

RCA Meeting 27 June 2026

Present – Jennifer Thompson (Chair/minutes), Jinty Crocket (Treasurer), Lesley Watt, Stuart McKie, Fliss Fraser, Neil Boyd, Elle Hutchinson, Bernie Ryan, Sean Morris, Ali Morris, Eve Morris, David Hair

Apologies - Lesley Watt, Debbie Chabluk, Kate Bolas

Approval of last meeting minutes (19 April 2026): Stuart McKie, Neil Boyd, Jinty Crocket, Bernie Ryan

Updates:

1. Finance – update by JC

New bank account with Bank of Scotland up and running, £3k of ~£4200 received from previous account. Some monies held back to cover Public Liability Insurance for Hall. Monies received: Teashop for month of May, £5 from donation through Paypal. Monies to pay: gas bottle for community kitchen, supplies for Comfort Scheme.

2. **Hall funding activities** – update given by FF

Funding application by IRCT for £25k from Highland Local Action Group not successful. Funding application prepared by RCA for smaller pot of £10k by same funding group to be submitted.

3. **Farmhouse - sale status** – update given by FF

No longer listed as for sale online.

There is still interest from community in converting Farmhouse into a building for community purposes (see minutes 19APR26).

Action Point for RCA committee:

- A review point of 18 months was set to ensure progress towards updating/repairing Farmhouse is being made. In December/January 2027 RCA members will review the current status of Farmhouse and whether sufficient progress to restore it has been made or if another solution should be sought.

4. **MOWI Fish Farm Expansion** – general discussion

MOWI have been considered as financiers for renovation of Farmhouse and possible accommodation for MOWI workers. MOWI had not yet been formally approached about the possibility of renovating Farmhouse.

It was pointed out by community members that current MOWI workers have expressed feeling outside of the community.

- Action Point for RCA committee:

Invite MOWI workers to join community WhatsApp and RCA mailing list via MOWI manager Gregor Cushie to include them in the community further.

4. Local Place Plan – update given by JT

The final draft of the LPP was submitted to the Highland Council in November 2025. We are still awaiting a response. Draft document attached to this email.

Hot topics/open discussion:

5. Transport Scotland - feedback on meeting held June 24th

Some of the points made by community to Transport Scotland:

- Ferrys should meet the train year round
- Fuel deliveries aren't consistent, Ulrich deliveries are a good way to obtain fuel
- Brushda is known as reliable but doesn't have suitable facilities (seating area, food, baby changing)
- Health Visitor on island at time of drop in session also spoke to Transport Scotland
- Loose freight is brought to Rum rather than full deliveries but seems to be preferred
- Day to trip from Rum to Eigg rather than to Canna suggested so in person GP visits can be facilitated

6. Croft 2 – discussion driven by DH

David Hair shared the possibilities of decrofting part of Croft 2 and selling or subletting to another person. No change to access around Croft 2.

Looking for objections and suggestions from community DH to make a decision in the next 12 months. DH intends to spent more time on the croft in future but the set up was not liveable year round.

- No objections were made against decrofting or subletting but some concerns about sale were raised.
- DH confirmed Colin Kerr was the only person with interest in using the ~14acres outside of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre DH currently uses.

7. People trying to move to Rum – update given by FF

Update from FF: Andy Smith has looked at several plots. His preferred plot is behind the castle squash courts, on the left hand side of the road that leads to Harris/Kilmory and is somewhat opposite Croft 3 & 2.

IRCT have asked Andy for a footprint/outline of that land he would like so it can be valued.

Jeanie Sherwood is a climbing instructor and hill guide currently residing on Skye. She is interested in a permeant plot on which to build somewhere to live.

Update from FF: Jeanie has expressed an interest in land on the lefthand side of the junction which leads from the main road up to Foxglove Cottage.

General discussion:

- There is no up to date guide on where new residences, permeant or temporary, can be built. The Community Land Use Plan is out of date, e.g. showing a residential plot as a commercial plot and does not include any buildings or development post 2015.
- There is no guide on what services are available (water/power etc) making it difficult for people trying to apply for somewhere to build and reside. It would be appreciated if IRCT (or other relevant body) would create something more concise to support the further development and population increase of the island.
- Housing Plot Policy (attached) – IRCT developed a Housing Plot Policy in 2011 outlining various ways for land to let and bought. The policy

will be forwarded to IRCT in the hope it can be used more widely and support further development and population increase of the island.

- JC said it was about time the IRCT outlined plots available and stopped wasting peoples time, said from personal experience of spending years on both croft, plots and then a house, all denied.
- JC left the meeting

8. Healthcare – Appointment Venues – brought up by JT

The majority of doctors appointments appear to take place aboard the doctors boat at the end of the MOWI floating pontoon.

JT Chair asks meeting for opinions on this. Most members agreed it is 'Unsafe' particularly for pregnant people, children and those with mobility difficulties'.

The school boat also used to dock at the floating pontoon until complaints about safety were made, the school boat now docks at the new pier.

Several people confirm that if residents require a home visit they can specifically request this but they must provide transport for the healthcare person to their home.

DC could not attend but asked that her feelings be shared, she also agrees the floating pontoon is unsafe and has personally struggled to reach the boat for appointments.

Suggestions:

- The NHS car be put back into service. A paid person should be appointed to monitor the car and ensure it starts before the arrival of a healthcare person. A place to park the car other than the pier was suggested, to prevent the deterioration of the car and support it working when needed.
- Better inter-island transport of healthcare people was suggested.
- DC suggested the waiting room at the pier be adapted to serve as a somewhere for appointments to be held and volunteered to support

this. This was mostly rejected by the attendees as being too cold and not sufficiently private.

9. AOB

Picnic table – raised by FF

Would RCA consider paying for a new picnic table in the Village Square?

Most attendees were in favour of this.

Roads – update by FF

The £50k to be requested from MOWI as part of the fish farm expansion will be supplemented with £300k from the Islands Projects Application which IRCT has submitted to. The funds would include repair of the verges of the roads and a plan has been drafted for regular maintenance. The outcome of the application should be known in August 2026.

Next meeting: TBD