

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Lochaber Committee** held in the Charles Kennedy Building, Fort William, and remotely on **Monday, 26 January 2026 at 10.30 am.**

Present:

Mr A Baxter
Mr S Cameron
Mr J C Grafton
Mr T MacLennan

Mr M Prosser
Ms L Saggars
Ms K Willis

Officials in attendance:

Ms K MacLeod, Roads Operations Manager (Lochaber), Place Service
Ms K Clark, Area Quality Improvement Manager, People Service
Mr R Bartlett, Principal Officer Traffic & Parking (Acting), Place Service
Mr R Porteous, Operations Manager, Corran Ferry, Place Service
Mr M Bain, Project Manager (Corran Ferry), Place Service
Mr A Maciver, Principal Engineer, Place Service
Mr M Culbertson, Project Officer, Community Regeneration Fund
Ms D Ferguson, Senior Community Development Manager, Place Service
Mr W MacKinnon, Community Development Manager (West & Mid Highland)
Ms L Bauermeister, Community Development Manager, Place Service
Mr D Wilby, High Life Highland, Director of Corporate Performance
Ms A Martin, FW2040 Project Manager, Place Service
Mr A Lawrie, Principal Repairs Officer, Place Service
Ms E Garden, Road Safety Officer, Place Service
Mr S Hunter, Road Safety Officer, Place Service
Mr A MacInnes, Senior Committee Officer, Corporate Service

Also in attendance:

Station Commander Che Scott, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (item 3 only)

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Ms K Willis in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declaration of Interest/Transparency Statement:-

Item 8 – Mr S Cameron (Declaration of Interest)
Item 12ii – Mr A Baxter (Transparency Statement)

**3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Committee Performance Report
Aithisg Choileanaidh Comataidh Ionadail Seirbheis Smàlaidh agus
Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There was circulated Report No LA/1/26 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

Following commentary on the report by the Station Commander, Members expressed their appreciation to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for all the hard work they did to keep communities safe and particularly the retained crews across Lochaber who were vital in ensuring that there was a robust fire service available.

Reference was made to the challenges with station availability and recruitment which was made more difficult with changing work patterns. In some rural stations the long term trend for availability was becoming more precarious, for example the 2nd fire appliance in Kinlochleven had zero availability. It was hoped that the current service delivery review would consider new options such as transferring the 2nd fire appliance in Kinlochleven to the Glencoe and Ballachulish area where many of the call outs to road traffic accidents occur. Cross service sharing of facilities should also be considered, such as with the Police and Mountain Rescue services.

It was noted that on occasions in rural communities in Highland including Lochaber there was no crew available for extended periods of time and it was queried what contingencies were in place for this. It was advised that the joint mobilisation partnership scheme was a pilot scheme designed to ensure there were crews to attend all incidents. While this innovation was welcomed there was still a concern that lack of station availability could leave rural areas vulnerable to delays in fire service responding to incidents due to bad weather for example.

There were a high number of recruits going through training at the moment in Lochaber, but it would take some time before this was reflected in the data for station availability.

In terms of deliberate fires in the area, these were subject to ongoing investigations and targeted prevention and further details on this would be provided in the next area performance report to the Committee. Discussions with Members would also take place in relation to road traffic accident prevention. Also, efforts were being made to prevent wildfires which included educating the public.

The Committee **NOTED** the Area Performance Report.

**4. High Life Highland Service Delivery
Libhrigeadh Seirbheis High Life na Gàidhealtachd**

There was circulated Report No. LA/2/26 by the Chief Executive, High Life Highland which provided the Committee with information on High Life Highland (HLH) service delivery in the Lochaber Committee area.

Following a summary of the report by the High Life Highland, Director of Corporate Performance a view was expressed that services provided by HLH were very valuable across Highland communities and should not be taken for granted. In terms of the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre, there had been plans in the past to bid for

funding for a complete refurbishment of the centre, but this was not progressed. In this respect, there was new tourism infrastructure and facilities being created on the Isle of Skye and it was queried what discussions Officers in HLH have had with Highland Council to invest in the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre. It was advised that HLH would welcome discussions with the Council to see if there was potential to develop a new tourism facility in Glen Nevis which would bring significant opportunities and benefits to the area and visitors and the Director of Corporate Performance undertook to follow this up with Highland Council Officers.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the report; and
- ii. HLH would discuss with Highland Council Officers the potential to develop a new tourism facility in Glen Nevis.

5. Area Roads Capital Programme 2026/27 Prògram Calpa Rathaidean na Sgìre 2026/27

There was circulated Report No. LA/3/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which detailed the proposed prioritised 2026/2027 Area Roads Capital Programme for Lochaber.

Following commentary on the report by the Roads Operations Manager (Lochaber), a view was expressed that the expectations of Members and communities in terms of the roads maintenance programme could never be met due to the limited resources available. It was noted that this was a multi year programme and last year there were £7.9m of road repairs required in Lochaber. The current total of road repairs was now £12.9m and this highlighted that the Council would never catch up with the work required on its roads. It would take 7 years to get to the bottom of the list of road repairs and in the meantime the capital costs would increase above inflation. Therefore, without significant Scottish Government funding, the Council would never catch up on the roads maintenance programme.

Continuing, at last years meeting when considering the roads maintenance budget, the Committee had agreed to invite the Chair of Economy and Infrastructure Committee to a meeting of the Committee to discuss Member concerns about the lack of resources provided, but the Chair had not attended. It was requested that the Chair be invited to attend again to explain the Administration's approach to providing capital funding to local area Committees.

In terms of the £1.5m overspend in the Councils roads maintenance budget and that this would be brought back into balance, it was queried what impact this would have on the road maintenance budget for Lochaber. It was advised that Officers locally had not been instructed to change revenue budget spending as yet.

In terms of projects not carried out last year, these would be carried forward into the 2026/27 financial year. The roads maintenance list was an evolving list as schemes were completed and others were added.

The Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the rolling programme of Capital schemes as listed in Appendix 2 of the report, which will be a multi-year programme;
- ii. **NOTED** that the Area budget would be available after the February 2026 Economy and Infrastructure Committee;
- iii. **NOTED** that the rolling programme might require to be updated once results from the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey had been received and considered;
- iv. **NOTED** with concern that the total amount of capital expenditure required to fix the Lochaber road network was increasing year-on-year, having increased from £7.9 million in 2025/26 to £12.9 million in 2026/27 and the Council was failing to address this backlog of repairs; and
- v. **NOTED** that the Chair of Economy and Infrastructure Committee and appropriate officers had not accepted the Committee's previous invitations to attend the Lochaber Committee to explain how the Council addresses the Committee's concerns. Consequently, request their attendance at the Lochaber Committee on Monday 11th May 2026.

6. **Glen Etive 18t Weight Limit** **Crìoch Cuideim 18t Ghleann Èite**

There was circulated Report No. LA/4/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which invited Members to approve the introduction of a 18t Weight Limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) "The Highland Council (C1094 Glen Etive Road, Glencoe) (Weight Limit) Order 2025".

In discussion, reference was made to tourist traffic on this road. While a weight limit could be introduced, the volume of tourist traffic on the Glen Etive road could not be controlled. That cumulative weight would also have a deteriorating effect on the road. It was advised that there was an issue with tourist traffic on this road and there were signs on the road advising users that the road was unsuitable for campervans and there was a 30 foot vehicle length restriction in place. However, while the cumulative weight of tourist traffic was a concern, this would not structurally fail the road.

An undertaking was given to check if a usage survey had been conducted on this road and information on this be shared with Members. It was felt that a weight restriction would not solve the long term condition of the road unless there was more investment in maintenance on it.

Given that the road was out of the way people could get away with not adhering to restrictions and if a weight restriction was approved, it was queried how this would be monitored. It was advised that the weight restriction would be enforced by Police Scotland.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the background to the proposed 18t Weight Limit Traffic Regulation Order and the representations received;
- ii. **NOTED** the objections made to "The Highland Council (C1094 Glen Etive Road, Glencoe) (Weight Limit) Order 2025"; and
- iii. **APPROVED** the making of the 18t Weight Limit Traffic Regulation Order.

7. **Cuil Bay 40mph Speed Limit** **Crìoch Astair 40msu Bàgh na Cùile**

There was circulated Report No. LA/5/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which invited Members to approve the introduction of a 40mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) "The Highland Council (Cuil Bay, Duror) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2025".

In discussion, given the road's location to a School it might be more appropriate to consider in future a 30mph speed limit on this section of road for safety purposes. It was advised that this section of road was outwith the settlement and did not meet the criteria for a speed limit any lower than 40mph. Any consultation from Transport Scotland regarding setting speed limits would give the opportunity to review this. In terms of the number of users and types of users on the road, this was not in the remit of the TRO, but speed data was available. Also, the temporary 20mph speed limit in front of the School could be looked at again.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the background to the proposed 40mph Traffic Regulation Order and the representations received;
- ii. **NOTED** the objections made to "The Highland Council (Cuil Bay, Duror) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2025"; and
- iii. **APPROVED** the making of the 40mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order.

At this point the Committee adjourned for a comfort break and the meeting resumed at 12.10 p.m.

8. **Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2026/2027** **Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2026/2027**

Declaration of Interest: Mr S Cameron declared an interest in this item as he rented a Council garage. Mr Cameron left the meeting for this item

There was circulated Report No. LA/6/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which provided information on garage rents for Lochaber and invited the Committee to set rent levels for garage and garage sites held on the Housing Revenue Account for 2026/2027.

In discussion, it was queried if all the rent income raised from garage rents in Lochaber was spent on garages in the area. Also, was there any underspend in last years maintenance budget for garages. In response, it was not guaranteed that all the increase in rents would come back to the Lochaber area. Income from the rent increase would go to a central budget and was distributed accordingly. Annual income generated from garage rents and garage sites was around £95k and £23k was spent on maintenance this financial year. Last year the garage budget was fully spent. Local budgets could be controlled to ensure any budget increase was spent on garages.

In terms of the garages and garage sites, it was queried if the current stock was up to a certain standard and was more money for maintenance required. It was advised that the garages needed significant investment to bring them up to a suitable standard. There was a garage action plan which highlighted garages most

in need of improvement. There were some garages earmarked for disposal in the medium term given their poor condition. There were no significant plans for works on garage sites, but this would be included in the garage action plan review.

The Committee **AGREED** a 8% rent increase to apply to Lochaber Garages and Garage Sites.

9. Housing Repairs and Capital Report Aithisg Choileanaidh Taigheadais

There was circulated Report No. LA/7/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which provided information on how the Housing Service performed in relation to Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators up to 31 December 2025.

In discussion, reference was made to the Swedish houses in Caol and it welcomed to see the improvements in energy efficiency made to these properties. Also, it was queried if there was a reason why the emergency repair times had increased from the same quarter last year. It was advised that this would have been due to the bad weather in that quarter. Work could only be carried out when it was safe to do so and this would affect repair times.

It was queried what component accounting was undertaking regarding plans to replace components in houses e.g. replacement kitchens/bathrooms. It was advised that there was an asset management strategy which detailed the investment required to properties and would identify timeframes for component replacement.

The hard work of the housing repairs team was acknowledged in dealing with significant workloads.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025.

10. Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications Measadh Iarrtasan Maoin Ath-bheòthachadh Coimhearsnachd

There was circulated Report No. LA/8/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place. Members were asked to consider the applications presented and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application.

The report detailed eight community regeneration fund applications received for consideration with a total grant request value of £270,120.28. If Members were to approve all of these applications, there would be £281,108.53 remaining in the Lochaber Community Regeneration Fund budget for 2025-26. All eight applications were eligible for support.

Following consideration, the Committee **AGREED** all the applications for Community Regeneration Fund grant award and the grants requested.

11. Fort William Common Good Fund – Parking Costs Maoin Math Coitcheann a' Ghearasdain – Cosgaisean Parcaidh

There was circulated Report No. LA/9/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place. The operational management costs to deliver the car parking at the West End carpark must be considered and approved by this Committee before being recharged against the Fort William Common Good Fund.

In discussion, it was noted that the common good fund did not own the entrance to the West End Car Park, but previous maps showed it did. There was also concern about the potential for significant costs to fall on the common good fund with any repairs required to the sea wall. It was felt the Council should pay for any such repairs and this burden should not fall on the common good fund.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** that £4249.55 costs incurred by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team to operate the paid parking scheme at the Fort William Common Good site was charged against the Fort William Common Good Fund;
- ii. **NOTED** how the 55% Common Good split was calculated; and
- iii. **NOTED** the maintenance update and the intention for this to be brought to Committee again once surveys have been completed.

12. Education Attainment Reports Aithisgean Buileachadh Foghlaim

Transparency Statement - Mr A Baxter declared a transparency statement in relation to the Kinlochleven High Associated School Group Overview item as he had children that attended Kinlochleven High School. However, having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

The Area Quality Improvement Manager provided commentary on all the reports detailed below. In discussion, it was noted that to protect pupil confidentiality, the smaller schools attainment scores were not published, but it was requested that these scores be aggregated for all the primary schools in an associated school group (ASG) and for the whole of Lochaber. It was advised that the attainment reports were being revised and this request would be put forward for consideration in the review. This would make it clear in what was going well in the schools and areas for improvement.

Further, it was queried if all primary schools across all the ASGs had permanent contracts for all teaching staff. An undertaking was given to provide this information for Members. It was advised that consistency for learners was important and where possible permanent teaching contracts were in place. However, every year the Council required to place probationer teachers in schools and there were teacher redeployments. In terms of workforce planning this could impact staffing in schools.

In relation to Kinlochleven High School, this school had an inspection within the last five years. This inspection raised some concerns which were being addressed. There had been a recent follow up inspection and it was queried what progress there had been since the previous inspection had been completed. It was advised that the follow up inspection had concluded two weeks ago and Officers were still waiting on the first draft report from Education Scotland. As soon as this was received it would be shared with Members. However, there had

been positive progress in identifying the areas of improvement outlined in the original inspection and good progress had been made in relation to each of the areas of improvement identified.

Some of the attainment data provided related to 2023/24 and it was queried if more up to date information could be provided. It was advised that the Primary School data was for the last school session. Secondary School data was published in February and this would be shared with Members when available. In terms of how far forward leaver destination information was tracked, this would be checked and a response provided to Members.

Following consideration, the Committee **NOTED** the reports detailed below and that the following information would be provided to Members:-

- i. that the attainment reports were being revised and that the request that the smaller schools attainment scores be aggregated for all the primary schools in an ASG and for the whole of Lochaber, would be put forward for consideration in the review;
- ii. that information would be provided to Members on whether all primary schools across all the ASGs had permanent contracts for all teaching staff;
- iii. that the Education Scotland inspection report on Kinlochleven High School would be shared with Members when available;
- iv. that the most recent Secondary School attainment data would be shared with Members when available; and
- v. that it would be checked how far forward leaver destination information was tracked and this information would be shared with Members.

i Ardnamurchan High Associated School Group Overview

There was circulated Report No. LA/10/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – People Cluster.

ii Kinlochleven High Associated School Group Overview

There was circulated Report No. LA/11/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – People Cluster.

iii Lochaber High Associated School Group Overview

There was circulated Report No. LA/12/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – People Cluster.

iv Mallaig High Associated School Group Overview

There was circulated Report No. LA/13/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – People Cluster.

13. Lochaber Area Place Plan Update Cunntas air Plana Àite Sgìre Loch Abar

There was circulated Report No. LA/14/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which invited Members to scrutinise progress on the Lochaber Area Place Plan.

Following a summary of the report by the Senior Community Development Manager specific reference was made to the Lochaber “Partnering for Progress” event held in November 2025, co-hosted by Highland Community Planning Partnership, Lochaber Area Place Plan, Voluntary Action Lochaber, and Fort William 2040. The aim of this event was to bring forward a coordinated approach to engagement, better sharing of updates on ongoing projects, and improved access to support and funding opportunities for community groups. The event provided a platform for residents, partners, and agencies to collaborate on key topics aligned with the Lochaber Area Place Plan priorities. Members acknowledged the work undertaken by Officers to organise this event.

It was queried if community action groups were involved in the Lochaber Area Place Plan. It was advised that the Place Plan did recognise all the different groups and various community action groups, different local place plans and development groups. The plan also reflected statutory plans, such as the Highland Development Plan.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** progress against the Lochaber Area Place Plan; and
- ii. **AGREED** to continue to support and promote the plan where possible in terms of its consideration within other Plans, Strategies, development and funding opportunities across or impacting the Lochaber area.

14. Fort William 2040 Bi-Annual Update Cunntas Leth-bhliadhna a’ Ghearasdain 2040

There was circulated Report No. LA/15/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which provided an update on the progress of the Fort William 2040 (FW2040) Masterplan and Delivery Programme.

In discussion, an update was sought in relation to the proposed bus link in the Blar Mor development. It was advised that this would be taken account of in the integrated transport plan and there was bus infrastructure work being carried out. The Upper Achintore and the Blar Mor Bus gate projects had been submitted for planning permission.

Reference was made to the abandoning of skiing and cycle provision at Nevis Range. This was disappointing given that Fort William was meant to be the outdoor capital of the UK and the Mountain Bike World Championships held in the past had made the area world famous. It was advised that the Nevis Range was a private enterprise and they would have business reasons for changes there. Also the Mountain Bike World Championships organisers had decided to hold the event elsewhere.

The lack of access to Loch Linnhe was also highlighted and this was a key theme in FW2040 and consultants had been asked to look at this in terms on the integrated transport plan.

In terms of the culture and leisure options appraisal and bus station improvements/relocation, Members wished to meet with the Consultant at an area business meeting.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the progress that has been made with the individual projects within the FW2040 Masterplan as summarised at Appendix 1: FW2040 Annual Masterplan Project Update December 2025;
- ii. **NOTED** the successful delivery of the Partnering for Progress event in November 2025. This was organised in collaboration with the Lochaber Community Partnership, the Highland Council Area Place Planning team, and Voluntary Action Lochaber continuing the FW2040 commitment to ongoing community engagement. Further detail was provided in section 5 of the report; and
- iii. **AGREED** to support identified priority FW2040 work areas for the coming year as summarised in section 6 of the report.

15. Corran Ferry Update Cunntas air Aiseag a' Chorrain

There was circulated Report No. LA/16/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place which provided an update on the Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme, the Corran Ferry New Electric Vessel and Corran Ferry Service operations.

Following commentary on the report from Officers, it was queried what the timescale was for the Corran Ferry Ticketing project. In response, there was no fixed target implementation date for the ticketing project. The tasks to be undertaken would be finalised following engagement with stakeholders and Members.

Further, it was queried if the Council would admit there was a problem with the vehicle ramps on the Maid of Glencoul and that it was the fault of the ramps not drivers for damage to vehicles. Also, what guidance was being given to drivers who may wish to make a claim for damages and how many claims for vehicle damage there had been. In response, there were more than ten claims for damage and the exact number of claims would be shared with Members. A Naval Architect conducted an on-site assessment on the Maid of Glencoul's ramps and a written report on this had been shared with stakeholders. In preparation for her annual refit scheduled for March 2026 the Naval Architect is also examining any opportunities for improving the ramp design. The ramp was of an old design and speed of vehicles going onto the ferry was a contributing factor to damage to vehicles. Claims for vehicle damage sustained on embarking/disembarking the Maid of Glencoul should be e-mailed to:- CorranFerry.Office@highland.gov.uk

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme & Corran Ferry New Electric Vessel updates; and
- ii. Corran Ferry Service update.

16. Appointments Cur an Dreuchd

i Appointment to the West Highland Way Trust, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Board of Trustees

Cur an Dreuchd gu Bòrd Urrasairean Buidheann Corpaichte Carthannach na h-Alba, Slighe Taobh Siar na Gàidhealtachd

The Committee **AGREED** to appoint Councillor M Prosser as a Trustee of the West Highland Way SCIO for the first term after the AGM on 14th January 2026.

ii Appointment to Knoydart Foundation Cur an Dreuchd gu Urras Chnòideirt

The Committee **AGREED** that Councillor S Cameron be appointed to the Knoydart Foundation.

At this point the Committee adjourned for a comfort break and the meeting resumed at 1.50 p.m.

17. Fort William Common Good Monitoring Report Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Maoin Math Coitcheann a' Ghearasdain

There was circulated Report No. LA/17/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place, which presented the 2024/25 Annual Accounts, 2025/26 Quarter Three Monitoring Report and 2026/27 Proposed Budget for Fort William Common Good Fund (FWCGF).

In discussion, it was queried why the costs and income relating to the West End Car Park were different in this report as compared to the report at Item 11 of this minute relating to FWCGF Parking costs. This point would be clarified and information shared with Members. Also, it was queried how the parking costs in appendix 2 of the report were arrived at. It was advised that this was the cost of parking services for the West End Car park. Also clarification was sought on property costs. It was advised that as this was a new common good fund, costs were not fully understood, therefore a guide had been taken from other common good funds. Therefore, this was a proposed budget until costs were understood.

A view was expressed that there was a substantial risk to the fund due to the potential for the fund to bear costs associated with repairing the West End Car Park. Acting on behalf of the fund it would be better to spend all the money in the fund rather than funding the cost of repairing the car park and this liability should be removed from the fund and the Council should take on this liability. While a formal response to this would be sought and shared with Members, it was understood that Members as custodians of the FWCGF first responsibility was to look after the assets of the common good fund.

Given that there some points of clarification still required on this report as discussed, an amendment to the recommendations was proposed that the proposed budget for 2026-27 be not approved until the liabilities are understood and a sustainable surplus has been established. This amendment was supported by the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **DEFERRED** to the next meeting the FWCGF Statement of Accounts (Appendix 1) for 2024/25 for clarification on costs and income relating to the West End Car Park;

- ii. **NOTED** the position of the FWCGF as shown in the 2025/26 Quarter Three monitoring statement at Appendix 2 of the report;
- iii. **NOTED** that the FWCGF needed to build reserves to cover liabilities; and
- iv. **AGREED** not to approve the proposed budget for 2026-27 and proposed property costs until the liabilities were fully understood; more detail was available on the property costs; and a sustainable surplus had established sufficient reserves to cover those liabilities and costs.

18. **Fort William Common Good Putting Green Shed Options** **Seada Pairèid Maoin Math Coitcheann a' Ghearasdain**

There was circulated Report No. LA/18/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive Place, which presented two options regarding the potential future use of the Putting Green Shed ("the Shed") which is a Common Good Fund (CGF) asset located on the Parade in Fort William.

In discussion, a third option was suggested to offer the Putting Green Shed and solar panels for sale and removal from the site on the Parade, with the proceeds of the sale to go to the common good fund.

In response to a query, it was advised that a community consultation would only be required when a change in use of a common good asset was in scope. There would be a cost of circa £3k for a community consultation. In terms of option 1 detailed in report, there would be no requirement for a statutory consultation presuming no change of use from storage to another purpose.

Following discussion, the Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. option 1, as detailed in the report, for the potential future use of the Fort William Common Good Fund Putting Green Shed; and
- ii. the next steps for the potential future use of the Fort William Common Good Fund Putting Green Shed.

19. **Ward Discretionary Fund 2025/26** **Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund awards from 1st November to 31st December 2025:-

Ward 11

Young Enterprise Highland and Moray - Strengthening Career Opportunities for Young People - £300

Ward 21

no awards approved

Trusts and Bequests awards:

Ben Nevis Peace Cairn Trust Fund – John Muir Trust - £1849.17

HCT Caol and Mallaig Poor Fund – Lochaber Citizens' Advice Bureau - £2999.97

20. **Minutes** **Geàrr-chunntas**

The Committee **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Lochaber Committee held on 10 November 2025 which were approved by the Council on 11 December 2025.

The meeting ended at 2.23 p.m.