



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 1st May 2025
MacDonald Forest Hills Hotel

Councillors Present: Paul Scrase (PM) (Chair), Lynda McColl (LM) (Secretary), Catherine Cairns (CC) (Treasurer), Joyce Kelly (JK), Natashya Sheppard (NS)

Attendees: Martin Earl (ME) (Conservative Councillor), Christopher Roads (CR) (Strathard Development Trust), Fergus Wood (FW) (Member of the Public)

Apologies: Trevor Geraghty (TG), Nick Lester-Davis (NL), Police Scotland

Agenda Item:	Action:
1.Apologies - Noted above	
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting - Minutes of 06/03/25 proposed by JK and seconded by LM. Nomatters arising.	
3.Questions from floor/public - FW had a number of questions to raise including road safety, planning; specifically telecom upgrade plans, lack of public toilets in the Kinlochard area – all of these issues were raised again and discussed later in the meeting.	
4.Ongoing Business / Enquiries raised - PM advised that the long-standing issue of white line painting in Aberfoyle Car Park is finally being addressed. Signs have gone up asking people not to park there while work is carried out. CR enquired about poor white lining in general. PM responded that lining outside Strathard area is outside SCC's remit but any issues in the wider area should be reported on the 'REPORT IT' section on the Stirling Council website. It's a good idea to stipulate What3Words which gives specific geographic coordinates making it easy for the Council to understand the location. Any reports should be responded to. If a response it not received then that should trigger an approach to a Councillor. NS suggested it would be a good idea to remind the wider public to 'Report it' and use 'What3Words'. This messaging to be actioned.	PM
5. Matters Arising- PM mentioned that meetings have been arranged regarding the unadopted road in the Milton area, entering the forest, which is substantially used by FLS logging trucks. Ownership of the bridge has never been established and there is an issue over maintenance of the road and bridge. ME is involved and a meeting with SCC	

<p>and FLS has been organised to discuss the matter. At the same time, residents from the area have also convened a meeting to gather opinion on the matter. ME explained that FLS believe responsibility should be proportionate with the residents living there. A question was raised why the Local Authority isn't also taking some responsibility? ME said the LA will likely be reluctant to take on responsibility for an unadopted road considering the extent of other road/bridge problems they face. The issue is on-going and updates will be made in fullness of time.</p> <p>Road Safety – A dog was killed recently on the road near the playpark. A resident has asked if the owner of that stretch of land could erect some fencing to protect pedestrians (and their dogs) in that area. The owner is LLTNPA. The result of this is a request has been made to Sustrans and LLTNPA to conduct a risk assessment and report back. If they refuse to add a fence, one possible solution is to erect a warning sign that the section is open to the A821 and to keep dogs on leads.</p> <p>A discussion took place about FW's earlier comments about the stretch of road outside Forest Hills Resort. While working in the fields FW sees incidents on a daily basis involving speeding cars on that stretch. A child on a scooter being pulled back in one incident; accidents waiting to happen. Comment was made how the police are extremely stretched across the Strathard Region and resources to monitor speeding are incredibly scarce. Maybe some kind of electronic speed monitoring system can be set up? A discussion about the Speed Indicator Sign in Aberfoyle being out of action, needing new batteries. A request could be made to put a similar one on the B829 outside Forest Hills which could help somewhat. NS also commented that pedestrians need to take personal responsibility themselves e.g. dogs on leads, children under control etc. General advice though is 'REPORT IT' ; as mentioned earlier, without a database of reporting it is unlikely anything will be done to sort it. Action: Speed sign batteries and an additional one (or two to cover each way) at Kinlochard. PM also said he would mention this item to the GM of the Hotel to ask what measures they have in place regarding their 'duty of care' in relation to road safety. Maybe the hotel could erect some signage.</p> <p>Beaver damage concerns from local residents – Having received guidance from FLS, SCC sought advice from Beaver Trust expert, Dr Roisin Campbell-Palmer (Head of Restoration), about the water levels in the septic tank field adjoining Kinlochard Cottages. She agreed to investigate and establish if there is, indeed, an issue needing to be addressed. So far, they have been unable to find the specific dam that may be causing the issue and it may just be debris that needs clearing. Dr Roisin did not have the equipment with her required to investigate the location of the problem but agreed to return the following week with a colleague and the equipment to help identify any blockages which could be causing the water to back up. Dr Roisin also said that if new Beaver dams are identified in areas which could cause an issue they could legally be removed within 14 days of their erection as this would not have a detrimental effect on the Beavers. However, if the dams were older than 14 days old then a licence would need to be sought to remove them. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed with the Kinlochard ECO group to see if they could assist with monitoring Beaver activity in the area which might be detrimental to nearby properties.</p>	<p>ME/PM</p> <p>PM</p>

<p>6. Police Report - See Appendix 1. For the period to 29th April, a couple of traffic offences and more worrying incidents of thefts of agricultural equipment. Extra vigilance recommended.</p>	
<p>7. Treasurers Report - Appendix 2. Available funds stand at £4,688.67 after paying out the Kinlochard Field Project donation, hall fees and GDPR registration. Discussion about whether to claim for any further admin costs or whether there was a need to claim for another laptop. However, consensus was that systems were currently working adequately and costs are being covered.</p>	
<p>8. Other items directed by Chair</p> <p>ME took this opportunity to raise FW's earlier comment about Public Toilet infrastructure. FW has offered land to LLTNPA (free of charge) on two occasions to site some facilities for the many tourists who frequent the area but nothing ever gets done. He suggested that some 25000 walkers climb Ben Venue every year and yet there are no facilities.</p> <p>ME mentioned how temporary toilets were provided by LLTNPA during the Covid pandemic and they were extremely costly to operate. He went onto mention the RTIF (Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund) and that there is a chance it will be resurrected. A brief mention was also made of the historic use of the Comfort Partner scheme but that seems to have faded away. The issue of providing public toilets is always one of maintenance cost. However, there is a possible solution on the horizon. The consultation for the Tourist Levy is coming to a close. Assuming it is introduced (@ 5%, per bed night) this could raise £7 million per annum. An interesting fact is that 53% of all bed spaces are situated in the Trossachs and Teith Region. There is no decision (at all) yet, but an argument could be made for pari passu funding, with the revenue raised pumped back into the area it derived from. This could mean considerable investment for tourism infrastructure, including Public Toilets!</p> <p>ME said, of course, who gets what and when is still to be decided but this could be a 'gamechanger'.</p> <p>ME went onto discuss the IJB (Integration Joint Board). These Boards exist to oversee the integration of Health and Social Care Services and to ensure they are delivered effectively in local communities. ME sits on the Stirling and Clackmannanshire IJB which is the only IJB that incorporates two Council Areas. There is currently a complex situation evolving relating to a substantial overspend (circa £8M) across the joint area. By law the IJB have to develop a 'Recovery Plan'. Stirling Council have met their obligation in this regard but Clackmannanshire have refused to comply for their £2M share. This leaves a disturbing black hole in finances. With no other way forward, the IJB have issued a Formal Dispute Mechanism. The dispute is in regard to the period 24/25. Without resolve, there is effectively no budget set for 25/26 which is breaking the law. With no cooperation from Clackmannanshire, Officers have also been instructed to look at disaggregation from Clackmannanshire. Furthermore, Scottish Government has stated they don't want to get involved as they don't want to set a precedent for any other problems the other 30 IJBs in Scotland, may have. It is a ridiculous situation.</p>	

ME believes awareness of these problems is low and there should be more publicity. The effects are already being felt in that care packages are already being rationed. The Care Sector is under severe threat.	
<p>9. SCT - CR's update focussed substantially on the future of The Business Hub. Stirling Council Estates are wanting to charge rent for the space, as much as £700 pcm which is simply unaffordable. He confirms the The Registrar has now moved out and their official office is now in Stirling. SCT would like to formally take over the Lease but need to, firstly, present a Business Plan to The Estates team. The business plan needs to establish and clearly illustrate a convincing Community Benefit Statement. At the moment SCT are being supported, informally, by 'Thriving Communities'. CR thinks they are in a difficult situation because current use by local businesses of the Hub has declined since Broadband connectivity improved in the village. People are now choosing to work more from home. Also, he claimed that there are others suitable spaces in the village available for meeting rooms e.g. Memorial Hall and St Marys Church Hall. JK however challenged the ability of either halls being of value as businesses needed 24/7 access and both halls are already busy venues. A discussion continued about how an honest and open conversation with Estates need to take place, to come to a meaningful and viable agreement. Otherwise, there remains a risk that Stirling will take the whole space back and seek commercial rents elsewhere.</p> <p>ME stressed that it was key that the Business Case and Community Benefits statement made it clear to SC Estates the importance of the hub to the village to encourage new businesses to set up in Aberfoyle. This is clearly something which SC supports across their region and therefore should be facilitating by ensuring any rent charged was affordable by the SCT.</p> <p>As relates to the empty downstairs area, Cobbs still haven't got the keys! They originally wanted to occupy it by March 2025. It is unclear why it is taking so long but the lawyers on each side are being blamed for delays. A question was raised as to what kind of outlet it will be. The understanding is, it will be outdoor wear (similar to the successful store in Callendar) and also Tourist Information with some space for SCT to have Heritage and Nature displays covering LLTNPA, FLS, Scottish Water etc.</p> <p>ME said he was happy to step in and try to find an answer. Action – approach Estates to ascertain the reason behind delay in Cobbs taking possession.</p> <p>The only other news was that, unfortunately, Kate Bovill is stepping down from her Development Officer role. She has done a tremendous amount of work over the years and will be greatly missed. ME passed on his kindest regards to her.</p>	ME
10. FLS/LLTNPA - nothing specific to report	
11. Life Plans - JK had nothing to report and there are no pressing update deadlines. ME mentioned that the Local Development Plan, for Stirling, is about to start its process with consultation commencing this summer.	
12. Planning Matters - Appendix 3. There have been no new planning applications during this period but there have been two approvals. The Axe Throwing and Mini	

<p>Electric Vehicle Track has been approved at David Marshall Lodge and a single storey extension has been approved on Glenwood, Main St, Aberfoyle. There are a couple of overdue applications, a change of use and an extension, but, on the whole, another quiet month.</p> <p>JK returned to FW's earlier question about the telecom masts. She confirmed that although we are already aware that planning permission has been obtained the Planning Authority have no knowledge or control over when the actual works will be completed. It now lies in the hands of the digital telecom providers, be it EE, Vodafone or others.</p> <p>A general conversation continued about the blanket ban on tourism related planning on B829 relating to the lack of Flood defences. This all relates to the NPF4 National Planning Framework Guidance. Consensus was voiced about a culture of being 'Risk Averse' rather than being 'Risk Aware', which has the result of curtailing progress.</p>	
<p>13. AOCB – MS mentioned a drop in session at Callendar Station Car Park (10.00 – 16.00 on May 16th) about the analogue switch off. There will be assistance for those who have particular vulnerabilities or needs e.g. battery back up systems etc. A question was raised about what will happen to all the analogue cables etc. and the view is that absolutely nothing will happen, for years. It will be just left behind. A clear up will be incredibly time consuming and costly.</p>	
<p>14. Close - There were no other matters arising and, after thanking everyone for attending, the meeting was declared closed. The next meeting will include the AGM and, as such, will be half an hour earlier at 18.30 at Strathard Business Hub, followed at 19.00 by the OGM.</p>	

Appendices:

- Police Report
- Treasurers Report
- Planning List

Minute Taker
(HS)

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community
Council:**

Trossachs and Teith Ward,
Strathard Community Council
hello@ccstrathard.org

**Reporting
Period:**

04/03/25 to 29/04/25 Compiled by PC Donald King

**Ward Plan
Priorities**

Antisocial Behaviour

You are concerned about antisocial behaviour including drunken behaviour.

No reports have been received during this time

Road Safety

You are concerned about speeding, dangerous driving and indiscriminate parking.

On 07/03/25 a report was received of a dog having been hit by a vehicle in Aberfoyle. The vehicle did not stop, and the dog was taken to the vet but did not survive. Enquiries were carried out but the identify of the vehicle and driver are not known.

On 07/03/25 a report was received regarding an incident in the Aberfoyle area involving the driver of a vehicle and cyclists. The driver of the vehicle was issued a recorded Police warning in relation to threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 16/03/25 reports were received of a vehicle driving in the Aberfoyle area in a careless manner. Enquiry was carried out and the driver is the subject of a report to the fiscal for careless driving.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Theft

You are concerned about homes being broken into and travelling criminals.

There have been a number of thefts in the wider area of agricultural equipment having been stolen including quad bikes, a trailer, ride on lawnmower, push lawnmower and scarifier. Enquiries are ongoing with one quad bike and a trailer having been recovered. Owners of similar equipment are asked to make efforts to secure their property and report any suspicious persons and vehicles to Police.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems.

If anyone has any policing issues that they wish to discuss, please contact us at Callander Police Office on 101 or email TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.police.uk

Other
Incidents /
Activity of
note

Issues raised

Community
Council
Feedback

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



The Community Officers for your area are: PC Donald King and PC Lorna Deans, based at Callander Police Office.

The Community Sergeant for the area is PS Sarah Stephenson, based at Dunblane Office.

They can be contacted via the email address TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.police.uk or by phoning 101
We regularly publish information on the 'Forth Valley Police' Facebook page and tweet using @StirlingPol

Strathard Community Council – Bank account balance for meeting 1st May 2025

	£	£
General Fund opening Bank balance 30th Jan 2025		5390.42
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Monies out		
Minute taker (Feb)		(50.00)
Bank services Feb		(6.25)
Mailchimp subscriptions		(18.75)
Minute taker (March)		(50.00)
Bank services March		(4.75)
Monies in		0.00
General Fund closing Bank balance 28th March 2025		5260.67
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Subsequent expected expenditure / income		
GDPR / data protection registration		52.00
Kinlochard Village Hall (Aug 24, Feb 25)		20.00
SCC commitment to field buy out		500.00
Total subsequent spend / income		(572.00)
Balance minus subsequent spend / income since 9th Oct 2024		4,688.67
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Available Funds		4,688.67

Strathard Community Council

Weekly Planning Lists for Mar and April 2025

Applications:

WK 17

Ref No 2025/0111/NOT Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 15 April 2025 Telephone 01389727721
Proposal Construction of forestry ATV tracks Location Land To The East Of The Ministrie
Aberfoyle FK8 3RR Applicant Mr Andrew Malcolm Forestry and Land Scotland Central Region,
Aberfoyle Office Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3UX Agent Application Type Prior Notification Expected
Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council
Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 252115 E 698782 N Advertisement Type

Approvals:

WK 10

Ref No 2024/0274/DET Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 15 October 2024 Telephone
01389727721 Proposal Change of use to axe throwing range, formation of mini electric vehicle
track course and erection of associated storage container Location David Marshall Lodge
Trossachs Road Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Daniel Stafford Adventure Forest Ltd The Drift Fornham
St Martin Bury St Edmunds IP31 1SL Agent Application Type Detailed Planning Permission
National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC
National Grid Co-ordinates 252017 E 701430 N Date Decision Issued 7 March 2025 Decision
Approve

WK 13

Ref No 2024/0337/LAW Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 26 November 2024 Telephone 01389
727 721 Proposal Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for erection of single storey extension to
the rear of dwellinghouse Location Glenwood Main Street Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Robert Friel
Glenwood Main Street Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3UN Agent Andrew Peebles Architectural Drawing
Services 32 Moss Road Tillicoultry FK13 6NS Application Type Certificate of Lawfulness
National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC
National Grid Co-ordinates 252506 E 700881 N Date Decision Issued 24 March 2025 Decision
Certificate Issued

None

Withdrawals:

None

Refusals:

None

Enforcement Matters:

None

Appeals:

None

Overdue Applications

Ref No 2025/0014/DET Officer Nicola Arnott Date Valid 27 February 2025 Telephone 01389 722661 Proposal Change of use from Class 9 (houses) to Class 7 (hotels and hostels) Location Crannaig House Trossachs Road Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Shaun Barlow Crannaig House Trossachs Road Aberfoyle FK8 3SR Agent Application Type Detailed Planning Permission Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 252105 E 701109 N Advertisement Type

Ref No 2024/0239/HAE Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 26 August 2024 Telephone 01389727721 Proposal Alteration and extension to dwelling Location Blairuskin Beg Aberfoyle Stirling Applicant Mrs Gillian Foster Blairuskin Beg Kinlochard Aberfoyle Stirlingshire FK8 3TR Agent Claire Gibbons T Square-Architects Castlevue Steuart Road Bridge Of Allan Stirling FK9 4JX Application Type Householder Planning Permission Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 243754 E 702974 N Advertisement Type

Application Number 2023/0366/75A Development Proposed : Application to discharge a planning obligation related to planning permission ref. no. S/99/00969/DET Location: Gartnerichnich Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3TP Applicant: Mr James Bradshaw Agent's Name: Michael Hyde Agent's Company Name: Michael Hyde Agent's Address: 63 West Princes Street Helensburgh G84 8BN Date Application Valid: 18 October 2023 Date of expiry of period for representations: n/a