

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

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 14th September 2026 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)

The Highland Council: Jessica Boughey (JB), Community Support Officer, Renewables Engagement – Inverness & South

Member of the public: Scott Kerr (SK)

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

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th August 2026:

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

3. Matters Arising

3a. Boat of Garten sign competition

LT emailed the Community Company as agreed. Awaiting response.

3b. Emergency Planning - including Wildfires update

As agreed at the last meeting, LT sent the draft emergency plan to the Community Company and to Helen Geddes (to take to the Hall Committee).

The Community Company had questions about timescales and meetings.

VABS had previously offered support around wildfire/resilience planning. It was agreed that we should accept this offer to help take things forward.

- **LT email A Fogg, VABS**

3c. Renewables

JB updated BoGCC on the progress since the last meeting.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) A, sited at East Croftmore, is operational.

JB has established that Clarke Energy developed the project alongside Temporis Capital (an investment company) but they are responsible for the management of BESS A for the next 16 years.

JB emailed Clarke Energy asking for a contact to start discussions about community benefits. She was told that Temporis Capital would be responsible for any community benefits discussions. JB has since found a contact Tim Hill (TH), Construction PM Lead - Infrastructure Investments, Temporis Capital.

The contents of the letter contacting Temporis Capital was agreed.

- **JB will draft and send to BoGCC**
- **BoGCC to send to TH at Temporis Capital from Chair KG and cc JB**

In terms of BESS B, planned to be sited west of Aldon Lodge, JB is still trying to establish where the application is within the planning process.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Reports

No reports received this month.

6. Finance

Treasurer's Report for meeting 14/09/26

Treasurer's Account	£
Balance at 03/08/26	5427.26
Balance at 10/09/26	5402.01
Credits this Period	0.00
Debits this Period	4.25 Bank service charges August. 21.00 Hall hires August meeting. 25.25
Environmental Account	
Balance at 03/08/26	3944.75
Balance at 10/09/26	3940.50
Debits this period	4.25 Bank monthly service charge.
Credits this period	0.00

AB reported that the Environmental Account is now frozen until the account is closed and the funds transferred to the Treasurer's Account.

7. Planning Matters

There was one 'Consultation on Application' request from Highland Council.

All agreed that we had no comments to make on this consultation.

There was discussion of an email from The Highland Council offering 'Community Council - Planning Training'. It asked for feedback from Community Councils on the types of planning-related training and guidance that would be considered most useful.

BoGCC agreed that we would welcome a point of contact for direct advice about specific points on specific applications. DW spoke of the need for clarification of maps and drawings for some planning submissions.

- **LT submit this response on behalf of BoGCC**

We received an email in July 2026 from John Fotheringham (JF), Chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council about their proposal for an amendment to Highland Council's Planning Enforcement Charter. It is related to the problems presented to communities by unconsented planning activities. Their proposal was unsuccessful.

They have now come up with a proposal to amend legislation and give Planners more powers to outlaw such practices and bring real consequences for the perpetrators. They are asking for the support of communities and community councils.

BoGCC agreed that we support their proposals in principle and share many of the same frustrations with the planning system.

- **LT to write to JF confirming our support**

8. Correspondence

8a. Badenoch & Strathspey Community Councils Forum

A meeting planned for July 2026 was rescheduled for August 2026. Only online places were available when the invite was sent out. BoGCC agreed that face to face meetings would be much more helpful.

No members of BoGCC attended the online meeting and no minutes have been received as yet.

AB referred to the minutes from the April 26 meeting of the forum when Active Travel projects were discussed. BoGCC agreed that funding uncertainty and the slow progress with the project was concerning and frustrating. BoGCC have discussed the Aviemore to Carrbridge Non Motorised User Route as far back as 2020.

8b. Local Fire and Rescue Plan

An email was received from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) seeking our views on the draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan. There was much discussion of the contents.

- We felt that there should be a revision of the plan in light of the Cairngorm wildfires, which had happened subsequent to the drafting of the original plan.
 - There was concern that we could find no mention of BESS nor the challenges they present for the SFRS. Boat of Garten has one BESS facility operating and possibly a second one planned.
 - There was also discussion about whether or not BESS operators should be asked to pay a levy that would aid fire fighting training and equipment.
- **LT to respond to SFRS with these points**

8c. A9 Dualling - Strategic Planning - Communications

We discussed an email from the A9 Dualling Project Delivery Team Support offering the opportunity for Transport Scotland to provide a short presentation and take questions on the A9 Dualling Programme. It was agreed that a central event, possibly in Aviemore, involving all local Community Councils and interested parties would be most useful.

- **LT to respond to A9 Dualling Project Delivery Team**

8d. Greenspace Biodiversity Management Strategy Consultation

Highland Council are currently seeking views on the draft Greenspace Biodiversity Management Strategy 2026-2030 that is out for public consultation until the 4th of October.

The strategy aims to ensure that communities across Highland have input into shaping the future management of their greenspaces as well as outlining how Highland Council seeks to address climate and ecological emergencies.

The consultation can be found on the Council's Citizen Engagement system or at this link: [Project: Greenspace Biodiversity Management Strategy 202... | The Highland Council](#)

9. AOCB

None

10. Questions and contributions from the public

None.

The date of the next ordinary meeting is 12th October 2026 @7pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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.