

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026

1. **Attendance:-** Donald MacNeill (Chair), Lynda Syed (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Adele Sinclair, Naline Swales, Carol Watt

2. **Apologies:-** None

3. **Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved. Proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Naline Swales.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes:-** Donald reported that the problem with SSE about the meter readings has finally been settled. SSE has agreed that there meters have been recording wrongly and we are due a credit totalling £180.46. It should be more but they can only base the credit on the current contract. The rates have been corrected and future bills should be right. Our contract is due to be renewed in June /July and it was agreed that as the errors have now been sorted out we would stay with SSE for another year before making a change of supplier.

5. **Treasurer's Report and Social Club Report**

A) SCIO - Bank total: £18,120.99, Cash in hand: £73.84.

The Council has not yet paid the fee for the use of the Hall for the elections and Lynda will follow this up. Also the TV licence refund has not been received yet.

Lynda has prepared the accounts for audit.

B) Social Club - Bank total: £2,198, Cash in hand: £346.97.

A donation of £100 will be given to the Inveraray Pipe Band for attendance at The Remembrance Day.

Naline presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025.

6. **Shop and Bungalow** - The drains tend to block regularly and Scottish Water have checked them by putting a camera down the drains and have found a problem with the levels. They will arrange to sort out this problem.

There is also some electrical work outstanding and the Shop will have to close for the new board to be installed.

7. **Events** - The Race Night raised £1,127.

It was agreed to apply for extensions to the licence for Scotland's World Cup Football matches and up to 30 minutes after the final whistle.

Sharon has also applied for a licence for the lunch (catering for 75 people) on the day of Rev, Roddie MacLeod's funeral and it was agreed that the SCIO would pay for a wreath from the Furnace Community. The funeral will be streamed.

8. **New grants becoming available** - Lynda gave information about the new SSEN grants - there will be 2 types - one for large amounts with applications being submitted to a Committee and other for small amounts and within the Furnace area decisions being made by the SCIO. The annual total will be £6,000 and the SCIO will be paid 10% of the amount allocated. If we don't allocate all of the £6,000 it will just get topped up the following year. Further details will be available soon.

9. **An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund applications** - We need to draw up a short-list of suggestions for our applications for the next round of An Suidhe Grants. Suggestions to date include:-

- * Tesla pelvic floor chair
- * Renovating the Hall toilets
- * Generator for the Hall (perhaps that could be for an application to SSE).
- * The War Memorial needs to be cleaned and we need to get a foundation base for the Christmas tree. (We should get an idea of prices)

Debbie Herron has visited to check on the work carried out on the multi-purpose room and she was satisfied and has signed it off.

10. **Leacainn Walk maintenance** - much of the signage needs to be redone and a lot of work is needed on the drainage. (Lynda will get contact details for Gillies Fyfe who may be able to work on the drainage)
11. **AOCB** - It is likely that the School will be closed and there is a lot of interest in the idea of it being converted into apartments for elderly people in the Village and an additional benefit would be the release of their houses for family accommodation. There would be management issues to explore with housing associations as early as possible.

Naline has asked the Fish Farm for funding to sand and varnish the Hall floor but has not had a response - she will follow this up.

12. **Date of next meeting** - 7pm Thursday 23 July 2026