

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 8th December 2025

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)
(virtual attendance)

Councillor – Martin Earl
David Mackie - National Park
Jane Baron – Resident
Fraser Wykes – Resident
Kevin Harrison – Hall Committee (apologies)

2. Declarations of Interest in the Items of Business

None Declared

3. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of the OGM held on 20th October 2025

Minutes of the meeting held in October 2025 were adopted. Peter Stewart proposed and Martin Stewart seconded.

4. Correspondence

There was one item of correspondence

BS spoke about a meeting attended and the offer regarding a Resilience Kit – from Stirling Council. JR asked if anyone interested?

No other correspondence

5. Ongoing Matters

5.1 Broadband provision and gaps in full roll out

BS fed back to the meeting about the presence of Morrisons on the A81, there is a list of houses that remain without broadband and that it looks like this could continue until June 2026. ME spoke about the Data lead leaving the council and that the delivery will continue to happen within a reasonable time frame. FW said there were 42 properties that remain without and explained that cables are there and attached to the bottom of the poles, the cables need to be connected to the properties. RA asked about any other problems regarding connectivity, JR replied not to the CC knowledge and JR suggested checking with individual providers.

5.2 McLaren Community Futures

JR explained that the meeting took place with all communities and that at the meeting information had been updated and that action plans are being drawn up by the joint climate action group involving community connections, building communities and creating connections between communities. JR happy to share the detailed action plan if anyone interested. JR also mentioned lottery funding that might be available in the future.

BS asked about the resilience and what this meant? JR described that some communities have hubs, and that they are happy to share with

others. JR spoke about delivering common themes within individual place plans. JR thinks it is a good thing. BS asked for summary for the minutes and JR agreed.

Action JR

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

MS explained the plan is on the National Parks website and Stirling are waiting for a few of the members to get together and as of yet still not on Stirling Council Website. RA interjected with his own views of the pathways within the action plan; he said others within the community were not happy with the introduction of pathways within the village. JR thanked RA for his comments and explained that as implementation of the LPP and CAP commenced then further consultation and views would be sought from the community. JR explained again about a group specifically looking at pathways. BS explained that when something was in proposal stage a document could be shared. MS mentioned Strathard and the Trossachs Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Framework published by the LLTNPA in March 2024 suggesting using the Village Hall as a Hub. JR wants to focus again in February. No other comments were made.

7. Roads and Other Issues

7.1 Footways

BS picked up some information on potential commencement of work to start on footpaths on the B8034. ME asked if BS had received the spreadsheet regarding forthcoming work? BS confirmed. FW said that none of the landowners had been approached. It was discussed that no evidence of signage in place that would indicate work was about to start. ME said he would inquire and see when the actual works are going to be undertaken.

Action ME

7.2 Cardross Bridge

BS confirmed she has had no further information regarding the bridge from Maria Lucey. A brief discussion regarding the issue of a potential blind spot was initiated by RA. MS contributed that sightlines are taken 1.05m above carriageway level. ME encouraged members of the CC and residents to use the reporting function to raise any issues with Stirling Council.

BS to forward details to ME. RA to put a report via the reporting function regarding the Cardross Bridge.

7.3. School 20 Flashing Lights

RA mentioned the 20-school flashing light working intermittently and RA has mentioned to the school to report.

8. Financial – Statement of accounts – Martin Stewart (Treasurer)

The Treasurer explained the grant had come through of £421.08 the accounts balance was £1049.96

Questions: JR asked if any other financial costs forecast? BS mentioned that there would be a cost implication with regards to the website regarding hosting etc. actual costings would follow.

9. Reports

9.1 Councillors Report – Councillor Martin Earl

ME confirmed that following recent elections that there was a change of administration at the Council.

ME also confirmed that the new CEO was Brian Roberts, he was previously the interim CEO, ME said that SC wish him well.

ME explained that during the Council meeting there had been much discussion around the Visitor Levy and proposed options. There were a number of options being considered including a 3% seasonal or a 5% all year. The CC continued the discussion regarding the proposed levy which included how much money the levy would generate, who and how it would be administered and how decisions regarding how the revenue would be spent.

It was noted that the tourism sector has been through a very difficult time of late, and this means that the council must get it right. The integrity and transparency of the scheme have to be right. It was also noted that any benefits from visitors should be benefitting the community.

ME finished by informing the CC regarding the issue of street lighting at Menteith cottages, no lighting currently. New lights were going to be put in place but there has been an issue with connectivity and power source. Lights have been delivered but were damaged in transit and no new date for replacements. The residents are vulnerable and he has requested that temporary lighting be put in place. ME to chase and send a copy of the email stream so that the CC can also take up the case with the council.

Action ME and BS

No questions asked.

9.2 Port Hall &/or Combined Committees Report - JR

JR said Nothing much to report, KH the hall committee are progressing towards a registered charity, paperwork submitted to OSCR. Any questions to KH
BS said that somebody who lives on the B8034 has requested to join the committee.

The Christmas tree was discussed, and lights will be added soon.

9.3 School &/or Combined Committees Report – Natalie Bain

It is the exciting festive time at the school. The children have visited the Macrobert Centre for a trip to the pantomime. They will also be enjoying their Christmas party at Gartmore primary.

In November the school was supported by the annual fisheries fundraiser which we are always grateful for. The children were in fine voice to entertain the fishermen.

The children will also be performing their Christmas show, A midwife crisis, on the evening of the 9th of December at the village hall which is open to all.

Members of the parent council have been working hard to put on a Winter Fayre at the village hall on Saturday December the 13th 1-4pm. Children, parents, The Lake hotel and the church are all supporting. Please do come along for a traditional fundraising afternoon of fun

Questions: PS asked about numbers at the school now and RA informed that 28, so very positive.

9.4 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report – Jim Riach

The group are making progress there has been interest from various organisations regarding climate projects and environmental improvements. A consultation with landowners is proposed so that things can move forward. The Forth Rivers Trust and a water-based project, connecting into work being undertaken by the National Park and Flanders Moss is at the heart of it. The groups have been lobbying for action and things are progressing positively. JR to disseminate a written report. ME asked to be added to the email list.

Action JR

9.5 Strathard & Trossachs Visitors Mgmt – Jim Riach

Nothing has happened since last report. JR to update after next meeting.

9.6 Port Church & Cemetery – Robin Armstrong

RA said a lot has been happening, the programme of Christmas events has been disseminated. The events are proving to be successful. Christmas Eve, Carol Service collection would be for Médecins Sans Frontières Karma have offered to provide hot chocolate. RA mentioned the offer for free Christmas lunch by Karma too. Christmas Day Service would be at Kippen 10.30am and 27th December Service would be back at the Kirk.

A discussion point of car parking for the cemetery commenced and there remained some confusion regarding ownership of the land, whether National Park or Council. It had been hoped that any work undertaken to install footpaths to the cemetery would include the additional parking spaces too. ME asked where specifically the parking was to be sited and he could then look at boundaries using his council mapping function. BS to share location and ME to look at council's asset map.

Action BS & ME

9.7 NPA Report & Entry Sign Progress – David Mackie

DM gave a summary of the Trossachs explorer, which had proved a great success just under 6000 used at 15% increase from 2024. 49% had a travel card so not fee paying. JR explained that POM would like to be considered as part of the route. He understood that Stirling Council are considering a DRT shuttle bus to connect Callander, Thornhill, POM and Aberfoyle.

DM said this has been discussed today, the need to secure funding moving forward and the transition from a pilot scheme to a permanent one, operating throughout the year. Further discussion continued.

5 board members are coming to end of term and NP advertising, applications open till the 5th January 2026

WHW has become a charity, so all of the management is being transferred to charity and they are looking for funding to maintain it properly. 37 volunteers were helping with tidying up the WHW last week.

The NP will be distributing funds of £1.275 million for nature restoration, building resilient communities and boosting biodiversity.

Operational update - Heather Reid confirmed as Convenor

POM signage was mentioned, BS informed DM that all plans for the sign had been approved and that the CC were still waiting for an installation date. BS confirmed that she had spoken with Matt Buckland regarding the signage. DM will chase.

A further discussion regarding the 6 pathways that run through the NP and how they were significant assets to the NP.

9.8 Police Report

Reporting Period: 20/10/25 to 05/12/25 Compiled by PC Donald King

Antisocial Behaviour

No reported incidents during this period

Road Safety

There have been no reports of this nature during this time

Theft

There have been no reports of this nature during this time

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.

A discussion regarding Neighbourhood Watch commenced with ME saying he had signed up and that you can opt in and out for the types of notifications you receive. It was agreed that BS would circulate again to the community.

Action BS

9.9 Forestry and Land Scotland – Julie McAlpine

BS said the report has been circulated. No comments received.

Comments were made regarding significant work (felling) taking place on pathways in Braeval and also questions regarding re-planting in the area.

10. Any Other Business

Meeting Dates:

BS would like members to agree on the meeting dates for 2026 so that can be shared with Stirling Council. Agreed. (see appendix 1)

Community Benefit:

AOE to speak to the festival organisers regarding community benefit.

Website:

BS said the website was progressing.

Karma Christmas Lunch:

BS to disseminate within the community and if anyone is aware of anyone then put forward. Thanks have been extended to Karma.

Date of Next Scheduled Meeting Monday 16th February 2026.

7.00pm Port of Menteith Village Hall

Appendix 1: Meeting Dates

Name of Community Council: PORT OF MENTEITH

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026

Please Note: AGM To Take Place April 2026, May 2026 or June 2026

	Date	Time	Venue/Platform
January			
February	16 th	7	Port of Menteith Village Hall
March			
April	20 th	7 +AGM	Port of Menteith Village Hall
May			
June	15 th	7	Port of Menteith Village Hall
July			
August	17 th	7	Port of Menteith Village Hall
September			
October	19 th	7	Port of Menteith Village Hall
November			
December	7 th	7	Port of Menteith Village Hall

Other Important Dates:

AGM Monday April 20th 7pm Port of Menteith Village Hall