FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 23 July 2026

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

2. Apologies:- Lynda Syed (Treasurer)

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes:-

5. Treasurer's Report and Social Club Report :-

SCIO:- Bank total £20,430.28, of which £2750.56 is a donation from the Hydro scheme to be identified with one or more specific projects. To date suggestions include the handrail, a permanent foundation for the Christmas tree in the memorial garden, cleaning the monument and maintaining the Leacainn Walk.
Therefore £17,679.72 is unrestricted.
Cash in hand: £24.92

NB. A&B Council will need an invoice for their use of the Hall for voting.

Social Club:- The balances for June have still to be finalised but the May totals were Bank total £1,786.46 and cash £480.97. Cooke Aquaculture has sent their donation of £4,100 for the work on the Hall Floor to the Social Club and Naline will transfer this to the SCIO account.

6. Shop and Bungalow - The roof of the Bungalow has been fixed but the electrical work in the Shop has still to be completed.

Scottish Water has left drains open and issues concerning the drains and pipes have still to be dealt with. Lynda has asked for a meeting and this has to be followed up.

7. Events - nothing in the pipeline.

Julie Haines has offered to take yoga classes during her current stay in Furnace and will be giving all the class fees to the SCIO. Classes will run on Wednesdays for 6 weeks from 19 July to 26 August.

Cooke Aquaculture has donated £4,100 for stripping and varnishing the Hall floor. Work will take 6 days and will start on Monday 14 September.

8. SSEN Transmission (SSENT) - Argyll and Kintyre

Lynda has received a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Micro- Grants Scheme and it was agreed that we would accept the terms and return the signed agreement as soon as possible, as requested by SSEN.

N.B. This scheme is for the benefit of 8 communities in Argyll and Kintyre:- Orchy and Awe Community Trust, Inspire Inveraray, Furnace Community SCIO, Minard Community Trust, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, Ardrishaig Community Trust, Dunnadd Community Enterprises, Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust.

9. An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund:- We have still to confirm what our next application to The An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund will be for.

The closing date of application is 16 September and so a decision will have to be made in good time.

The most support seems to be for The Ultra Tesla Seat but other suggestions included replacement fire doors between the main Hall space and the toilets so that it would be easier for a wheelchair user to get through.

Also, the freezer in the shed is using up too much space and needs to be moved out and replaced with a small freezer.

The Community Council would like to buy a lawnmower for the football pitch and also a large container to house it securely, However, it was decided that in addition to the initial cost, the regular maintenance and repair costs would be too great a burden and not essential as the Council owns the football pitch and is responsible for the maintenance.

10. Leacainn Walk maintenance - it was noted that Richard Johnson regularly strims parts of the walk without seeking any thanks and Donald suggested that in addition to giving Richard our thanks he would ask if the SCIO could provide any equipment.

11. AOCB - it was agreed that the agenda for our September meeting should include planning for the Furnace Christmas Celebrations.

12. Date of next meeting and AGM - 7pm Monday September 2026