



Draft Minutes of Meeting on 16.10.2025 at 7.30pm at the Mercat Centre

Meeting commenced at 19:35.

1. Present Tom Anderson (TA), Sandra MacDonald (SM), Allan McLeod (AM). Members of the public: Gary Urquhart, Norman Chisholm, and Ronnie Nelson.

TA opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including Gary Urquhart from The Highland Council Roads Department. TA noted that a quorum had not been met, so decisions could not be made without consulting other members.

2. Apologies Councillor Dundas, Councillor Ramsay, Rita Fenton, and Ron Ferguson.

3. Police Report A report covering September was circulated by email prior to the meeting and briefly discussed.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (18 September 2025) Decision on approval to follow at next meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes Replacement of the road sign at Munro Crescent is being investigated by The Highland Council. Entrance to Milton was discussed, including a damaged give way sign, poor surfacing at the base of the sign, hazardous raised ironworks on the footpath, and the need for road sweeping. It was agreed that a coordinated effort with residents would ensure vehicles are moved prior to sweeping. Councillor Ross agreed to consult Albyn Housing Association regarding external area maintenance. Winter Resilience Schemes were discussed, with grit bins to be checked and coordinated with The Highland Council. Remembrance wreath-laying arrangements were discussed, with dates and times to be shared with councillors, and TA to contact church elders.

6. Report by Highland Councillors Councillor Ross advised that the Team 3–18 Campus is now due for completion in 2026, with transition planned for February. Interviews for the new Deputy Head are scheduled soon. The TRACC progress update noted that separation of the existing leisure facility from TRA is being assessed, with levelling-up funding prioritised for the new facility. Around 750 people attended the drop-in event, with 350 attending the public meeting, showing strong community backing. The importance of developing a Local Place Plan was highlighted, as it strengthens funding applications and aligns with the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan. Cllr Ross advised this can only be done through a community council or similar organisation and suggested collaboration with neighbouring councils, using Ardross's draft plan as an example. Local Place Plans should be completed by March 2026. She also welcomed newly elected Cllr Connie Ramsay. Winter Resilience applications remain open for items such as bins, shovels, and high-visibility vests.

7. Financial Accounts: *Post meeting note provided by RB.* Balance £992.23 after recent payments for venue hire and poppy wreaths were settled.

8. Community Council Issues Recent power cuts in the area were discussed. TA highlighted the lack of support for residents, particularly those unable to afford food deliveries and those left isolated without phone service. TA requested that the Secretary write to SSEN to raise concerns about the lack of assistance for vulnerable individuals and general community impact. It was also suggested that KALE discuss the potential for the Mercat Centre to serve as a resilience hub in future emergencies. SSEN's inability to provide a generator was noted as a serious failing in community support.

9. Planning and Licensing The planning application for the Fanellan Substation was noted.

10. Correspondence and External Meetings Minutes from the Easter Ross Community Council online gathering were received. Cllr Ross advised it was a positive meeting where Local Place Plans and transport gaps were discussed, with issues to be forwarded to John Edmunson. The Port of Nigg Liaison meeting update was noted, with AM reporting information on the Sumitomo cable factory development. NHS annual review meeting will be held in Aviemore. Venue fee issues have been resolved. Streetlights at Milton Stores bus stop have been repaired thanks to The Highland Council Street Lighting Department. Letters of support were issued for the Convention of Highland Community Councils and for the Alness Invergordon Rowing Club funding application. An email was sent to Balnagown Estate regarding the Delny development. SM suggested contacting Balnagown Estate about this year's Christmas tree and noted that arrangements for putting up the Christmas lights should now be made. Cllr Ross confirmed that a written report can be provided when councillors cannot attend, and noted that the previous absence was due to an extended full council meeting.

11. Any Other Business The co-option of new members was discussed. TA explained that interested individuals should write to the Secretary expressing their wish to join, including contact details and electoral roll number. This will then be included on the agenda for the next meeting, which must be publicly advertised in advance.

12. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 21 November 2025.

13. Beinn Tharsuinn Fund Applications Three applications were discussed, with further correspondence required with absent members before decisions can be finalised.

14. Meeting Closure: TA thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting concluded at 20:40

Allan Mcleod Secretary, Kilmuir and Logie Easter Community Council