AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Thursday 13th September 2026, Aviemore Community Centre
MINUTES

1. **Present**
   Al Dargie (Chair), AVCC
   Peter Long (Secretary), AVCC
   Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer) AVCC
   Eilidh McLeod, AVCC
   Roddy Stevens, AVCC
   Sid Airey, AVCC
   Bill Lobban, THC
   Janis Bootle, ACCG/AGCT
   John Talbot, Visitor
   Lauren MacCallum, CNPA

2. **Apologies for absence** –Vicky Stables, AVCC

3. **Welcome and introductions** – Al Dargie welcomed everyone to the meeting

4. **Declarations of interest** – Bill Lobban indicated that he cannot comment on planning applications. Peter Long stated that he is a Volunteer Ranger with CNPA (Item 9a)

5. **Minutes of the August meeting**
   Eilidh McLeod proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Kathleen Cameron

6. **Matters arising from the August meeting**
   Peter Long confirmed that action on damage to the roadside stone walls was still outstanding.
   Action – Peter Long

   Janis Bootle updated the meeting on further correspondence regarding the old Health Centre site. The response received from NHS Highland references the consultation and business case for the hospital. However, further clarity is sought on specific consultation on disposal of the Health Centre. Al Dargie suggested a further discussion once the Assessment of Needs has been completed.

7. **Treasurer's report**
   The £52 payment was direct to the ICO, rather than via Peter Long. With that amendment, Sid Airey proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Roddy Stevens

8. **Police report**
   None provided. Al Dargie reported that Police are no longer prepared to provide monthly reports. This item should be removed from future agendas.
   Action – Peter Long

   Lauren MacCallum, CNPA joined the meeting at this point

9. **Business**

   a. **Glenmore Fire and associated issues.**
      Al Dargie reported back from a site visit to Glenmore with senior FLS staff and shared some pictures showing the damage and fire breaks installed. He emphasised the decisive actions of FLS staff and contractors in creating the fire breaks is what controlled the extent of the fire in the direction it travelled towards Glenmore Lodge and the residential area of Glenmore. His

overall impression was that the area was damaged but not destroyed, and that there was already evidence of “re-greening” of some burned areas.

There followed a discussion on the response to the fire, the roles of various agencies and public bodies, and issues to be followed up. The following key points were established and endorsed by the meeting.

SFRS – The meeting reiterated its thanks and support for the work undertaken by fire crews and other on the ground. There is a clear need for increased numbers and specialist equipment to be available to be deployed quickly within Badenoch and Strathspey.
The need for rapidly available helicopter support was clear, as the existing arrangements cannot guarantee availability in an emergency. The Scottish Government’s commitments on this issue are not yet clear.

The SFRS internal debrief on the incident will take 2 -3 months and may raise further issues. The meeting agreed to pursue these at ministerial level if required.
The SFRS Delivery Plan will be on the agenda for the October meeting
Action – Peter Long

Fire breaks proved invaluable in containing the incident and it was recognised that these will be essential in terms of future resilience. There may be an early opportunity to widen existing tracks to support this. It was noted that this may require support, permissions and funding from Scottish Government to achieve.

The meeting felt that wider discussions about land management practices are not helpful in this context, and that the priority should be to focus on lessons learned and increasing resilience.

It was recognised that wildfires are likely to increase in numbers and severity, and that by their nature require specialist knowledge and equipment. A national wildfire response service is required.

Concerns were raised about the effectiveness and operation of the evacuation procedures, and about the specific risk to Glenmore/Cairngorm Mountain with only a single escape route.

The meeting noted that meetings, events and requests for comment continue to emerge rapidly, and endorsed the use of the above principles by office bearers as the Community Council’s position.

b. Update from Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Forum
Al Dargie and Eilidh McLeod reported back from the recent Forum meeting.

Inspector Craig Johnstone, Police Scotland had attended and indicated that there was no requirement to provide local statistic the community Councils (Item 8, above). There is a designated liaison officer for each CC who should be the primary point of contact. Any issues can be escalated if required.

The was a concern that Police Scotland were not fully aware of their powers under SOAC in dealing with a camping issue at Carr-Bridge.

Tom Masterton, THC Roads manager reported on communications and prioritisation of local road works.

The forum will meet quarterly going forward.

c. **Public swimming pool in Aviemore**
This item was requested by a local resident. The meeting noted that this is a long-standing issue and is a priority within the Community Action Plan. Funding and site identification remain an issue, but all partner organisations are keen to see this happen.
Action – Peter Long to respond

d. **Parking issues on Dalfaber Road**
The meeting noted the continuing parking congestion around the Old Bridge Inn, and the recent planning approval of extended outdoor seating. Some more innovative solutions for addressing the pressure and requirement for canoe access to the Spey were blocked by the landowner.

Concern was raised at the impact on local residents and in particular the potential impact on access for emergency vehicles. The meeting noted the importance of maintaining access for river users via the publicly funded and community owned access point.

Bill Lobban reported that parking restrictions are planned by THC and that consultation is underway. Al Dargie suggested that a 15-minute drop off zone for river users could be incorporated.
Proposed Al Dargie, seconded Peter Long
Action – Peter Long to contact THC

e. **Planning Application - Demolition of house, Kila 79 Grampian Road**
The meeting noted continuing concerns regarding the future use of the site, and the ongoing boundary dispute with ACE as the Village Green owners.
Some concern was raised regarding the potential impact of heavy plant using the lane during demolition. After discussion it was felt there were no planning grounds for an objection at this stage.
Proposed Peter Long, seconded Al Dargie

f. **Proposed Amendment to Sec on 124 of the Town and Country Planning Scotland Act 1997**
Further correspondence was received from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry CC regarding planning enforcement concerns. The suggested changes to the THC Planning Enforcement Charter (supported by AVCC at the August meeting) had been rejected, and an amendment to the primary legislation was now sought.
The meeting agreed to support this suggestion.
Proposed Al Dargie, seconded Eilidh McLeod.
Peter Long had received a response from CNPA on this issue – to be circulated.
Action – Peter Long

10. Reports from other organisations

a. **CNPA report**
Lauren MacCallum reported that the CNPA Partnership Plan would be out for consultation from October – January.

b. **Highland Council report**
Bill Lobban reported no new issues in addition to those already covered.

c. **ACE board member report**

Kathleen Cameron reported that ACE had not met in September.

d. AGCT report

Janis Bootle reported that the ice rink feasibility study was positive and that a site was being sought.

A group from Norway representing descendants of Kompani Linge were due to visit Glenmore

e. FLS report

Covered under 9a), above. The report was noted.

11. AOCB

Peter Long will circulate an invitation to the Land Festival (Kincraig, 20 September)

It was noted that The planning application for the Baztex site beside the Village Green was withdrawn.

Eilidh McLeod had been approached regarding the path beside Tor Lodge, which is uneven and covered in pine cones.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 8 October 2026.

13. Close 9.02 pm

Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council

TREASURER'S REPORT 10thSeptember 2026 Aviemore

Community Centre meeting room

Treasurers Account	**£**	**£**
Balance at 31st July 2026		**£5,495.89**
Income		
Interest		
Expenditure		
Chq 000332 one.com P Long	**£**	**14.38**
Chq 000331 ICO	**£**	**52.00**
Balance at 31st August 2026		**£5,429.51**