West Loch Fyne Community Council

Convener Vice Convener Secretary

David Wilkinson Jason Copestick Vacant

Lochgair Minard

01546 886638

Minutes of Meeting held at Minard on 2 September 2025

**Committee Members Present:** Jason Copestick (J.C), Heather Rogan (H.R.)

**Present:** Jan Brown (AB Council), M. Moncur (Minard C Trust), Paul Lomas, Jean Smith, Fraser Bell, Becs Barker

**Apologies:** Dave Wilkinson (WLFCC), Greg Neeson (WLFCC), Dougie Philand (A&B council)

Chair: Heather Rogan

Meeting started at 7.00pm

**Intro**

Welcome to this meeting of the WLFCC. As you can see only two of us have made it tonight which means we do not have a quorum and therefore cannot vote on anything at this meeting. However, to ensure we can provide microgrant funding at this meeting, votes were taken in advance of the meeting by email.

Apologies Dave Wilkinson (Convener), Greg Neeson (WLFCC) and Dougie Philand (Local Councillor).

It was kind of Dougie to send his apologies at what must be such a difficult time for him and we wish him all the best. Jan Brown stated she was here in his stead.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the June meeting were unable to be ratified due to lack of board members present. Heather Rogan is willing to propose, the minutes will be sent to the CC to ensure they are seconded.

**Conveners Report**

Dave Wilkinson confirmed by email he has nothing requiring attention at this meeting.

It should be noted that A&B have re-issued guidance for Community Councils. The regulations clearly state that minutes must be supplied to A&B council within 2 weeks of the meeting or funding can be withheld, although the plan is to extend this to 3 weeks sometime in the future.

It should also be noted that WLFCC currently has four members, this is the MINIMUM required for this community council (CC) to be recognised by the local authority and if WLFCC did not exist then access to the microgrant scheme would also end. Should you be interested in joining then please contact a member of the CC, we can co-opt mid-term and there are elections next year at which I, Heather Rogan, will be standing down.

Windfarm grant panel

Jason Copestick has joined the larger windfarm grant panel.

**Treasurers Report**

**Funding**

WLFCC available funds sit at **£2075.24**. This is largely thanks to an additional £500 donated by Foundation Scotland to help with running costs of the CC.

Payment of annual funding from Argyll and Bute Council is yet to be received due to a set of missing minutes which have now been provided. Payment expected soon.

As you may be aware the Bank of Scotland where the WLFCC account is held now charges for community accounts. After extensive investigations of other banks it has been found that they all now charge in some fashion. Account to be left with Bank of Scotland who are at least local.

**Microgrants**

The 2025 microgrant allocation has been received from Foundation Scotland. The balance now stands at **£3438.03**

Webpages and forms should now all reflect the Nadara rebrand.

New application form and guidelines have been put up on the webpages. It should be noted that these may require a further update as Foundation Scotland have now revised their guidance! One new point is that any person or organisation receiving a grant must provide images and feedback from the community on how the grant improved the community or area. So PLEASE report back.

**Previous applications:**

LGA 86-24-25 – Waterfront history display board. £475 was supplied, only £450 was needed. £25 to be deducted from LGA application 89-25-26 to compensate. This has been agreed by the CC and by the latest applicant for a microgrant (below). LGA said how much they appreciated the support of WLFCC and Foundation Scotland in bringing Lochgair hall to life.

**Current Applications:**

**LGA**

**89-25-26** Lochgair replacement chairs for hall £500. Awarded £475 (see 86-24-25 above). Vote 3-0 in favour.

**MCT**

**90-25-26** Minard Panto £500 of £850. Vote 3-0 in favour.

**91-25-26** Minard Fireworks £200 of £450 – Vote 2-1 against. This vote was based on concern for animals in the area and the repeated request for the use of low noise fireworks and evidence to prove the requirement.

There followed a heated debate on this. The upshot is likely to be a new application in support of other aspects of the event, to be voted on by the CC members as soon as the application is received.

**Police Report**

Received by various community council member in email form. No change in communication or community engagement. As you are aware it is difficult to tell which offences were logged specifically in the WLFCC area. However, the area we are part of was largely listed against road traffic offences which will come as no surprise.

**Councillor’s Report**

The report on the visitor’s levy is complete and will be discussed by the full council at the end of the month. Jan Brown is not aware of its contents as yet.

Additional Support for Learning (ASN) – there are no cuts planned in Argyll and Bute but there is a rebalancing in the region, the same amount of resources redistributed.

Auchindrain – the re-opening of Auchindrain was well received, with too many visitors attending for the current resources. The café has been a great success and this will remain open for set days during the winter period. It is hoped the encouraging level of support will continue with further events planned.

Health and Social Care – There is a £3.5m deficit in the budget. There is no clear information or plan as to what is happening about this.

**A.O.C.B**

* Reminder to all that if you have telecare services you should contact your phone provider to make them aware they need to deal with this issue when changing your phone line to digital fibre optic
* Jason Copestick raised the issue of what happens if all communications are lost. At some point Achagoil in Minard lost internet, wi-fi, phones and mobile phone signals.

Jan Brown said she had not heard about this.

The local council did circulate a request for data on what happened during the large mains outage in the area, which had a similar effect, to which WLFCC replied. Nothing has been heard back about the results of this survey council wide and no information as to a plan of action has been received.

It was suggested that Minard and Lochgair look into creating Community Emergency Plans, this can lead to funding from the local council. This could include money towards purchasing a satellite phone to help in case of communication and power issues. A generator was also suggested but it is believed that SSE can supply this if there is a mains outage upon prior application by a community.

Becs Barker and Jan Brown to look into a Community Emergency Plan for Minard. Heather Rogan to contact the Lochgair Association to suggest they also look into this. Ardrishaig has been suggested as a contact for useful information as they are well on their way with this.

* Jason Copestick raised concerns about the bus shelter which has sustained burning and is covered in graffiti. Jan Brown will report this but has also asked Jason to report this via the council webpages. It is was stated that it is unlikely anything will happen unless the bus stop is more severely damaged.
* Margaret Moncur informed the community that MacLeods and Crawfords builders have been asked to quote for extensive work to Minard Village Hall. This to include insultation, damp proofing, lowering the ceiling, new heating, lighting and a full rewire. It is hoped that this can be covered by an application to the larger Foundation Scotland Grant Scheme.

**Next Meeting**

6 January 2026 Lochgair Village Hall 19:00

Meeting Closed at 20:18