

**The Highland Council
No. 4 2026/2027**

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Highland Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 4 August 2026 at 11.00 am.

**1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence
A' Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan**

Present:

Ms S Atkin	Mr A Jarvie
Mr M Baird	Ms L Johnston
Mr A Baxter (remotely)	Mr R Jones
Mr R Bremner	Ms E Knox
Mr I Brown	Ms L Kraft (remotely)
Mr M Cameron	Mr B Lobban
Mr S Cameron	Mr P Logue (remotely)
Mrs I Campbell (remotely)	Ms M MacCallum
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Mr G MacKenzie
Mr A Christie	Mr S Mackie (remotely)
Mrs M Cockburn	Mr A MacKintosh
Mr S Coghill (remotely)	Ms K MacLean
Mrs T Collier (remotely)	Mr T MacLennan (remotely)
Mr R Cross	Mr D Macpherson
Ms L Dundas	Mr D McDonald
Mr J Edmondson	Ms J McEwan
Mr J Finlayson	Mr D Millar (remotely)
Mr D Fraser	Mr H Morrison (remotely)
Mr L Fraser	Mr J Murray
Mr R Gale	Ms L Niven (remotely)
Mr C Gillies	Mr P Oldham
Mr K Gowans	Mrs M Paterson
Mr J Grafton	Mr M Prosser (remotely)
Mr A Graham	Ms C Ramsay
Mr M Green	Mr M Reiss
Dr M Gregson	Mrs T Robertson
Mr R Gunn	Mr K Rosie
Mrs J Hendry	Ms M Ross
Ms M Hutchison (remotely)	Mrs L Saggars (remotely)

Chief Executive
Assistant Chief Executive - Corporate
Chief Officer – Legal and Corporate Governance
Strategic Lead (Legal and Regulatory)
Democratic Services Manager

Mr B Lobban in the Chair

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr C Ballance, Dr C Birt, Mr B Boyd, Mr J Bruce, Mrs H Crawford, Mr D Gregg, Mrs B Jarvie, Mr S Kennedy, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mr R MacKintosh, Mrs A MacLean, Mrs M Reid, Mr A Sinclair, Mr R Stewart and Ms K Willis.

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

The Council **NOTED** that there were no Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statements.

3. Exclusion of the Public Às-dùnadh a' Phobail

The Council **NOTED** that, as a result of recent events, there was no need to exclude the public from the meeting.

4. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Taxi driver's / operator's licences Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Dhràibhearan / Oibrichean Tagsaidh

As David Brown, the holder of two taxi operator's licences (Ward 17 – Culloden & Ardersier), had surrendered these on 3 August 2026, the Council **NOTED** there was now no longer a requirement to consider confidential Report No HLC/79/26 by the Strategic Lead (Legal and Regulatory).

5. Urgent Motion Gluasad Èiginneach

This Council supports the decision of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance to bring the decision taken by Licensing Committee on 23 June 2026 to a special meeting of the Highland Council for further consideration. The surrender of these licences today (3 August 2026) means that they immediately ceased to have effect and consequently there is no decision for the special Council to reach today. We nevertheless wish it to be made known that this unprecedented action was justified.

Signed: Mr B Lobban Mr A Christie

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr A Christie, seconded by Mrs T Robertson, concurred with the Motion but with the following addition:-

“Additionally, Council agrees that a letter be sent requesting the Scottish Government to review the rules, regulations and eligibility criteria for convicted criminals both incarcerated and released to be granted licences associated with the taxi industry”.

This was accepted by the signatories to the Motion

Decision

This Council supports the decision of the Chief Officer Legal and Governance to bring the decision taken by Licensing Committee on 23 June 2026 to a special meeting of the Highland Council for further consideration. The surrender of these licences today (3 August 2026) means that they immediately ceased to have effect and consequently there is no decision for the special Council to reach today. We nevertheless wish it to be made known that this unprecedented action was justified.

Additionally, Council agrees that a letter be sent requesting the Scottish Government to review the rules, regulations and eligibility criteria for convicted criminals both incarcerated and released to be granted licences associated with the taxi industry.

At this juncture, the Convener referred to recent events and the decision taken, by a majority vote, of the Licensing Committee to take no action on two taxi operator licences issued to David Brown. Many Members had been disturbed and upset by that decision and it was hoped that the Council, if it had had the opportunity, would have reached a different outcome.

The Council needed to reconsider how to deal with Licensing within the boundaries of the law and discussions would be ongoing regarding this as a matter of urgency. It was essential to remember the victim and, at times, there had been a lack of attention or focus on them. The Convener, on behalf of the Council, expressed sympathy with the victim, acknowledging the significant stress that the consequences of the original decision would have had on them.

For information, he informed Members that at the September Full Council meeting the Convener, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition would bring forward a Motion of No Confidence in Councillors Kennedy, Birt, Grafton, Stewart and Macpherson.

The meeting concluded at 11.08am.