

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held on Monday 29 June 2026

Dores Parish Hall

Commenced at 7.30 pm

1. Members Present, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Present

Claire Crosbie

Colin McPherson

John MacKenzie

Steve Feltham

Ella MacRae

Mel McGregor (Minutes Secretary)

Cllr David Fraser (Highland Council)

Apologies

Mike Stone

Cllr Chris Ballance (Highland Council)

Duncan Manson – No apologies provided

Several members of the public were also in attendance.

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 July 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: John MacKenzie

Seconded: Claire Crosbie

The Community Council formally noted the resignation of John Martin as Chair and as Community Councillor.

Members recorded their thanks to John for his commitment, leadership and significant contribution to the Community Council over many years.

3. Chair's Report

Claire Crosbie presented her first Chair's Report, having only recently taken on the role.

Claire reflected that the previous year had been one of considerable change for the Community Council, the village and the wider community. Whilst recognising that change can present challenges, she emphasised that it also brings opportunities for fresh ideas, renewed energy and positive progress.

Highlights from the year included:

Installation of the new community speed signs.

Productive engagement with WildLand regarding proposals for the Dores Inn.

Continued progress on the affordable housing development.

The appointment of a named local Police Scotland contact, Kirsteen MacDonald, and the success of the Police Street Surgery.

Progress towards the cemetery extension.

Installation of new community noticeboards.

The successful introduction of the Community Council WhatsApp channel to improve communication with residents.

Looking ahead, Claire outlined her priorities for the coming year, which include increasing community engagement through Community Council surgeries, improving communication across the Community Council area, encouraging greater use of surveys and polls to gather residents' views, and ensuring the Community Council continues to act as a vehicle for representing the aspirations of the community.

Claire reaffirmed her commitment to conducting Community Council business openly, fairly and transparently, encouraging respectful dialogue and constructive solutions, and thanked Community Councillors, volunteers and residents for their continued support.

The meeting thanked Claire for her report.

4. Treasurer's Report

John MacKenzie presented the audited accounts for the financial year ending June 2026 (copy attached to minutes).

Members noted that the Community Council remained in a sound financial position, with a closing bank balance of £9,400.85 and an operating surplus of £971.30 over expenditure during the year. Income had been received from a variety of sources including campervan parking, donations and grants, while expenditure included notice boards, the community defibrillator, website costs, insurance and routine Community Council activities.

Procedures will be reviewed to ensure that the necessary information is provided timeously to Highland Council to ensure the annual Grant is received.

Members thanked John for his continued work as Treasurer.

The Annual Accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposed: Steve Feltham

Seconded: Colin McPherson

5. Election of Office Bearers

The following appointments were agreed unanimously for the forthcoming year:

Chair: Claire Crosbie

Vice Chair: Colin McPherson

Treasurer: John MacKenzie

Secretary: Mel McGregor

Minutes Secretary: Mel McGregor

6. Any Other Competent Business

Members briefly discussed the current Community Council membership and encouraged residents with an interest in supporting the work of the Community Council to consider becoming members in the future.

No further business was raised.

7. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the Annual General Meeting at approximately 7.55 pm.

The ordinary meeting of the Dores & Essich Community Council followed immediately afterwards.