

PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

at 7.00pm in the Port Hall on Monday 16th June 2025

Approved Minutes

1. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

Jim Riach (Chair)	Ben Outterside - School Committee
Peter Stewart (Vice Chair)	Lindsay Neill – School & Hall Committee
Becky Saunders (Secretary)	Kevin Harrison – Hall Committee
Martin Stewart (Treasurer)	Frazer Wykes - Resident
Robin Armstrong (CC Member)	Councillor – Martin Earl
<i>Alastair Orr-Ewing (CC Member) online</i>	David Mackie – LLTNPA

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 14th April 2025

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

4. Hall and School Committee members visit

Discussion around proposal from Ben Outterside and Kevin Harrison that bodies such as the school, the hall, the church (if they wish to) and the CC could work more closely together to share human, skills and knowledge resources. The current arrangement of separate bodies dilutes the resources resulting in poor communication, low turn-outs and less sense of community cohesion. This in turn discourages folk from getting more involved. There might be the potential for a new entity to share some of the roles but in a way that works better for the village as a whole. KH stated that the Hall are looking for guidance from Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise on how they can change the hall constitution to remove the current onerous legal liability on committee members. Subsequently bodies could participate in some format with the cc meetings – possibly as a separate meeting just before or after the main meeting. ME suggested asking Stephen Bly at SC how this could work without affecting the statutory obligations of the CC. **ACTIONS: BS to contact SB: KH to meet with SVE about hall, JR to co-ordinate separate meeting to discuss**

5. Correspondence

There were several items of correspondence from Angela McGibbon with regard to the following:
Footway – Confirmation that they have added footway from A81 to Cemetery to program of works this year. We are seeking confirmation that it will also extend along A81 to bus stop.

Speeding - Surveys were due to take place in May and June by external company with the potential to have the limit reduced to 20mph.

Buffer Zone – Confirmed that this will be extended to 600m out to the west and following cc representations, consideration will be given to extending it further along the B8034 – dependent on survey findings

Concealed Entrance Signage – current signage about hidden entrance signs cannot be used as is not standard but consideration will be given to other signage and discussion was had of whether private signage could be used on adjacent fence post if no joy from the council. (Slow: Concealed Entrance)

Action: Keep on agenda and reminding Angela.

Additional correspondence included:

1. Maria from council confirming that Cardross Bridge will open on Friday 20th June 2025
2. Clarification sought from Stephen Bly to all councils that Admin grant forms had been submitted and AGM Minutes submitted. This was confirmed by Martin Stewart and Becky Saunders respectively.
3. Confirmation that Trossachs Explorer would recommence this summer and would include the journey from Drymen to Aberfoyle but would not join up Callander and Aberfoyle via PoM.

6. Ongoing Matters

- 6.1 Defibrillators** – Some correspondence from Trossachs SAR but no definitive resolution **Action: JR**
- 6.2 Broadband provision and gaps in roll out** Nothing back from Broadband guy, BS to chase
- 6.3 Doune the Rabbit Hole Update + Community Benefit** – Ticket sales tracking ok and ongoing discussions between organiser and council particularly in regard to bridge weight limits. AOE said he would ask organisers to resend their ticket policy (since done) for BS to share with wider village. LN expressed disappointment that no tickets were being issued to school and asked to clarify policy with regards to children at the event and tickets. **ACTION: BS to speak to Orgs**
- 6.4 Pathways in the village being investigated by JR and MS** – In line with the Local Place Plan and the overwhelming desire indicated by villagers for them to have greater access to the countryside in which they live, there was a discussion timetabled about whether more access to pathways (new and existing) in the village could be looked into – in particular access to the Rob Roy Way and to the new forestry paths being put in behind Auchyle. A representative of the landowner gave a swift and robust rebuttal to any such suggestion on the grounds of concerns about livestock and the presence of ticks. A further request just to put in a path connecting the school to the hall was put in and some of the parent council present offered to help with this. This was a request that had been made before and would reduce the risks posed by traffic going too fast through the village. The agent agreed to put in the request to the landlord.

7. Local Place Plan Update

Still awaiting final confirmation of this submission and have sent through further evidence as requested by James Lamont. Community Action Plan subcommittee was discussed and a separate meeting agreed to further this.

Action JR & KH

8. Roads & Other Issues

- 8.1 Cardross Bridge and Community Benefit** – Bridge confirmed (as of today) that it would be open on Friday 20th – time tbc. Benefit agreed with LN as sorting out back ditch and putting in disabled access tarmacked area – due shortly.
- 8.2 Traffic calming and speeding in the village** – specific discussion was superseded by discussion outlined in point 5 (correspondence with Angela McGibbon) on extending the buffer zone etc however ME did suggest we contact the police to see if there is a suitable location for a road safety van. **Action RA**
- 8.3 Parking at cemetery** - RA had had a meeting with Thomas Rennie at Stirling Council who said that LLTNP own the verge outside the cemetery where the proposed parking bays would be. DM said it would be irregular but he would look into this and advise asap. Email from Thos Rennie forwarded to DM. **Action: RA to chase DM**

9. Financial

Statement of accounts – Treasurers Report 16th June 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MEETING ON 16TH JUNE 2025

Balance at start of financial year	£662-00
Payments made since last meeting	
Keegan and Pennykidd Professional Indemnity Insurance	£33-12
Balance at 16 th June 2025	£628-88
Grant application made to Stirling Council 16 th April and acknowledged	£421-08
Anticipated balance on receipt of grant	£1049-96

10. Planning & Licensing Issues - None to report

11. Reports

11.1 Councillor's Report

Councillor MEarl

New Chief Executive of SC is leaving this summer so another will be appointed in due course.
Glass Collection will be changed to another wheely type bin for ease of movement of residents
Changes afoot to HWRC to improve re-use (as per Moray model). Big meeting on this on 26th June.

11.2 Port Hall Committee Report

Kevin Harrison

LN co-ordinating community benefit aspect of bridge works as draining ditch at back, clearing grass at front and in top LH corner of hall and handstanding for disabled access by entrance. LN also looking into funding for energy efficiency via Business Energy Survey and potential for match funding for solar panels. MS said that he had hall drawings and could pass them to LN.

KH said the Strathcarron Hospice event had been a big success, with many participants and generated a good sum for the charity. It created a positive buzz in the hall as well as some attendees going on up to an event at the school. The next event timetabled is 4th October and likely to have Climate Change focus in line with the funding received for that.

There was also further discussion as per point 4 on what can be done to further integrate all village entities and thus increase community participation.

11.3 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report

Jim Riach

Next meeting due on 21st June. Schools in the area have been contributing artwork related to what they like about the CoS for a display

11.4 Strathard & Trossachs Visitor Management

Jim Riach

No recent meetings to report

11.5 Port Church & Cemetery

Robin Armstrong

It was reported that now the church has two ministers to call upon with Ellen Larsen Davidson and Ian Armstrong in the diocese and this will provide more consistency.

11.6 NPA Report & Entry Sign progress

David Mackie

DM attended – said again that he would chase up the entrance sign for the park and acknowledged that this had taken much too long. Third National Park in Scotland is not now happening but DM reported Chinese officials had visited to discuss setting up of a number of Nat Parks in China. Advised that plans for Flamingo Land at Loch Lomond were still being debated despite being rejected by LLTNPA and developers were pursuing through the courts and Holyrood. DM and ME advised that Trossachs Explorer was still a work in progress and needed time to bed in before we could address the issue of it not performing a circular route and thus including PoM. DM also said he would look into ownership of verge outside Cemetery (see point 8.3).

11.7 School Report

Ben Outterside

Port School Report for Port of Menteith Community Council meeting 14th April 2025

1. The school parent council have decided to spend some of the PC budget to try and improve and upgrade the school playground for the pupils, we have created a school improvements group of some school parent volunteers to put time into this. Stirling Paint shed are kindly donating mixed paints to freshen up the outbuildings, we are renovating the sandpit and also repairing and installing new planters
2. As mentioned in my last report we found the community Ceilidh was disappointing with a poor turn out. We have now had the financial report and there was a loss of £150. Other ideas are welcome for future community/School/Hall events.
3. The Parent council are continuing to hold the Mini mornings which is a free event aimed at nursery and primary school children went ahead on 10th May supported this time by green Aspirations and was a great success even with the village plant sale being the same day.
4. The academic year finishes on 27th June this year with the end of year assembly and school BBQ being held for pupils and parents on 17th June. This year we have no leavers for high school.
5. The parent council would like to again raise concerns that the speed camera van does not ever seem to visit the village, we feel it is found to be spending a vast amount of time on the A811. Could we have some support from the community council with a note sent to the council/police Scotland to see if something could be done especially now we are in tourist season. We have not heard anything with relation to this after the last report.
6. This summers School trip was to The Falkirk Wheel which was enjoyed by all pupils
7. The School Sports day went ahead with Port School joining once again with Gartmore Primary School, this was held on the village green at Gartmore on 11th June.

8. We have had a further 2 more pupils join the school from within the catchment area this last month and with the predicted intake for next academic year we are forecast to have 20 pupils attending. Numbers for the school are increasing and with no predicted learners leaving for high school this year or next the numbers are looking promising.

Ben Outterside, Port of Menteith Parent Council Chairman

11.8 Police Report

PC Donald King

Antisocial Behaviour

No reported incidents during this period.

Road Safety

On the afternoon of 25/04/25 officers were on patrol when they had cause to stop a vehicle in the Port of Menteith area and found the driver to be under the influence drugs and in possession of a personal amount of cannabis. The driver was arrested and taken to custody where following further procedures they were charged and a report submitted to the fiscal.

Theft

On the 29/04/25 a quad bike was recovered hidden in woodland in the Port of Menteith area. This quad was confirmed as being stolen and enquiries are ongoing in relation to this.

Overnight 12 – 13/06/25 a power unit, battery and solar panel for electric fencing was stolen from a field in the Port of Menteith area. The persons responsible are unidentified at this time.

Other Incidents / Activity of note

We continue to get thefts of agricultural equipment, quad bikes, petrol and power tools in our area. If any suspicious persons or vehicles could be reported to Police.

Final point was re-iterated by AOE that equipment was being stolen deep in the night and that vigilance was needed as he had heard reports of incidents that did not appear on the report above. Drones are also being used by criminals to identify targets. It was confirmed that police, in an initiative named Rural Watch Scotland, had been out to farms with a leaflet about this.

11.9 Forestry and Land Scotland

Julie McAlpine

Attached and no comment made

12. Any Other Business

KH reconfirmed that he would speak to SVE and then arrange a meeting about how we could better pull all village entities into a more cohesive group with a broader outlook for how to pull together the community and asked that we consider introducing more cultural aspects.

Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday 18th August 2025. 7pm Port of Menteith Village Hall