



Draft Minutes of Meeting on 20.11.2025 at 7.30pm at the Mercat Centre

Meeting commenced at 19:30.

1. Present Tom Anderson (TA), Sandra Macdonald (SM), Allan McLeod (AM), Ryan Barrowman (RB), Highland Councillors Maureen Ross (MR), Laura Dundas (LD) and Connie Ramsay (CR). Members of the public: Betty Mahon (BM), Ann May, Peter Marshall.

TA opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including members of the public and Councillor Connie Ramsay to her first meeting of KALECC.

2. Apologies None. AM to confirm that council members not present are receiving emails.

3. Police Report A police report covering recent activity was circulated before the meeting and briefly discussed. No significant incidents were reported in the ward. BM noted a recent incident near Milton Stores which may appear in future reports.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes for 18 September 2025 and 16 October 2025 were approved. Proposed by SM and seconded by TA.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

AM provided updates including:

- Replacement road sign at Munro Crescent – Highland Councillors to chase.
- Milton entrance improvement – to be coordinated with Highland Council Roads once leaf fall is complete to enable road and path sweeping.
- Thanks were noted to Cllrs Ross and Dundas for organising a clean-up by Highland Council and for liaising with Albyn Housing Association and Highland Residential regarding maintenance responsibilities.
- Councillor Dundas continues to pursue action relating to the “green circle” area, highlighted by the Milton Primary Head Teacher as an area of concern for surface condition and antisocial behaviour. LD noted contractors are reviewing potential improvements.
- Thanks were expressed to all involved in the laying of Remembrance wreaths.
- Winter resilience – grit bins to be checked and requests for additional bins made. Locations noted included: Milton Woods entrance, junction from Barbaraville to Delny, and junction at Easter Kilmuir Church leading onto the A9.

- AM advised that KALECC had produced a draft Local Place Plan. Highland Councillors confirmed that public consultation is the next required step before submission. MR noted potential funding for professional assistance as several local wards were combining resources.
- A public consultation will be held in early January to meet submission deadlines. MR is coordinating printed maps for use at the events. RB offered to assist with report writing.

6. Report by Highland Councillors Cllr Ross reported continued work to ensure areas around Milton are being maintained and thanked Cllr Dundas for progress at the green circle and support with winter resilience planning.

TA noted that a parent had raised concerns about school play equipment. It was suggested the Parent Council could apply to Beinn Tharsuinn for funding for repairs or replacement.

7. Financial Accounts: RB confirmed the current account balance as £992.33.

RB recently met Rita to deliver Remembrance wreaths. Purchase of a thank-you gift card for the accountant was agreed, and Rita is to be reimbursed.

8. Community Council Issues

TA reported a public meeting held earlier that day between KALE, KALECC, Highland Councillors and NHS representatives. The public turnout was low.

- TA noted that contacts for mobile catering units had been shared in case food provision is required during future power disruptions.
- MR advised that efforts are continuing to secure funding to purchase generators for community centres to ensure they can operate in future power cuts.
- Discussions with NHS are ongoing to ensure more coordinated support for vulnerable residents in emergencies.
- TA noted that earlier public applicants had not proceeded with co-option applications.
- KALE has shared emergency plans for Milton and these now require further development. Community volunteers will be needed for implementation.
- Post-meeting note: AM emailed councillors suggesting a community event to promote KALECC and present the emergency plans.
- BM commented that better advertising of meetings and events is required.

Suggestions included:

- A noticeboard in Milton. AM/SM to contact Men's Shed.
- AM to contact Highland Council about noticeboards in bus shelters.
- Improved presence and updates displayed at Milton Stores.

9. Planning and Licensing TA explained for new attendees that the community council is consulted on local planning applications and can submit comments when appropriate. Planning application lists were forwarded to members prior to the meeting with no applications requiring discussion at the meeting or further action.

10. Correspondence

AM noted the following:

- Invite to Easter Ross Community Partnership online meeting: Friday 28 November, 9.00–10.00am, with previous minutes attached.
- Easter Ross Transport Forum – KALECC was asked to submit the top five transport and connectivity challenges by 21 November. Councillors stressed urgency; AM to action.
- Transport issues discussed:
 - AM highlighted lack of evening services to Inverness and the absence of a direct route that avoids Dingwall/Contin.
 - Issues at Tarbat bus stops discussed; a shelter and improved stopping area for southbound travel would be welcomed.
 - The bus stop at Kilmuir (opposite the memorial) is deteriorating and may benefit from refurbishment.
 - AM noted that a train stop would be transformative but that the immediate priority is reliable public transport between local settlements and Inverness/Tain.
 - A letter of thanks was received from Bloomin Gardens following successful completion of polytunnel repairs funded by a recent Beinn Tharsuinn award.

11. Any Other Business

- AM noted the possibility of applying for skips for household waste disposal as part of local clean-up efforts. TA raised concerns about monitoring what is deposited. LD suggested displaying a list of acceptable items and having volunteers supervise usage.
- Christmas tree arrangements discussed – Balnagown Estate has kindly confirmed supply for 2025. AM to organise a team for installation of the tree and lights.
- TA provided an update on discussions with Balnagown Estate regarding the Delny Solar PV development. The meeting is being arranged. TA noted that two similar developments are planned in Tain.
- BM raised concerns about the lack of support for young people in the area and suggested a youth club would be welcomed.
- BM also raised concerns about a property on Woodlands Drive where break-ins, unsafe garden conditions and suspected health hazards (including hogweed, broken glass and rodent infestation) were noted. Councillors agreed to investigate options, though powers are limited if the property is privately owned.

12. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 15 January 2026.

13. Beinn Tharsuinn Fund Applications A letter of thanks was received from Bloomin gardeners for funding that allowed repair of storm damaged poly tunnel.

14. Meeting Closure: TA thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting concluded at 20:35

Allan Mcleod Secretary, Kilmuir and Logie Easter Community Council