

**BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(BoGCC)**

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 8th September 2025 in Boat of Garten Community Hall

1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:

Community Council Members: Kathryn Gillings (KG), Chair; Alan Bennet (AB), Treasurer; Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary; Don Walker (DW)

Apologies: Muriel Cockburn, (MC), Member, Highland Council

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th May 2025:

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by DW, seconded by AB.

3. Matters Arising

Noted in other items on the agenda.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Reports

- **Police Scotland - no report received.**

Our previous Police Liaison Officer, Neil Maciver (NMI), retired from Police Scotland at the end of July 2025. He has since returned to their employment in a civilian role.

NMI informed us that the new liaison officer for our area will be D Garland.

BoGCC would like to offer its sincere thanks to NMI for his help and support over recent years, updating us on local crime figures and answering our questions on the law.

- **CNPA**

In follow up to attendance at our last meeting, Dan Harris forwarded the CNPA series of surveys to help inform the next Local Development Plan.

The current surveys can be accessed at: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/>

The deadline for providing feedback is 26 September 2025.

6. Finance

6a. Treasurer's Report for meeting 08/09/25

Treasurer's Account	£	
Balance at 09/05/25	3812.33	
Balance at 01/09/25	3806.83	
Credits this Period	630.00	BOG Standard advertising
Debits this Period	18.00	Hall hire
	17.50	Bank monthly service charge
	47.00	Information Commissioner
	553.00	Groverprint BoG Standard
	635.50	
Environmental Account		
Balance at 09/05/25	4000.00	
Balance at 01/09/25	3991.50	
Debits this period	8.50	Bank monthly service charges
Credits this period	0.00	

6b. Bank charges

The introduction of Bank of Scotland monthly charges, and the effect these have on community councils, was first discussed in November 2024. Charges started in January 2025.

In March 2025 Highland Council reported that they are liaising with community councils across Highland about these concerns.

We await further feedback.

- Discuss with MC at the next meeting

7. Planning Matters

7a. Short Term Lets

There was discussion about the Short Term Let applications of recent months to which BoGCC had objected. All but one was refused planning permission by Highland Council.

All of those refused planning permission have put in an appeal under 'Review Against Refusal'. One of these has been decided so far, outcome 'Review Dismissed'.

7b. Halkirk and District Community Council (HaDCC) email, lack of a strategic framework when assessing renewables applications in the Highlands

HaDCC emailed all Highland Community Councils highlighting their concerns about the lack of a strategic framework when assessing renewables applications, set against a background of a surge of new applications and proposals

They have produced a Draft Motion on behalf of Highland Community Councils which they will present to Highland Council. Details can be found on their website: www.ccmotion.org

BoGCC agreed to follow the ongoing discussions in relation to renewable energy planning applications.

8. Correspondence

8a. Badenoch & Strathspey Community Council Forum

Lewis Hannah, Community Development Manager, informed us in June that he hoped to restart the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Forum. An initial meeting was due to take place via Teams on Tuesday 17th June 2025, 6pm – 7pm. Unfortunately no members of BoGCC were available to take part.

No minute has been received so it is unclear if the meeting went ahead.

- BoGCC check with MC at the next meeting

8b. Strathspey Railway Fire affecting Kinchurdy Rd in June 2025

AB received a phone call from a resident of Kinchurdy Road who was very concerned about a recent railway wildfire.

After some online discussion (BoGCC was not due to meet until Sept 25) it was agreed that BoGCC should write to local councillor MC and local MSP Fergus Ewing (FE) seeking their help with the matter.

Both MC and FE responded quickly and comprehensively. They outlined discussions with the Fire Service area commander and the Strathspey Railway Company manager.

We were given details of the measures that had been put in place by the Fire Service and SRC to minimise the risks of such fires in the future. This was very reassuring and allowed AB to update the Kinchurdy Rd resident.

We would like to express our gratitude to all involved for the quick responses and actions.

8c. B970 Boat of Garten to Coylumbridge - Lack of Gritting - Driver Awareness

BoGCC received correspondence from a local resident expressing concern about the lack of information for drivers alerting them to the fact that the stretch of the B970 from the T-junction for Nethy/Boat of Garten to Coylumbridge is not regularly gritted.

The resident has highlighted the issue with Highland Council previously but remains concerned, in advance of Winter 2025/26, that there is still no signage to inform drivers.

- LT to write to Highland Council Roads about these concerns

8d. Fiona Quirie (FQ), new area Community Development Officer, Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS)

FQ sent an email of introduction and a request to attend a future meeting of BoGCC.

It was agreed that we'd be happy for FQ to attend the next meeting to meet face to face.

- LT to confirm with FQ

8e. Unpleasant Smell in the village

An email was received from a member of the community expressing concern about an unpleasant smell coming from some of the local fields. This has resulted in the resident having to shut all windows as the smell in the house is so unpleasant. They have expressed concern about this issue previously.

BoGCC have corresponded with HC Environmental Health about this problem before on behalf of residents and the school. It is disappointing that it has not resulted in any improvement.

The response received from HC Environmental Health in October 2024 was as follows:

As previously discussed, the spreading of manure, slurry and modern alternatives is an acceptable part of farming practice and farmers are allowed to spread slurry under conditions regulated by SEPA. I have copied a link to the guidance for your information.

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/agriculture/agricultural-spreading-of-slurry/>

There are no specific regulatory controls on the spreading of manure and PAS110 Bio fertiliser. This is because it is classed as a product, not a waste.

I regret that I can take no further action in this instance.

- LT to contact MC for further advice
 - LT to update the resident

8f. Stone tool found in woods

A visitor to the village got in touch to say they had found what they believed to be a stone tool in the local woods. They asked for advice on who to contact locally.

AB and KG suggested Cairngorm National Park Authority and Grantown Museum.

LT forwarded these contact details as well as, for general advice on archaeology in National Parks, the ALGAO website: <https://algao.org.uk>

9. BOG Standard Update

A period from mid Sept-mid October has been identified for the submission of articles for the winter edition.

- DW to submit article in relation to the Community Action Plan as detailed in item 10a.

10. AOCB

10a. Community Action Plan (CAP) Update

DW and KG attended the most recent CAP meeting last Wednesday.

DW informed us that 5 people attended - 2 on behalf of BoGCC, 2 from VABS and 1 person representing the Hall and school.

The CAP has been finalised and responsibilities assigned and agreed by the various community groups. The updated plan should appear on the VABS website shortly.

The action to 'Run Village Entry Sign Competition, Aim for Installation in 2026' will be the responsibility of BoGCC headed by DW.

- DW to write an article for the next edition of the BOG Standard with details of how to submit contributions
- DW to ask Alice Fogg, VABS, to put updates from all projects on the plan

11. Questions and Contributions from the Public

None

The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for
Monday 13th October 2025
at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live. If this sounds like you, we would love you to join us! For more details please contact boatofgartencc@gmail.com

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK WELCOME

The Community Council exists to see that the opinions of local residents are properly taken into account by official bodies and generally to foster local interests. Your opinions matter and we would like to hear any comments you have on what the Community Council does or does not do.

Residents are welcome at all our meetings and, subject to the guidance of the Chair, may contribute to all discussion. The Community Council is registered with the Information Commissioner in terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Copies of agendas and minutes, besides those circulated to members, Highland Councillors & officials etc.; can also be sent to residents who have expressed an interest in the work of the Council. If you would like to be included in this e-mail circulation, please contact the Secretary at boatofgartencc@gmail.com.