Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Wednesday 8th July 2026

At Fort Augustus Village Hall

Board Directors present	Catriona Watson (CW) – Chair, Patrick Ungless (PU) – Vice chair, Helen Clay (HC), Lorn MacKay (LM), Clare Levings (CL), Michael Alvey Anderson (MAA), Kelvin Hill (KH), Paul McIntosh (PM), Mike Anderson (MA), Jenny Findlay (JF), Chris Nelson (CN), Fiona MacCormick (FM)
Apologies	Martin McDonald (MM) – Operations Manager
Also in attendance	Karen Edwards (KE) - Operations Manager, Oliver Giles (OG) – Chief Officer
Minute Taker	Simon Canning (SC) – Operations Supervisor

Item	Minute	Action
1.	**Welcome and Apologies** CW opened the meeting and welcomed OG as the new Chief Officer. OG introduced himself, provided an overview of his professional background, and expressed his enthusiasm for helping the company move into its next phase of growth and development.	
2.	**Minutes of the meetings held on 26th May 2026** These were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting. Proposed by PU, seconded by HC.	
3.	**Matters arising from minutes and Operations Manager report not on the agenda** There were no matters arising from the previous meeting minutes. PM raised several questions regarding the Operations Manager's report, and KE provided additional detail and clarification on the issues discussed.	
4.	**Update from Community Council** CL encouraged Board members to attend the Community Council meetings and advised the Board that the Community Council report she gives at these meetings will focus on matters of mutual interest to both organisations. Smaller issues, such as potholes, are available on the minutes from the Community Council meetings on the website. SC will download and send to the Board with other paperwork. Ownership of Inch Bay has now transferred to the Cil Chuimen Legacy Project. Resilience planning is progressing with each area preparing its planning document for submission to the Highland Council.	SC

	Attendees at the Community Council meeting expressed interest in the Community Company taking ownership of the public toilets. Police Scotland has opened a community consultation regarding the former old Police Station on Fort William Road. The published venue for the next Community Council meeting has been changed to Millennium Hall, Invermoriston.	
5.	**Finance matters** KE asked the Board to approve full signatory access to bank accounts for both FAGCC and Tarff Trading for both OG and MM. KE further suggested that both OG and MM are approved to hold expense account debit cards in their names. The Board approved both matters. To increase the number of signatory's PM offered to become another and this too was approved by the Board. The Board also approved OG's request for himself and MM to be given authority to submit funding applications on behalf of the Community Company.	KE
6.	**The School House, Dalchreichart** The Board discussed the potential ownership of the School House. KE presented the findings of the survey carried out with MM and reminded the Board of the title burdens affecting the property. The Board agreed the house does not meet with the company's rental criteria. It was further agreed that, should West Glenmoriston Community Company sell the property, the value of the grant awarded in 2017 should revert to Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company. These decisions were approved by a majority vote. KE will offer support to West Glenmoriston Community Company and will enquire if the property can be available to individuals on the company's Expression of Interest list.	KE
7.	**Police House, Fort Augustus** OG advised the Board that the former Police Station is currently the subject of a public consultation. While the community considers it to have limited value as a police station, the building could potentially be repurposed as a social space or for housing. Possibly a house in Multiple Occupation (HMO). The Board agreed that OG will submit an Expression of Interest to Police Scotland and investigate potential funding opportunities. The Board also agreed a budget of up to £5,000 to conduct research and surveys on the building to establish a condition report, conversion costs and valuation. He will also explore possible uses and funding opportunities.	OG
8.	**Review of revised grant assessment forms and themes** The Board reviewed the proposed grant assessment forms and themes and approved them in principle. KE invited volunteers to join the grant assessment sub-group. The following Board members volunteered: • MA • LM • PU • FM.	

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<tr><td></td><td>KE will finalise the documentation and prepare guidance on the assessment process for the various grant programmes.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>9.</td><td>Grants
<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Association</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grant Ref</td><td>Requested</td><td>Decision</td><td>Value approved</td></tr>
<tr><td>G-255-2026</td><td>£1,470</td><td>Approved</td><td>£1,470</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">For: Summer outing to Newtonmore</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Conditions: Standard</td></tr>
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<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Friends of Kilchuimen Academy</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grant Ref</td><td>Requested</td><td>Decision</td><td>Value approved</td></tr>
<tr><td>G-254-2026</td><td>£4,810</td><td>Approved</td><td>£4,810</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">For: Continued support of the Teen Girls weight training class</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Conditions:</td></tr>
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Grants approved by email since last meeting

G-256-2026 Fort Augustus Men’s Shed, Health & Safety equipment, £687.07
CB-044-2026 Joanne Howe, Dungeons and Dragons club, £597.00
CB-045-2026 Simon Canning, Females Self-Defence class, £84.00
</td><td>SC
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<tr><td>10.</td><td>
AOCB
HC reminded the Board of the Community Council’s interest in the Community Company taking ownership of the public toilets in Fort Augustus.
KH asked whether financial support could be made available for volunteer MiDAS drivers to complete the medical examinations to satisfy DVLA licence requirements. KE advised that a rolling grant fund could be used for this purpose and additional MiDAS training, with a maximum value set which can be reviewed and extended on request to the Board. The proposal was approved by a majority vote. KE and SC will progress this.
KE has been attending Beinneun Board meetings on behalf of the Community Company and requested that the Board authorise OG to attend future meetings in her place. The Board agreed.
LM asked the Board to consider purchasing additional equipment for the Community Caretakers. KE advised that the caretaking team will receive a replacement vehicle this year, and that Glen will research dedicated machinery for consideration in next year’s budget.
CN requested an update on the plans for the fallen wood in the Convent Land. KE confirmed it has now been sold and will be removed by the purchaser.
PM suggested the Board consider creating an Events Officer post. KE advised that this proposal will be discussed again, as planned in January 2027.
</td><td>KE, SC
KE/OG
OG</td></tr>
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	• OG advised the Board that he will attend the DTAS conference with MM in Glasgow this September and invited other Board members to attend. • OG proposed the introduction of a voluntary Treasurer position to oversee the Company's financial activity. The proposal will be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting. • OG highlighted that the company will be celebrating twenty years of operation in July 2027 and that the board could consider marking the anniversary. • SC advised the Board that a representative from GMHCA had approached the company to ask whether the Board would consider extending funding for the Heritage Officers. The Board requested further information but indicated that it would be willing to consider the request. • SC asked the Board to consider ownership of the skate park and tennis court together with the potential demolition and redevelopment of Fort Augustus Village Hall to enhance local leisure and recreational facilities. CW advised that the Board had previously considered this, however, the terms offered by Highland Council at that time were not acceptable and the existing projects made it inappropriate to take it on then. MA added that the company's long-term strategy should be agreed before embarking on further major projects. • SC suggested introducing staff 'Give Back' days for staff to offer their time to community volunteer initiatives. OG and SC will discuss further. • CW confirmed that she intends to stand down as a Board member at the AGM in November 2026. CW also encouraged Board members to consider joining sub-groups when they are reviewed in December.	SC SC KE
11.	**Date of next meeting** **19th August 2026, 7pm, Fort Augustus Village Hall**	