

Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council
Minutes of the Hybrid meeting Tuesday 8th July 2025
7.30pm, Glencoe Outdoor Centre/Zoom

Councillors Present

Helen Fairlie (Chair) – HF
Sally Mortimer (Treasurer/Vice Chair) – SM
Gwen McTaggart – (Secretary) GMT
Ian William McTaggart – IMT

Also Present

1 member of local community

HF opened the meeting and declared it quorate. HF informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded, and that minutes would be written up from the recording by the Minutes Secretary.

HF thanked Chris and Debbie for allowing the use of the Centre for the meeting.

1: Apologies: None

2: Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes had been circulated and agreed by members prior to the meeting. Formal approval of minutes proposed by GMT & seconded by SM. Minutes will be circulated on both notice boards in the village, on the CC Facebook page, and on the community website.

3: Matters arising from previous minutes

- 1 – Replacement 20MPH signs still to be ordered – quote from Lasting Impressions Online is quite pricey, so HF will do some more research to find cheaper options.
- 2 – Seasonal rangers have now started work in the glens, hopefully one or both will attend a CC meeting to talk to us soon.
- 3 – Museum redevelopment update from David Rounce:
They are working with their chosen builder and Lottery fund to complete the paperwork and be signed-off ready to start construction. This has been a time-

consuming process but they look forward to revealing the main contractor soon.

-To make best use of this time they have also been revisiting designs with the builder to find areas which can be streamlined to reduce the need to bring a crane through the village.

-They will advise the CC as soon as possible once the various administrative tasks are finalised and they are closer to a known start-date. The Museum thanks the village for its continuing patience.

4: Finance

Current balance: £1635.50 (includes annual grant from Highland Council).

Zoom subscription has gone up slightly to £16.79

5: Planning

Blackmount Estate Peatland Restoration Scheme Phases 3-6 – request for comment by 21st July highlighting any concerns/ no concern

Ref Number 25/02133/FUL **Application Type** Full Application

Validation Date 20/06/2025 **Grid Reference** 210717 758371

Expiry Date for lodging Representations 17/07/2025

Description of Works Conversion of Garage for Carers Accommodation

Location of Works Inverrigan, 4 Glencoe, Ballachulish, PH49 4LA,

CC had no comment on either application.

6: Communication to HC

None

7: Meetings attended by councillors

June Belford meeting was cancelled; next meeting is on Monday 21st July.

GMT and SM met Emily Bryce at NTS to discuss signage for the Orbital Path.

Grand Opening for the Orbital will be arranged for some time in October.

8: Community SCIO

Strimming/cutting of grass along path verges is now taking place.

Hagrid's Hut section – closure of 'unofficial' routes up the hillside is being adhered to for the most part, with folks sticking to the official route. But a problem is noted re the number of visitors parking on the verge by the end of the official route.

9: Carpark

Note from Leona Joiner at HC via Kate Forbes's office:

To give you an update on Glencoe.

I have finally heard back from the Macphee's the solicitor acting on behalf of their client who is the beneficiary of the estate. The client is happy to grant a letter of intent and confirms they are happy to continue with the proposed lease for the site's development. There has been a delay in obtaining a valuation of various parcels of land held in Scotland, but they believe some progress has been made recently on this to get things moving.

I have however gone back around timescales as we also have UKSPF funding attached to the project that requires to be spent by March 2026, so we would need to be appointing a contractor this year to get that funding out the door first.

10: Health

As above, June meeting of Belford Stakeholders Group was cancelled. Angus MacDonald published notes from his recent meeting with NHS Highlands on his FB page:

Earlier today [2 July] I was updated on the progress of the Belford Hospital by Fiona Davies, Chief Executive of NHS Highlands, and others in the project. I learnt more about the work and plans, including confirmed maternity and A&E wards, which is fantastic. I was also reassured to hear that the hospital has committed full funding – so no more uncertainty and delays over funds. There are still some problems, such as the location of a helicopter pad. But a spring opening in 2029 is still the deadline. As part of my aim to expand the number of care beds in the Highlands, I suggested co-locating a new care home, with staff accommodation, near the hospital. I'm in discussions with Scottish Ministers about these ideas, so hopefully progress will be made.

11: Invited guests

None

12: AOCB

- (i) The Orbital A82 road crossing at Allt na Muidhe bridge has now been completed. Very positive response from the community. CC thanks NTS for the work in getting this completed.
- (ii) Himalayan Exhibitions are back in the Hall for the summer – all funds raised go towards development projects in Nepal. Next event in the Hall after that will be the Glencoe and District Flower Show, Sunday 24th August. Please support these great initiatives in the village!

- (iii) Large planter at the A82 junction needs some attention. Boulder needs to be removed; large weeds dug out. CC members will go and look at it – replant it with more sustainable shrubs. CC thanks Arthur and Angela Elder for donating plants for the various planters in the village.
- (iv) Senior Citizens had a lunch at the Laroach – supported by the CC and the Community SCIO. It was much enjoyed by all who attended.
- (v) Replacement brown information sign for the entrance to the village is now on order. The large Bear Scotland sign on the A82 approach to the petrol station has been replaced.
- (vi) Cars are regularly parking in front of the gates to the Scottish Water site – GMT will report to Scottish Water.

13: Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 9th September, 7.30pm hybrid meeting at Glencoe Outdoor Centre and via Zoom.