

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026

1. **Attendance:-** Donald MacNeill (Chair), Lynda Syed (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Carol Watt, Adele Sinclair, Jackie Peacock, Al Murray and David Fulton
2. **Apologies:-** Naline Swales
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved. Proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Carol Watt.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:-** Heaters in the multi-purpose room have had the pugs changed and the heating has improved. The kitchen needs new heaters but otherwise no new heaters are needed.

5. Treasurers' Reports

A) SCIO

Bank total £19969.91

Cash in hand: £47.65

Designated: Shop and Bungalow: £4,849.84

Unrestricted funds £15,120.07

Notes:

1. SSEN have been a problem yet again – without going into detail, SSEN have been alternating from them owing us money to us owing them and Lynda has spent a considerable amount of time phoning them and getting no further forward. She will try again when she can find her motivation. Citizens Advice did send SSE a letter on our behalf which led to Donald being contacted directly, Our contract ends in August and if all the issues have not been sorted out we will probably change supplier.
2. Leacainn Walk - work near to Auchindrain has been completed and paid. All the joists have been replaced. There has been a problem with sheep getting loose and the hillside becoming muddy and slippery and work drainage work is needed.
3. Social Club has transferred £1k to he SCIO.
4. Problems with cheque deposits - Lynda invoiced the Bowling Club for the £768 due for Hall Hire and this has now been paid by cheque.
5. Another hirer paid by cheque but the lodging of the cheques on 23 February are not yet showing on our account. Carol says it can now take about 2 weeks to appear although technically the lodgement should show in 2 days. The Co-op Bank suggests that the payers should be asked to

cancel and re-issuethethe cheques and Sharon has asked the Bowl's Club to do this. N,B, The average rental of the Hall is £12.50 per hour.

6. Lynda is now preparing the accounts for audit.

B) Social Club - Naline sent apologies for absence and will give an update at the next meeting.

6. Shop and Bungalow - The Expelair repair is still to be done and it would suit David and Cindy is this could be done on a Wednesday.

7. Events - A) Saturday 2 May is the most suitable date for the Race Night which the Lochgilphead Round Table will run for us again.

B) There may be Table Sale in May, either outside the Shop or in the Hall, depending on the weather.

8. An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund applications - although there had been a number of suggestions, no quotes had been obtained in time to submit an application.

9. Leacainn Walk maintenance - as above, no quotes received yet.

10. AOCB - A). Sharon has invited Lindsay Chalmers, Community funding Co-ordinator, SSEN, to come to a SCIO meeting to tell us about the funding available and how to apply.

B). Balfour Beatty, should also be coming to talk to us, but nothing has been finalised yet. It would be useful if we could apply for tidying and cleaning up the War Memorial and the Memorial Garden and to have a fixed foundation for the Christmas Tree. If large amounts of money are available, and if we can get co-operation from ACHA, we would want to buy land in Queen Elizabeth where the dilapidated garages are. These have asbestos which would have to be removed. An additional complication is that the land is owned jointly by ACHA and the private house owners. Perhaps, our Councillors would contact ACHA as our previous attempts have not been successful.

C) Lynda has received a letter from Mike Stead, of CycleRX, who would like us to support his application to An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund for pay for him to map potential off road cycling routes in the area. We agreed with Lynda that we would not support this as it would be of little benefit to the Furnace Community.

D) Consultation on the future of Furnace Primary School - the Council is having a Consultation in the Primary School from 10 am to 6 pm on Thursday 26 March and this will be followed by an on-line survey.

E) Sanding and varnishing the Hall Floor - a quote is to be obtained and then passed to the Fish Farm to approve the cost if they agree to fund the work.

F) AGM - it was agreed that Thursday 17 September would be the most suitable date

11. Date of next meeting - 7pm Thursday 21 May 2026