

PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

At 7.00pm in the Port Hall on Monday 15th June 2026

Approved Minutes

1. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

Jim Riach (Chair)
Peter Stewart (Vice Chair)
Becky Saunders (Secretary)
Martin Stewart (Treasurer)
Robin Armstrong (CC Member)
Alastair Orr-Ewing (CC Member) (Remote)

Gene Maxwell - Councillor
Katy Cameron- Resident
Kevin Harrison – Village Hall
Brian Harkin/Noreen Devine BDTRH

2. Declarations of Interest in the Items of Business

No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of the OGM held on 20th April 2026

Minutes of the meeting held in April 2026. BS noted that in item 7.3 (Auchyle Development) the proposers had indicated a single figure level of housing development but that subsequent local hearsay was suggesting more and that this should be monitored. The minutes were adopted. Proposed by BS and seconded by MS

4. Back Doune the Rabbit Hole – Brian Harkin and Noreen ?

BH apologised for lateness in providing information he explained that announcement of the BBC event had an impact on BDTRH and other events locally. Final phase of the event is now underway. **BH** presented some advertising literature for the CC to offer input and any amendments. **BH** informed that more arts and crafts events were happening this year, as well as the SPA facility. The lineup reflects last year and there is a new stage which is focusing on local Scottish talent. **ND** noted that there was one complaint last year, but in general the feedback was positive. **GM** noted that Utilities could close any road for emergency reasons and no guarantees about the road could be given but that there were no planned roadworks over the festival period. **ND** added that on the BDTRH website there would be a residents section to share additional information. It was also noted that if any health professionals need access to local residents, then the festival organisers can provide passes for them to gain access. **ND** noted that the festival was a very different event than in previous years and in as much they did not expect trouble. **AOE** noted that there had been an incident in 2018 but the person was supported by festival welfare. **AOE** informed that roving security support would be in place. The organisers agreed to discuss the issues of the river in more detail during their ongoing strategy. **BH** said there were still opportunities for volunteering and if this could be shared. **BS** replied that a house to house leaflet drop would be beneficial to avoid misinformation.

Questions raised:

KC asked about current numbers and **BH** stated that approx. 3000.

BS asked for clarity on the wording of the resident's tickets, does that mean the homes that branch off the B8034? – Yes

JR has asked about traffic management and liaison with the Stirling Council - **BH** informed that **BDTRH** in constant communication with **SC**.

KC asked about resident wrist bands and how to receive them. **BH** said that car passes would be available in advance but the event passes on the day.

KC asked about security and the organisers noted that the same provision as last year.

5. Ongoing Matters

5.1 Low Flying Aircraft & Noise at Collymoon – Glyn Finney – Resident

RA noted that there had been a reduction in the instances of low flying aircraft and manoeuvres. **RA** had still not spoken with anyone at CAA Stirling but had posted information through their door and spoken to someone at Gatwick. Actions **Community** to monitor and pass concerns to **RA**.

5.2 Community Benefit (Cardross Bridge) and Village Hall Car Park

– Maria Lucey Stirling Council

BS informed the CC that an intended meeting between Lindsay Neill and Maria Lucey/the bridge contractor had not taken place at the hall as promised and that no further information has been received despite chasing. **BS** noted that it is very frustrating that no communication is coming back to the CC. **GM** said that he would follow up with this at SC. **AOE** also noted that the lack of information was across the board with all departments at SC. **GM** added that the new CEO Brian Roberts would be visiting all CC councils **JR** informed **GM** that his visit to POM CC had now been cancelled twice.

JR – It was suggested that we write to Brian Roberts outlining our frustration with multiple instances of issues around communications and the lack of accountability at the council. This would allow him to set his expectations and to action anything he can in advance of the meeting in October.

6. Local Place Plan & Community Action Plan MS & JR

MS said the planning application at Glenney had encouraged him to investigate pathways around the village but noted that, with that pathway (running up to the Rob Roy way) starting at Portend Farm, there was currently no parking in order to access this network. (See correspondence from MS) **BS** asked about the meeting with Harriet Donald, **JR** responded that they are keen to link in with LPPs but currently the NP strategic LPP surpasses the CC LPPs and the NP seemed to be more on a fact finding mission than offering help to achieve our LPP aims at this time. **BS** asked was it worth contacting again to understand if any funding would be available. **JR** agreed to do this.

JR discussed that within the LPP some actions were created and progress has been made on several points. It would now be beneficial to create a checklist/monitoring plan to see what still needs to be done

and to promote what we have done. **MS** noted that some items were in fact linked to the Community Action Plan and not the LPP. It was agreed that this does need to be looked at – **JR, MS & KH** to coordinate. **JR** noted thanks to SC for support in the actions that had progressed.

7. Roads and Other Issues

7.1 Cardross Bridge – ongoing discussion

JR said there is the potential for another road closure for bridge snagging - information received so far by **BS** is that it is likely to be for 2 weeks in September but no specifics have been shared by Maria Lucey. **BS** noted that the Utilities Company that closed the B8034 had shared with residents that the Bridge would be closing from June to September and this kind of false communication issue is another that should be reported back to Brian Roberts. **KH** stated that the first time the Bridge was closed that some residents were made aware before the CC, which isn't acceptable. Furthermore the weight limit discussions on the bridge between **BS** and Maria Lucey had been lengthy and pointless as she then did not feed in the collected objections of the village to the department setting the weights. This has therefore become extremely protracted and contentious and is still ongoing.

7.2 Lines at Kate's Brae

JR stated the CC had been informed that double yellow lines would be put in place by Easter but this wasn't the case and **BS** has now been told end of June by Angela McGibbon.

7.3 Signage for National Park and Kate's Brae

JR said the signage was ongoing and **BS** has been told by Craig Gavigan at LLTNPA that the signage was ready but SC are in control of the implementation and the CC don't have a date.

7.4 Flashing Speed Signs and Bus Stop

April 22nd from Angela McGibbon re speed limit and flashing signs.

"Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I confirm that it is still the intention to implement a 40-mph speed limit buffer zone to the west of village to a point just beyond West Portend Cottage. This is on a list of work to be progressed this financial year.

VAS installations relating to the implementation of village-wide 20-mph speed limits has been funded from the Scottish Government grant funding allocated to all local authorities for 20-mph speed limit implementation. Officers will not know if this grant funding will be available again this financial year until after the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May. If this grant funding is made available again, it is intended that our allocation is used for the installation of further VAS in those towns/villages that do not currently have VAS and where it has been identified that additional VAS are required. Port of Menteith has been identified as location requiring these VAS. I will advise further once I know if this grant funding is available for this financial year.

I trust this answers your queries.

Regards Angela McGibbon, Team Leader – Roads (Network)”

JR noted for the record that all of these were ongoing issues and again no information is passed from SC. Therefore the CC and residents don't have an understanding of when this will happen. **BS** responded that her attempts to contact SC often don't receive acknowledgement or answers. When discussions do take place then none of the actions are undertaken when stated. **KH** noted that the LPP and other plans were in place but the implementation was not being managed.

GM apologised and continues to put the issues into SC. **GM** is going to directly contact Gary Neil to demand answers about what isn't happening within the local communities. **GM** informed the CC that additional funding had been put into the roads budget, but no impact was being seen. **BS** added that B Roads have a major impact on local businesses and communities if they are closed or access denied and SC seems unaware how much business there is along the B8034 in particular. **AOE** asked what will change the status quo with regards to this situation and how do we generate the change? **GM** responded that the members at SC need to listen to local councillors. **PS** asked if we should contact the media in order to get the CC frustrations across to **SC**. The Dundee Courier was suggested as a media outlet to contact. **JR** mentioned Stirling PR as another organisation to contact. **KH** said there was both inaction and lack of communication, SC need to effectively manage and communicate. **RA** asked who audits the budget provisions. **AOE** noted that lack of accountability leads to these issues continuing again and again. **KH** added that a review of delivery and performance was need by **SC**. **JR** noted that POM CC would share their frustrations with Brian Roberts both in advance of meeting him (see point 5.2) and when he attends in October.

Actions: CC to provide GM with more details about the above issues. To send a letter in advance to Brian Roberts regarding these issues and for him to prepare and bring answers to the October meeting.

8. Correspondence

8.1 – Reports in from Martin Earl re: Litter Strategy, Parking Strategy, Early Learning & Childcare Strategy. (Disseminated by email)

BS noted that **ME** had also put in a request for additional funding for minute takers and Paul Scrase from Strathard is proposing a group action to push for increasing the administration grant. **GM** said the administration budget hadn't been addressed in a number of years and some councils had in fact had their budgets reduced. **GM** picking this up on behalf of all the CCs.

GM noted that with regards to Litter Picking, SC has agreed to fund safety signs for community litter picks and these would be available for CCs. A discussion regarding community litter picks commenced and **JR**

noted that both Keep Scotland Beautiful and SC states within their litter picking risk assessment that they could only be undertaken where pathways were present. **MS** informed that he had contacted SC because he had personally collected a considerable amount of litter again from Kates Brae.

9. Financial Report – Martin Stewart – Treasurer

MS informed the balance remains the same £675.84. MS applied for a grant on 8th May and awaiting response.

10. Reports

10.1 Councillors Report – Councillor Gene Maxwell

GM informed the CC that there are some major things happening with regards to cleaning up Stirling Town Centre. Work is being undertaken to support the BBC In the Park and future big events. The intention is to try and grow the tourism economy and encourage people to stay in Stirling longer when attending events. This includes areas like POM.

The film studios construction is moving forward and GM shared via photographs the intended spaces, size and capacity. The operator is about to be announced, and they will pay SC rent as well as other profits. Part of the land will be retained by SC and this becoming a training centre for all of the associated trades with the film industry. The intention being that they will source local crews and generate a new industry sector within Stirling. **KC** stated there is a lot of excitement about the Film Studios.

The Tourism Levy first charging will be this time next year and it is estimated SC will receive £3-4 million. **GM** said that SC are trying to get monies spent on the infrastructure now, including car parks, toilets, camper van provision. There are 12 people on the Levy Committee (including KH), and this will be a power house moving forward. **JR** mentioned the issues with response times affecting short term lets. **KH** noted that a representative from STEP would be liaising with small businesses. **JR** added that the majority of visitors to the area were day visitors into the NP and therefore would currently avoid the levy.

10.2 Port Hall &/or Combined Committees Report – Kevin Harrison

KH informed that there is a new development trust number and KH has the deeds and they don't envisage any issues transferring the ownership of the VH to the new charity. OSCR has asked for the current charity to be dissolved and move over to the new. The process has started.

Activities have been quiet there will be another charity event on the 21st liaising with the Church. Future planning for events will hopefully be made in the next few weeks.

Questions **BS** asked about development opportunities previously discussed such as solar and insulation. **KH** said the new charity and governance needed to be in place in order to move alterations forward. **GM** noted that charities get half price planning applications.

10.3 School &/or Combined Committees Report – Natalie Bain

The busy summer term is in full swing at Port of Menteith. We just had a successful sports day shared with Gartmore and the upper school will be taking part in outdoor water sports sessions with a highlight on water safety. The school has welcomed next year's P1s for transition visits. Our two P7s have been visiting high school also. The school roll looks set to increase again which is positive.

No Questions

10.4 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report – Jim Riach

The main focus of COSP over the last few months has been to establish the Upper Forth Farmers and Land Managers Network <https://upperforthnetwork.org> and encourage knowledge transfer and information sharing around nature restoration and regenerative agriculture.

The work focuses on promoting a range of talks and events, farm visits and informal gatherings. The last event attended was the Gargunnock Show where several additional members joined the network. Read more about the network here <https://upperforthnetwork.org/news/a-new-regen-ag-initiative-launched/>

Work continues in developing a suite of actions within the COSP Climate Action Plan that will involve and engage many of the communities around the Carse of Stirling. Partnership working is key to how COSP operates.

For more regular updates on COSP activities then follow along on their facebook page - [https:// www.facebook.com/CarseOfStirlingProject?](https://www.facebook.com/CarseOfStirlingProject?)

The next network event will be at Argaty and will be a farm walk on “Managing Land Alongside Beavers”

No Questions

10.5 McLaren Community Futures

The Group made up of 10 communities around the McLaren High School catchment continues to seek funding and to make progress against key community actions identified in the earlier consultation phases.

Workstreams are grouped under the key headings of

- Strong Communities
- Getting Around
- Energy Efficiency
- Restoring Nature
- New Skills and jobs

A governance group has been set up to consider the best structure and memorandum of understanding created for partner organisations. A website is being developed to include a blog and local stories. Next meeting is the 19th June at Kinlochard.

No Questions

10.6 Strathard & Trossachs Visitors Mgmt – Jim Riach

No meetings or update.

10.7 Port Church & Cemetery – Robin Armstrong

RA updated that the church is holding Rock the Kirk event, the VH is offering the car park for the event. Also, the teachers parking at the school will be made available. Other parking would be on the road. Response has been very good, and the expectation is that additional people will pay on the door. **KH** said that the VH could provide 38 spaces but martialling would be needed to monitor. Disabled Parking would be down by the church.

RA continued that he has received information that dog fouling at the cemetery has been discovered. Signage might need to be made visual to prevent further incidents. **RA** noted that they believed it might be guests at the local hotel using the cemetery to walk their dogs. **JR** noted that it might be worth talking to a local landowner about creating a dog walking area/field nearby to prevent happening in the future.

Questions:

CC asked that parking signage be put in place to avoid issues on the day.

10.8 NPA Report & Entry Sign Progress – David Mackie

No report received.

BS noted again that the sign is ready, but **SC** haven't identified an installation date.

A short discussion occurred regarding new elections from local community representatives into the NP, but the information hasn't been shared. **GM** gave a brief explanation of the process. **PS** noted that the boundaries were quiet interesting. **JR** noted that those elected are not required to attend **CC** meetings. **KH** asked how do they then represent the community?

10.9 Police Report Compiled by PC Lorna Deans Reporting Period: 18/04/26 to 13/06/26

Antisocial Behaviour

You are concerned about antisocial behaviour including drunken behaviour.

On 11/06/26 police were called to a premises on B8034 due to an incident.

Road Safety

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

On 01/05/26 police were called to a 2-vehicle road traffic collision on A81 near to Rednock Farm.

Theft

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

No reported thefts in the Port of Menteith area.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

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

Should anyone have any Policing issues or concerns that they wish to discuss, we can be contacted via email at StirlingCommunityPolice@scotland.police.uk

Please note that this form of contact should not be used to report an ongoing incident/crime. This should be done by contacting 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Other Incidents

On the afternoon of 09/06/26 police were made aware of a blue 4X4 pickup type vehicle seen in suspicious circumstances on B8034. Officers attended in the area and carried out a search. Please continue to report any suspicious people/vehicles in the area to police.



In an effort to combat thefts of quad bikes, trailers, equine equipment and chainsaws from our rural properties, Stirling rural police community team have secured a number of SelectaDNA property marking kits and are offering to mark your property for you.

SelectaDNA are Secure by Design approved and come with Home Office and Police Scotland accreditation.

We are offering to come out to your property and mark any high value equipment you have such as

- quad bikes,
- trailers,
- horse boxes,
- chainsaws
- other such items

with the kit and give you in-person crime prevention advice. We also have signs which can be placed on farm gates to indicate that SelectaDNA is being used.

We have a small number of kits, so if you would like to take up this opportunity please contact us at StirlingCommunityPolice@scotland.police.uk

KH noted that individuals were nervous to post on social media, AOE suggested that if posted by CC then not an individual.

10.10 Forestry and Land Scotland – Julie McAlpine

BS has sent the report out.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Brian Roberts from Stirling Council now scheduled to attend October Meeting

11.2 JR noted that re-election for CC and new members and succession planning ready for next year.

11.3 KH announced a cultural survey would be disseminated shortly

11.4 PS Ruskie Bridge report. BS noted that the road had a planned closure in July with an initial contraflow system and then a full closure. Details to follow.

**Date of Next Scheduled Meeting OGM 7.30pm
Monday 17th August 2026**

7.00pm Port of Menteith Village Hall