

PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes for the general meeting of the Port of Menteith Community Council

at 7.00pm in the Port Hall on Monday 18th August 2025

Approved Minutes

1. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

Jim Riach (Chair)
Becky Saunders (Secretary)
Martin Stewart (Treasurer)
Robin Armstrong (CC Member)
Councillor – Gene Maxwell

Apologies:
Peter Stewart (Vice Chair)
Alastair Orr-Ewing (CC Member)
Kevin Harrison (Hall Committee)

2. Declarations of Interest in the Items of Business

No declarations of interest were declared

3. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16th June 2025

Minutes of the meeting held in June were adopted. Proposed by Martin Stewart, seconded by Robin Armstrong

4. Correspondence (attached)

- 4.1 Round up of questions asked of Angela McGibbon – see point 7.2 – Roads
- 4.2 Various correspondences regarding Kate's Brae – see point 7.3
- 4.3 Save the date information about event for CC's on 24th September – no details yet
- 4.4 Email from Caitlin Cameron about events for older residents – see point 10.2

5. Ongoing Matters

- 5.1 **Defibrillators** – Nothing to report. JR to keep on chasing this. **Action: JR**
- 5.2 **Broadband provision and gaps in roll out** BS reported that in emails to Shaun Marley he first said June 2026 and when asked how we might go about speeding this up and our concerns about the switch to digital phones and that several vulnerable people were still without he did not get back to her. Councillor GM agreed to take up the case and put in a corporate enquiry which would get a response in 5 days. **Action GM**
- 5.3 **Back Doune the Rabbit Hole Analysis** – No one was available to formally appraise the CC of how the event went but anecdotal reports are that it was good and well received with no trouble and that the organisers were happy and planning to do another event. AOE to ask organisers for a report. There was some concern reported before the meeting that the allocation of subsidised tickets seemed a little erratic and that information pertaining to them was both late and confusing. **Action: AOE**

6. Local Place Plan Update

- a) LLTNPA (Laura Mowat) reported that they have received and registered the LPP now but it had not been uploaded to their site yet due to manpower issues. SC (James Lamont) reported that data in the LPP needed to be appended to the plan as well as in the plan and that was stopping it being registered by them. It was pointed out by GM that if the NP had accepted the report then it was the duty of SC to accept it as well. BS to go back to J Lamont about this and cc in GM. **Action: BS**
- b) MS reported that he had filled in the feedback form sent out about the LPP process and noted disappointment in the delay in registering it having been given such tight deadlines for submission. Also cited was the lack of engagement from the landowners and businesses in the process.

- c) Following on from the results of the LPP an action was noted to explore the principles of connecting to the wider path network in the area once the bracken and beasts allow. Councillor GM also noted how poor was the provision for paths in the area.

7. Roads & Other Issues

- 7.1 **Cardross Bridge** – Bridge, whilst open, now needed to be resurfaced. Following initial conversations with Maria Lucey we do not have any update on when this will take place but it is believed that the plan is still to carry this out over a series of nights towards the end of the tourist season. Dates and method still to be confirmed. GM expressed concern that Scottish Water were responsible for the state of the surface of the new bridge and should be contributing to the cost of this.

- 7.2 **Traffic Calming and Speeding** – the following information was received from Angela McGibbon in response to several queries pertaining to the topic:

Monitoring of the Speeds in the village – results of this survey have not yet been analysed and would be sent through in due course

Request for a 20mph speed limit in the village – this will be implemented on the A81 over the extents of the existing 30mph limit

Extending the 40mph limit past the houses on the A81 Western approach – confirmed that this would be implemented at the same time as the 20mph limit is imposed prior to the end of the financial year March 2026

Extension of speed limits down the B8034 – still under consideration

Signage options for the hidden entrance to the school – consideration will be given to what appropriate signage could be erected to raise awareness of the access to the school.

Footways from the bus stop down the B8034 to the hotel and cemetery – No date has yet been set for this work. Design is ongoing. CC will be notified in due course.

An action was noted to go back to AM to further clarify 'due course' and to at least get a red hazard sign for children

Action: BS

The question was asked of GM as to what we can do about utility companies closing roads for several days with no notice when they are only working for an hour. This is a question that has been asked several times before and SC are not prepared to find a way to make the utility companies more accountable in the short term.

- 7.3 **Kate's Brae** – Recent good weather has exacerbated the need to find a solution to the wild camping, hazardous parking and filth left at Kate's Brae by the public. The previous day 20 cars had been parked at the site which was not unusual. A meeting has now taken place with the landowner as well as discussion with Councillor Martin Earl and further discussion at the CC meeting. It was agreed that when the meeting ME is helping to convene with SC, himself, the CC and NP representatives takes place the best short term solution would be to lobby for double yellow lines along the road and bins to be placed in the layby. It would also be beneficial if the NP would agree to a park ranger monitoring the site and police to be able to enforce ticketing at the site. GM indicated that he is actively campaigning for more police presence to handle the vast number of cars parked up along roads in good weather where there are lochs present.

- 7.4 **Parking at cemetery** – Following the last meeting nothing has been received from DM of LLTNPA to either confirm or counter the S.Council suggestion that LLTNP own the verge outside the cemetery where the proposed parking bays would be. **Action: RA to go back to Thos Rennie and cc in DM**

8. Financial

Nothing new to report since the last meeting.

9. **Planning & Licensing Issues** - CC briefly discussed development of 20 houses and flats in planning for the land opposite the Rob Roy but noted that this is under the jurisdiction of Strathard CC

10. Reports

10.1 Councillor's Report

Councillor Gene Maxwell

Council have been on recess and are working through the process of getting a new Chief Executive. No end of year figures have been received (from March) they are now due in September. The Councillor alluded to an unsettled period within the council with regards to its politics. In addition all land around the council building has now been sold for housing and positive progress was being made with regard to the film studios development. Nothing to report on any rural matters including on rural transport despite an underspend in this area.

10.2 Port Hall Committee Report

Kevin Harrison

KH reported that they are working on a draft constitution for a community development trust that would then remove the element of liability from the present hall committee members.

JR reported that he has been working with Jodie Fowler on the event on 4th October and that it would be a food based event. Some discussion was had as to how this could best be marketed to ensure better engagement and to encourage those who might not normally get involved.

Correspondence from a community member was noted at that point – being concerned about at the lack of events for the older generation in the village to combat loneliness. It was suggested that the correspondent get in touch with the group working on the 4th October event. BS to pass on email.

10.3 School Report - Nothing to report due to holidays

Ben Outterside

10.4 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report

Jim Riach

Work is ongoing on a Climate Action Plan to create a Climate Action Plan focussing on land use across the Carse of Stirling with a focus on regenerating nature. There is a proposed September meeting to work with landowners on this.

10.5 Strathard & Trossachs Visitor Management

Jim Riach

Nothing to report but JR is to feed into the committee the need for a joint reporting facility for members of the public to have a visible single point of contact for matters of traffic management, safety, antisocial behaviour etc.

10.6 Port Church & Cemetery

Robin Armstrong

Church have been working with school to develop better ties. Church will also have a presence at the event on 4th October.

Church open days have been quite successful this summer but visitor numbers were not yet available.

10.7 NPA Report & Entry Sign progress

David Mackie

No report submitted. BS to chase David Mackie about the parking at the cemetery and also the NP sign.

Antisocial Behaviour

You are concerned about antisocial behaviour including drunken behaviour. No reported incidents during this period.

Road Safety

You are concerned about speeding, dangerous driving and indiscriminate parking. On 04/07/25 whilst on proactive mobile patrol officers had cause to speak to the driver of a motor vehicle in the Port of Menteith area. They suspected him to be under the influence of alcohol. After enquiry he was found twice the legal limit and was arrested and charged with drunk driving and is the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Theft

You are concerned about homes being broken into and travelling criminals. On 30/07/25 a report was received by a member of the public being woken during the night by a male within their property in the Port of Menteith area. It was believed that the male was there with the intention of committing theft (although nothing was taken). Police were called and attended and a search of the area carried out with no trace. Enquiry has been carried out and the person responsible has not been identified. On 08/08/25 a report was received of persons illegally fishing on the banks of Lake of Menteith. Officers attended and traced a male and following enquiry he was charged with poaching and his fishing equipment seized and he is the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Back Doun the Rabbit Hole music Festival took place during this time period. We were not on duty that weekend but are not aware of any issues or incidents occurring

Attached and no comment made

11 Any Other Business

BS raised the subject of minute taker once more. A minute taker has been sourced if the CC were to change their dates to avoid clashes with other cc meetings. In addition the minute taker charges £60 so the CC would need to subsidise this function by £120 per year as only £40 per minutes can be claimed from the council. BS had already had discussion with Stephen Bly at the council about the anomalies of cc members not being paid for this work and that the work involved meant pay amounted to significantly less than minimum wage for outsiders and hence the difficulties of finding someone. GM agreed to take this up with the council.

Action GM

Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday 20th October 2025. 7pm Port of Menteith Village Hall

Correspondence

Responses from Angela McGibbon

Me: I think there were some monitoring activities going on and wondered if there was an update on this? *Angela: The survey information hasn't yet been analysed. This will be sent through to the CC in due course.*

We had requested a 20mph speed limit for the village – I think we are now one of very few trunks roads in local communities with a school, that does not have a 20 MPH zone.

A 20-mph speed limit will be implemented on the A81 through the village. This will be implemented over the extents of the existing 30-mph speed limit.

We asked about extending the 40mph limit beyond the set of houses that currently lies on the western approach to the village and you said this was possible. *This will be implemented at the same time as the 20-mph speed limit. Implementation will be undertaken prior to the end of the financial year (end of March 2026).*

We also asked about extending the speed limits further down along the B8034. *This is still under consideration.*

We asked about what signage options there might be for permanent hidden entrance signs on the approach from the West as you come up to the school. *I note the temporary signage that has been erected in relation to the bridge work on the B8034. Whilst there is significant leeway on the wording that can be put on temporary signage, this wording is not authorised for use on permanent road signs. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) sets out the signs authorised for use on the public road. There is no "concealed entrance" sign. Consideration will be given to what appropriate signage could be erected to raise awareness of the access to the school.*

Finally we would like to get an update on timings for the footway to join up the bus stop in the village with the hotel and cemetery. *No date has yet been set for this work. Design development is ongoing. The CC will be notified in due course.*

16.7.25 Phone call from M Tomlinson, Inchie, B8034

Informing us that they had been in touch with police and council about the state of the traffic at Kate's Brae recently and had set up a meeting with a man at the council and that he would keep us posted as to progress. Suggested getting a conversation with Pyes about what outcome they want to achieve would be really helpful (bins? Removing lay-by? etc)

22.7.25 Email from Martin Earl

Hi Becky,

FYI – Below is a copy of the query I have raised.

On the B8034, along the shoreline of the Lake of Menteith (as the road bends to the right just before Inchie Farm) there is a layby. This location is known locally as 'Kate's Brae'.

I have looked on the adopted road application but it remains unclear if this is a formal layby and part of the adopted road network or not – Can this please be clarified ?

This location has become a popular one for people to park up both in the available space in this layby (c3 vehicles max) and on the roadsides near the layby and then go to the Lake shore for either a few hours or to camp for one or more nights.

This is not a formal or recognised location and is one that has evolved in the past few years.

At present there are no traffic management measures in place. The road bends in both directions here, sightlines for drivers is limited and there are often (especially at weekends in good weather) many vehicles parked that restricts traffic travelling safely along the road in either direction.

Can I please ask for a full assessment of this location to be carried out that includes a view on the layby when status is known and lining etc that may be needed to deter poor parking behaviours.

Regards

Martin

22.7.25

BS sent email to G & M Pye about a meeting to get their thoughts. Also let Martin T know.

ME suggested a consultation with LLTNPA about it after.



Week number: 32

Date: 4 August 2025

Ref No	2025/0192/PPP	Officer	Milly Christie
Date Valid	1 August 2025	Telephone	01389722124
Proposal	Erection of 20 no. affordable dwellinghouses and flats (12 no. houses and 8 no. flats), access road and associated infrastructure		
Location	Land To West Of Braeval Farm Aberfoyle Stirling		
Applicant	Rural Stirling Housing Association Stirling Road Doune FK16 6AA	Agent	David Locke MAST Architects 51 St Vincent Crescent Glasgow G3 8NQ
Application Type	Planning Permission in Principle		
Expected Decision Level	DEL		
National Park Ward	2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs		
Community Council Area	Strathard CC		
National Grid co-ordinates	253271 E 700249 N		
Advertisement Type	Neighbour Notification		

Received 18.8.25

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you as a local resident with a small suggestion that I believe could make a real difference to some members of our community.

Recently, I had a conversation with an elderly neighbour who lives alone as a tenant on the estate. While I met him in good spirits at the Doune the Rabbit Hole festival, it struck me that he may sometimes feel isolated. It occurred to me that there may be others in a similar position who would greatly benefit from more opportunities to come together locally.

With that in mind, I wonder if the Council Committee might consider organising a community social event—perhaps something informal like an outdoor barbecue, picnic, or even a dog show, as many residents are dog lovers. Events like these can provide a warm and welcoming space for neighbours to connect, reduce feelings of loneliness, and strengthen community spirit.

I believe such an initiative would be well received and would reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and wellbeing within our community. I would be more than happy to assist in any way, whether through volunteering on the day or purchasing a trophy and rosettes. I have seen the Orr Ewing Curling Trophy and would be very happy to provide a similar one if required.

Thank you for considering this suggestion. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Yours sincerely,