

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19th August 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), Paul McIntosh (PM), Mike Anderson (MA), Jenny Findlay (JF), Chris Nelson (CN), Fiona MacCormick (FM)
Apologies	Kelvin Hill (KH)
Also in attendance	Karen Edwards (KE) - Operations Manager, Martin McDonald – Operations Manager (MM), Oliver Giles – Chief Officer (OG)
Minute Taker	Simon Canning (SC) – Operations Supervisor

Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies CW opened the meeting and presented apologies from KH.	
2	Minutes of the meetings held on 8th July 2026 These were agreed as a true and accurate representation. Proposed by HC, seconded by FM. PU asked for an update on the progress of the Expression of Interest in the Police Station. OG clarified Police Scotland have yet to decide on their intention with the building before it can be progressed.	
3	Matters arising from minutes and Chief Officer monthly report not on the agenda - OG invited feedback from the Board on the new format of the Chief Officer monthly report. - MAA asked for clarification of priorities on the Convent Land. MM explained that the priorities are to maintain the area, keep it tidy, and regularly review any issues that arise. The caretaking team will continue to make regular visits. - PU asked for an update on the proposed shelter for the Convent Land. MM is reviewing the plans produced by the Convent Land Development Officer and will report back to the Board. - HC reported the 'A'-frame in the Convent Land has been subject to anti-social use. MM assured the Board this is being reviewed, and appropriate action will be decided in due course. - PM asked when work is expected to begin at Glentarff House. OG anticipates work will start approximately two weeks after funding is approved by RHF (Rural Housing Fund).	MM

	- PM asked what will happen to the Fort Augustus community larder following the period of monitoring. MM explained that this is under review, and any action will be decided after a sufficient monitoring period has passed. - PM asked about the next steps for the compost bays. MM confirmed the fallen timber will be removed by end of August, and that he is in discussions with Glen Campbell about progressing a solution for management of the compost bays.	MM
4	Update from Community Council CL confirmed that there was no Community Council meeting last month. CL reported elections will be announced this week and interested parties may stand for election. Applications can be submitted online on Highland Council's Community Council website page.	
5	Developing a 10-year strategy for FAGCC OG presented the proposed 10-year strategy and asked the Board to approve moving forward with the proposal and to consider forming a steering group. PU asked about the level of commitment expected from members of the proposed steering group. OG anticipated fortnightly meetings and around two hours per week, however, this depends on the level of external support that will be available. OG will give this further consideration and will report back to the Board. CL suggested involving the community in the steering group and outsourcing some of the support required. MA pointed out that points 3, 4, and 5 on the proposal would be taken forward by the steering group. <i>Agree the level and type of external facilitation required.</i> <i>Confirm the timetable and reporting points.</i> <i>Agree that the strategy should be community-led and evidence-based.</i> The Board agreed to proceed with the proposal for the 10-year strategy.	OG
6	Treasurer OG asked the Board to consider filling the vacant Treasurer role following the AGM, pointing out that this is a worthwhile role to fill. OG clarified that all Board members have equal financial responsibility, however, having a named Treasurer will provide one point of contact for staff and Board members in financial matters. OG explained the proposed Treasurer would chair Finance and Resource meetings and work with the Bookkeeper in preparing financial matters. MA proposed the accounts are featured as a regular agenda item. PM outlined an extensive experience in retail finance and confirmed an interest in taking on the role. PU suggested that the proposed Treasurer discussion is on the agenda for the next Finance and Resources meeting planned for Wednesday 9th September 2026 and invited PM to attend.	PM/OG

7.

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company			
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	Value approved
G-244-2026	£25,000	Approved	£25,000
For: Abertarff play area upgrade			
Conditions: Standard			

SC

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company			
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	Value approved
G-252-2026	£15,000	Approved by majority	£15,000
For: Continuing supplies for Community Larders			
Conditions: Standard			

SC

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association			
Grant Ref	Requested	Decision	Value approved
G-178-2023	£6,201	Approved by majority	£6,201
For: Extension of Heritage Officers grant to increase hours worked			
Conditions: <i>The Heritage Officer(s) will attend the Community Company AGM at 7pm on 18th November 2026 at 7.30pm with a display featuring the community events and activities from the previous year.</i>			

SC

8.

- CN asked about the future plans for the compost bays and suggested consideration is given to sourcing machinery to turn the waste over.
MM acknowledged the positive effect the compost bays make to the community, but the current system is not working. MM is looking at ways to rectify issues that are aligned with the compost bays' presence.
- KE confirmed the notice board outside the toilet block is now available for the Community Company to share with the Community Council. Keys are to be provided by Julie Fowers.
- LM reminded the Board of his previous suggestion to provide the caretaking team with a new tractor.
- LM reported that he had been approached by a senior manager of one of the renewable energy farms schemes, who advised it is expected to be available for purchase. LM asked the Board to consider purchasing it.
CW clarified that a business case would need to be prepared and agreed with the funders before any purchase could proceed.
- PM advised that Men's Shed was approached by a community member for help with an Escape Room requiring wooden walls temporarily fitted in the village hall.
SC clarified that this is connected to a Community Benefit grant application. Plans are in the early stages as the

MM

	<i>applicant is looking for help to keep the project within budget and assured the Board that the structures will likely be formed by wooded frames and lightweight material with no fixings directly into the room's walls or flooring.</i> • SC notified the Board that the Screen Machine have altered their pricing structure to three tickets: Standard - £10 25-and-under - £7.50 Low income - £7.50 <i>The Board agreed to continue subsidising the Screen Machine at £4 per ticket.</i>	SC
9	Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th September 2026 Millennium Hall, Invermoriston	