitted a Report which sought approval to grant a Minute of Waiver to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to allow the conclusion of transactions in relation to the sale/lease of the top floor units at Creed Court. |
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It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer, Assets and Infrastructure, to agree a Minute of Waiver discharging the burdens to allow Highlands and Islands Enterprise to conclude transactions in relation to the sale/lease of the top floor units at Creed Court.

COMMITTEES

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| Committee Decision Reports | 5 | <p>The following Committee Decision Reports were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee – 17 June 2025 (b) Sustainable Development Committee – 17 June 2025 (c) Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – 18 June 2025 (d) Policy and Resources Committee – 18 June 2025 (e) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 18 June 2025 |
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Arising out of consideration of the Committee Decision Reports, Mr Rae Mackenzie raised a query in relation to advice which was given at the Committees in the previous week.

The Convener ruled that, as the matter had been discussed in private at the committee, on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Schedule 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 would be disclosed, the matter would be discussed in private at the end of the meeting.

It was agreed that the public, including the press, be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Comhairle) would be disclosed.

Mr Donald Crichton raised a Point of Order and stated that, in terms of Standing Orders, any question should have been tabled three clear days before the meeting.

The Convener indicated that he would allow Mr Mackenzie's query to be answered. The Chief Executive responded to the point raised by Mr Mackenzie.