

## Minutes of Meeting

### Cawdor and West Nairnshire Community Council

Monday 11th August 2025

At Cawdor Community Centre

Item	Details	Action
<b>Present</b>	Sue Saunders, CC Marion Mackay, Carlo Cabrelli, Jenifer Walker, Cllr Trish Robertson, Julie McIntosh, CC Alastair McGregor, CC Lizzy Rose, CC Dougie Fraser, CC Robin Pope, Alec Rose, Cllr Laurie Fraser, Stevie Webster, James Barnett, Kirsty Rose	
1.	<b>Apologies -</b>  Apologies received from – Cllr Michael Green, Katrin Maeurich, Jennifer Nalder, Meg Robertson, Cllr Paul Oldham, CC Lucy Craigie, Vanessa McGregor, Cllr Babs Jarvie, James Cook and CC Mike Ogden	
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting (9th June 2025) and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <u>Planning Applications</u> – the Highland Council had been contacted with the revised comments on the chicken sheds</li><li>- <u>Community Benefits Organisation</u> – update to be heard later in meeting</li><li>- <u>Road Traffic Issues</u> – these are to be dealt with later in this meeting. AR advised that the statement in the minutes regarding the road coming out of Clephanton should read that it was a hidden dip not a blind summit. Minutes to be amended accordingly.</li><li>- <u>Community Council Scheme Review Consultation</u> – this will be discussed later in the meeting as a separate item.</li><li>- <u>Postal Deliveries</u>- this seemed to have improved but it was noted that second class deliveries were now only on alternate days.</li><li>- Proposed - RP</li><li>- Seconded – DF</li><li>- LR thanked the outgoing Chair Stevie Webster for his work over the last ten years. In that time he had overseen many changes in the area – new White</li></ul>	JM

	<p>Bridge, straightening of the leafy bends, the Wind Farm construction and setting up of the Winds of Change CBO to name a few. SW also guided the committee through the Coronavirus and the Cawdor area support group amongst many other things. LR then presented SW with a gift of thanks from the Community Council.</p>	
3	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>DF reported that the bank reconciled today (11<sup>th</sup> August) at £2809.38. Full report attached at Annex A.</p>	
4	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>No police report today. Cllr TR advised that she had received the 'Community Beats' Newsletter and that the CWNCC should have got a copy as well. Cllr TR to forward to LR. It was noted that this may be outwith our area and perhaps only covers Inverness to Croy and Ardersier but that there should be a corresponding one for our area. RP - there is a Nairnshire Report which goes to the Nairn Partnership which would be useful. LR stated that we had been getting a report each meeting but not recently. Cllr LF advised the Nairn Partnership meets on the 20<sup>th</sup> August in the Courthouse at 6pm. Someone from CWNCC to attend.</p>	<p>Cllr TR</p> <p>LR/RP</p>
5	<p><b>Major Energy Infrastructure Convention Response</b></p> <p>The Unified Statement of the Convention of Community Councils was distributed with the agenda for this meeting. It had been received too close to the last meeting for it to be dealt with then but RP asked for opinions on this. RP to attend the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August. This was related to the many sustainable energy projects taking place across the Highlands with no National Strategy in place and the fact that the Highlands still pay more for energy despite creating more sustainable energy. Also the issues surrounding battery storage, emergency plans, and Cllr TR pointed out that any water used, should there be a fire, needs to be isolated. CC agreed to support.</p>	RP
6	<p><b>Planning Applications / Issues</b></p> <p>a. 25/02349/FUL Erection of grain store, Land 120m SW of Parkhead, Croy and 25/02350/FUL Erection of grain dryer, Agrii, Mains of Kilravock, Croy</p> <p>b. 25/02213/FUL Erection of extension, East Balcroy, Nairn</p>	

	<p>c. 25/02404/FUL Erection of agricultural shed, Land 75m NW of Woodside Cottage, Raitloan, Nairn</p> <p>LR advised there were no objections raised.</p> <p>RP noted that regarding the application for a grain store at Croy had raised questions about noise. LR advised that the farmer had carried out noise survey and report for the first grain dryer and this had not raised any further objections.</p>	
7	<p><b>Cawdor &amp; West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation (SCIO)</b></p> <p>JW read the report from MR in her absence -</p> <p>One small grant application has been recently received from CWNCC requesting funds for signage warning those exiting the woodland path at the stone bridge of the danger posed by through traffic on the B9090. Decision is pending. Written permission from Landowner is required.</p> <p>The decision on the funding of a large grant application by the CWNCC to enable the purchase of a container to store the snow plough and gritter is also pending and subject to request for further information from the Chair of the Community Council.</p> <p>The requested further information from the Clay Pigeon Club for £10548.00 has now been received and this large grant award for new equipment is now to be awarded.</p> <p>The funding for Autumn / Winter planting has also been approved.</p> <p>The Clunas defibrillator had now been installed.</p> <p>An additional village map has been installed and a nearby dog waste bin has been removed.</p> <p>Further information from the Bonfire Committee is still awaited.</p>	

	<p>The Trustees have requested legal advice on proposed changes to the Constitution and await a reply prior to contacting the parent company Greencoat.</p> <p>The next Trustee meeting is on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Large grant applications are due in by the 14<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>In relation to the above RP asked JB about the CC store at farm and could he come to have a look at it as it might be an alternative for storage for CWNCC equipment. JB advised this would be ok.</p> <p>SW – asked who owned the land where the proposed signage at the woodland path? JW replied that it was owned by Cawdor Castle. DF advised that a reply was being awaited. SW suggested that some kind of barrier might be better than a sign. DF advised that a permanent barrier would not work there as vehicular access was needed.</p>	RP
8	<p><b>Port of Ardersier Community Benefit Fund</b></p> <p>KR – updated the meeting that between April – July 2025 awards totalling £27669.92 had been made by the Port of Ardersier fund.</p> <p>Currently there are 3 small applications and 9 large grant applications pending. 2 of the large applications had been rejected.</p> <p>Next meeting is in September and the deadline for the next grant applications is 30<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>RP confirmed that none of those applications were from CWNCC area.</p>	
9	<p><b>Road and Traffic Safety Issues</b></p> <p>RP reported that he had met with Auldearn Community Council and they appointed someone to act as a liaison to form a working group for the ‘unofficial Nairn bypass’. RP to get back to them about a meeting date. The items which have easy solutions would be sent in to the Council separately so they weren’t held up by more complicated issues, initially they would be putting forward the grass cutting on the verge at the Howford junction and additional signage.</p>	RP

	<p>The problem with the signage on the B9090 at Clephanton previously discussed has been passed on to THC and asked for it to be removed.</p> <p>Howford Bridge Works – RP had a reply stating that the works would be complete in 2 – 3 months. Cllr LF advised that there was no money in place for these repairs in the Timber Transport Scheme. RP to write to the Chief Executive to see what could be done about it.</p> <p>LR advised that the issues had been passed on to Mark Greig and whilst he said many of the people involved were on holiday at the moment, he did advise he would look into getting back to LR . RP asked that the response be forwarded to him as well.</p> <p>Cllr TR asked if there had been any feedback after the accident on the B9006. She was advised there had not been.</p> <p>SW advised that the road near where he lived at Culcharry would have stop / go signs for tree felling for a couple of days.</p> <p>AR advised that similar tree felling works would be happening at Upper Cairnglass and would also have stop / go signs.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>LR</p>
10	<p><b>Broadband</b></p> <p>RP advised the R100 programme which was being rolled out over much of the rural area didn't include Cawdor. Cawdor is covered under the UK national programme which is running to the end of 2026. The R100 programme is Scottish Government funded and runs to the end of this year (2025). Some areas have been connected but many are still waiting.</p> <p>RP to contact the R100 scheme to find out if there is a schedule. He also asked for help from the councillors regarding postcodes of homes in the area so that they could be checked online. Cllrs TR and LF advised they would look into it. SW advised he could provide a list and would send it on to RP.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>SW</p>
11	<p><b>The Cawdor Hub</b></p> <p>KR – the Community Centre had been busy over the summer with birthday parties and also with a Moray Firth Cycling Event. Reminder that Graham Leadbitter would be holding his surgery at the Centre on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August.</p>	

A power outage had been scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> August which had upset the schedules a bit – the proposed outage never happened. The power company had phoned and left a message on the school phone which the Community Centre had not received as the school is closed currently. This had been rescheduled for October – SW asked if they would maybe ask for a generator ?

The hub had been successful in two funding applications. The first from Highland Community-Led Local Development Fund which has allowed the digital enhancement programme to go ahead. The second was from Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme to allow for the continuation of the Relaxed Kids workshops which will run for 38 weeks from August and would allow for one to one mentoring if required. This was for children from P2 to S2.

In the summer the Community Hub Association had provided two weeks support for the HighLife Summer Camps and also Activity Days three days a week which had supported local families.

They had also written to CWNCBO to express the disappointment and frustration they felt regarding the handling of their recent applications for the above projects and they had sought funding elsewhere. They looked forward to a constructive and positive way forward.

School resumes on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August and they would be hosting a 'Back to School' coffee morning for existing and new families starting the new term.

RP commented that this was all good positive news and KR added that further funding had been sought for parental wellbeing and support.

LR asked if the summer activities had been funded as well ? KR advised that HighLife Highland had funded the summer camps but the activity sessions had been funded by the hub.

KR advised that the Cawdor Tots sessions have slowed down and the group is currently in abeyance, they hoped not to lose it and may introduce an open door policy. RP asked if this was just for our area – KR this facility was open to all and attracted quite a few families from Nairn – RP wondered if Croy would make use of it but KR advised they have their own group.

12	<p><b>Community Noticeboards</b></p> <p>RP said that if East Nairnshire is partly amalgamated into our Community Council area then we may get a few more community notice boards. Cawdor currently has three community notice boards. RP – should we have notice boards elsewhere in the community eg. Piperhill, Clephanton ? Are they of value ? Should we appoint a custodian ? JW advised the Cawdor ones were quite out of date. KR advised that they were useful for people who didn't have internet access however, they did need to be better kept up to date.</p>	
13	<p><b>Community Council Scheme Review Consultation</b></p> <p>Under this review East Nairnshire may possibly be split between Auldearn and Cawdor and it was requested that we put forward a proposed boundary.</p> <p>Cllr Oldham suggested the A939 as the boundary. The CC would prefer it down to the Findhorn then along the Findhorn taking in Ferness. Ardclach Council uses the community hall at Ferness. We could also look at perhaps holding some meetings there. JW advised they had moved to Fornightly Hall. SW advised the Ferness Hall is boarded up and no longer in use.</p> <p>Distribution of Wind Farm money was to be looked at and is a separate issue.</p> <p>RP - the Community Council boundary at Croy is different from the Council boundaries. Cllr TR advised that ward boundaries could change due to the number of new buildings going up.</p>	
14	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CC asked what the Park and Stride proposal is. LR advised that this had been a suggestion from JC in previous meetings where an area of land had been sought so that people driving to the school could park away from the school and walk, thus cutting down on congestion at the school and promoting healthier living. LR had been looking into this but a suitable area to use had not been agreed. CC members then looked at the whole scheme and whether Lisa McKellaich from Safer Routes to School at Highland Council could get involved</li> </ul>	

	<p>as she had helped with some projects before. Lisa is sending two colleagues to meet James Cook, RP, Cawdor Estates and KR from the Community hub for a site visit. This would be on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> and hopefully some advice would come from this. The park and stride option whilst it would help the school could potentially just move the issue to elsewhere in the village. The old school car park had been looked at but it was already being used by the businesses there. RP suggested that it might work out cheaper for people further from the school if they paid the fee to put their children on the school bus. RP asked if KR could provide some numbers of children using the school bus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SW advised there had been a water pipe burst coming into Cawdor and this was the reason for cloudy water in the area on Wednesday night just past.</li> <li>- KR asked about the postal service in the village. RP advised new staff had moved to cover the area and the issue seemed to have been resolved. KR advised that perhaps mail could be delivered to the school if urgent deliveries were needed.</li> <li>- LR reported that LC had asked about the gap in the hedge at the north end of the football pitch, next to the Bog Road. Because the hedge is so thick children running out of there were difficult to see until they were actually on the road. Would it be possible to block up that gap so that they had to use the main entrance? JB advised he would go and look at it and that it would be a simple thing to fix</li> <li>- LR – Cawdor Bonfire and Fireworks. LR had contacted Croy Scouts and they have agreed to run the parking at the event. This had been passed to the Bonfire subcommittee.</li> <li>- LR – Nairn and Nairnshire Local Place Plan. The final draft of this had now been sent to and noted by THC. Shorter copies of the brochure were available at the meeting – the full copy was available online: <a href="https://ournairnshire.org/">https://ournairnshire.org/</a></li> <li>- LR - Sustainable Nairnshire public information/awareness raising event on Thursday 25th September from 2pm in the Nairn Community &amp; Arts Centre and all are welcome.</li> </ul>	<p>KR</p> <p>JB</p>
15	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre</p>	



Annex A

**C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 11/08/2025 – No. 21**

Bank reconciled at last meeting 09/06/2025	=£3,084.54
Income	=Nil
Expenditure	=£245.61

Since the last meeting the following has happened:

Expenditure: Minutes Secretary	=£40.00
B of S Service Charge	=£4.25
Stevie Webster Retirement Gift	=£120.00