

PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

at 7.30pm in the Port Hall on Monday 14th April 2025 (following AGM)

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 APOLOGY

Jane Baron - Resident
Noreen Devine - Representative from BDTRH
Lorna Deans – Police Scotland

Councillor – none present

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 17th February 2025;

Minutes adopted. Proposed by Robin Armstrong, seconded by Martin Stewart.

4. Visit from Noreen Devine (for Brian Harkin) – Community Liaison for Back Doune the Rabbit Hole

- ★ ND confirmed that professional input from various agencies including external traffic management agencies is being sought in regard to the planning of the event.
- ★ Number for 2025 will be capped at 5k (down from 10k in 2023).
- ★ She confirmed that half the tickets have now been sold and they are confident of a good event.
- ★ Tickets sold have mainly been weekend camping tickets which will reduce the traffic to the event.
- ★ Those who have applied direct from along the B8034 have been offered day tickets or 50% off weekend tickets
- ★ ND to speak to BH this week about community benefit for rest of village and come up with a clear strategy we can communicate to the village.
- ★ BS to provide ND with a list of houses that we cannot communicate with directly via email.
- ★ Bigger bands are due to finish at 11 with smaller stages going on later and noise will be monitored by Stirling Council representatives to mitigate against excess noise.
- ★ Volunteering opportunities will be available for locals

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Angela McGibbon with regard to the pavement from the bus stop to the cemetery discussed. AM confirmed on 7th April that the construction of a pavement has been added to the list of works for this year. Precise start and end point not confirmed though note action from last meeting viz: *General agreement that we push for pavement from bus stop to hotel in first instance and then onto cemetery.* So an action was noted to get this confirmed with AM via SB **Action BS**

Second correspondence concerned removal of timber from Rednock using the Millennium car park. Contractors had noted that there would be a maximum of 5 per day and not around school start or finish times.

6. Ongoing Matters

6.1 Defibrillators – No update as yet from Gordon Gregory at Trossachs SAR. Ongoing **Action: JR**

7. Local Place Plan Update

LPP has been finalised and submitted to National Park and Stirling Council. BS has sent on follow up material requested (constitution) and had been advised that from here we wait. MS asked what the CC wished to do going forward. KHa, JR & MS all expressed keenness to move forward with a Community

Action Plan to try to get some of the issues raised into actions. Agreed to put on the agenda for June meeting and at that time to set up a CAP sub committee.

Action BS

8. Roads & Other Issues

8.1 Cardross Bridge and Community Benefit

Bridge still on schedule for end May at the present time and has been for the last month. All work at water level complete and dams are now removed. Work continues on the parapets. BS & JR attended a meeting online with Maria Lucey and Colin Gowan about Community Benefit. Lindsay Neil from the Hall committee had submitted a selection of suggestions mainly centred around improving the Hall. In addition we added signage and picnic tables. Contractors and Stg Council refuse to put a monetary value on the Community Benefit making it impossible to work out priorities. Contractors said they would price up our suggestions and come back to us.

Points of contact; BS, JR and LN

8.2 Traffic and car speeds entering the village

PC Lorna Deans in attendance read out the attached police report and CC then discussed what more actions we could take to slow down the traffic. RA invited Angela McGibbon to attend a CC meeting about both speeds and pavements but to no avail. Suggestions included adding cameras to the hall to film traffic going through the village, following up on installation of static flashing speed signs via Stg Council, getting a permanent sign for hidden entrance to school. RA asked PC L Deans if police could be encouraged to monitor village more often and also to challenge those out at night to deter crime as they previously did.

Action w SC: BS

8.3 Parking at cemetery

RA had had a meeting with Thomas Rennie at Stirling Council who agreed in principle to put in 4 parking spaces at the cemetery (on an angle). RA noted that signage to the effect that it was for cemetery would be beneficial and he would follow up on both of these.

Action: RA

9. Financial

Statement of accounts – Treasurers Report 17th April 2025

1. The opening balance was £741.21.
2. We received a CC administration grant of £341.87 from Stirling Council.
3. Our bankers, The Bank of Scotland, announced that it was to introduce a monthly fee of
4. £4.25 on Community Accounts such as ours. Accordingly we looked at moving our account to a bank with no charges. Our application to open an account with the Co-op Bank was unsuccessful but we did succeed in opening a “Club and Society” account with Virgin Money. This had been Clydesdale Bank and is now owned by Nationwide.
5. We successfully applied for a £3500 grant from LLTNPA for costs associated with the development of a Local Place Plan. This was spent on consultants Imaginelf.Space CIC (£3007.40) and Port of Menteith Village Hall (£495.00) for use of the hall for a community event and 12 meetings relating to the development of a Local Place Plan.
6. To assist in cash flow, we borrowed £3000 from the Port of Menteith Village Hall and repaid it in full on receipt of the grant of £3500 from LLTNPA.
7. Outgoings that will form the application for this years CC administration grant, including minute taker payments, insurance, email and web site charges amount to £421.08.
8. This leaves an end of year balance of £662.00 with an anticipated CC administration grant of £421.08 from Stirling Council to be received later in the year.

The accounts were audited and signed by Amanda Potter (Ruskie House, Blairhoyle) and will be submitted to Stephen Bly with the administrative grant application.

10. Planning & Licensing Issues - None to report

11. Reports

11.1 Councillor's Report

Councillor

No councillor attended and no report received

11.2 Port Hall Committee Report

Kevin Harrison

No report received from the Hall Committee this month

11.3 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report

Jim Riach

The COSP group have been working with the Climate Action Group and secured funding for an art and nature related project with local primary schools. Jody Fowler has been working with PoM PS. Art to be submitted by end of May for a community project at end June. They are also preparing a funding application for the upper catchment of the Forth River which is tied in with a Stirling University project.

11.4 Strathard & Trossachs Visitor Management

Jim Riach

JR confirmed the Scottish Government's RTIF (Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund) had reopened maybe available for projects like upgrades to the village hall as a hub. Application was however by Local Authorities and National Parks, so would require partnership working between the Hall Committee and the agencies.

Aberfoyle Visitor Centre is to reopen in the summer as a community owned and run asset, with a commercial partner

Litter, human waste and fires were discussed as ongoing issues at the visitor hotspots of Kate's Brae and the Millenium Car Park within Port of Menteith and the National Park as a whole.

Funding for Trossachs Explorer looks uncertain despite success of the service last year along with uncertainty over funding for other mobility projects.

11.5 Port Church & Cemetery

Robin Armstrong

Rev Ellen Larson gave talk to Port School about Easter. The Primary School have been producing Art which will be on display at the church on Sunday 20th – Easter Day.

11.6 NPA Report & Entry Sign progress

David Mackie

DM did not attend and nothing to report

11.7 School Report

Ben Outterside

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

1. The school and its Parent council is still looking into having more engagement and to have a joint meeting perhaps once a quarter with a representative from the Hall committee and the Community council. Can we try and facilitate this. As mentioned before this is so we are all connected as to what is going on when in the village.
2. The School parent council (with some support from the Hall) organised a community ceilidh which had been postponed from 18th January due to illness of the musician and was held on 22nd March. The few that attended had an extremely enjoyable evening. But even with plenty of advertising for the event both through social media, the community email and from the Lake hotel there was very little support from the local village with only one member of the port community coming and one family from Dykehead.
3. We felt this was disappointing as there seems to be plenty of hype and verbal willingness from locals wanting more things to happen in the village and for the Hall to be thriving, but unfortunately both the Christmas fair and the Ceilidh the parent council have organised for the community have been poorly attended.

4. The Parent council are continuing to hold the Mini mornings which is a free event aimed at nursery and primary school children to help promote the school. The last mini morning was held at the school 29th March and was again a great success. The next is scheduled for 10th May.
5. Police Scotland have now been back to the school and took children from P5 to P7 out into the village with a list of questions and the speed gun to stop motorists going to fast through the Port. Within one hour there were over 5 vehicles stopped for speeding and pupils got to ask the drivers what the reasons were for the excessive speed.
6. At the last CC meeting the parent council raised 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.
7. The parent council would like to raise this again to see if there has been any update. There has been a temporary sign put up to the west of the village informing drivers of the hidden school entrance over the blind summit could it be put to the council that this is made into a permanent sign as a 'concealed entrance' sign as it would also serve the entrance for the School house driveway too?

Ben Outterside, Port of Menteith Parent Council Chairman

11.8 Police Report

PC Lorna Deans

Antisocial Behaviour

No reported incidents during this period.

Road Safety

On 07/03/25 on A81 between Port of Menteith and Braeval there was an incident involving a vehicle and a cyclist. As a result of this, the driver was issued with a recorded police warning.

On 27/03/25 on B8034 between Port of Menteith and Arnprior, damage was caused to a vehicle by another vehicle passing in the opposite direction. The driver of the offending vehicle failed to provide their details. Enquiries are continuing in relation to this.

Theft

During this period there was a housebreaking in the Brig O'Turk area and 2 quads bikes were stolen. These were later recovered in a wooded area near to Port of Menteith. Enquiries are ongoing.

Other Incidents / Activity of note

During this period Police Scotland have been contacted regarding possible bogus callers attending at farms in the Port of Menteith and surrounding area offering to carry out. Any suspicious people/vehicles in the area should continue to be reported to police.

11.9 Forestry and Land Scotland

Julie McAlpine

Attached and no comment made

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Broadband Provision: It became apparent during the consultation phase of the LPP that some households in PoM were still without fast Broadband. Estimates are that it is around 10 houses. MS had looked into this and had a preliminary list of houses that he would send to BS and BS will contact Shaun Marley (council digital officer) about how to fast track this.

Action BS

12.2 There is an appetite to see if it would be possible to connect up a **pathway** from the village to the new Auchyle track. JR and MS to look into the feasibility of this.

Action JR & MS

12.3 Hedges at Inchie Farm need cutting. Advised to post this via the Report it function.

13. Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday 16th June 2025. 7pm Port of Menteith Village Hall