

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 20th October 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)

Jane Barron - Resident

Kevin Harrison – Hall Committee - Apologies

Councillor – Elaine Watterson - Apologies

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 18th August 2025

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

4. Correspondence

There were four items of correspondence

1. Discussion on changes to CC meetings at Kilmaronock with the intention of increasing community engagement – occasional speakers with tea and biscuits etc – this point tied in with MS's meeting outlined below. It was agreed that whilst the idea was valid it would make more sense for this to be something for the Village Hall committee.
2. Martin Stewart reporting on the meeting of CCs – MS submitted a report (attached in Appendix) about this meeting and had some useful ideas to disseminate. Discussion was had about the usefulness of a WhatsApp Broadcast group in order to further communicate with residents. BS was a little concerned about adding more work and data updating etc to an already onerous task of keeping a mailing list up to date but felt that if this was something someone else wanted to take on then maybe this could work. MS also had information from FEL about grants for hall insulation that he said he would pass to the hall committee. ACTION MS
3. Jim Riach – reporting on meeting re DRT – Council are proposing 2 vehicles to run a bus route from Callander to Thornhill to PoM to Aberfoyle on a regular timetable to replace DRT. Calls for it to be flaggable from road ends. It will be digitally tracked. This will be run by council not private contractors. It was suggested that this could tie in with the proposal of making the Port Hall a 'mobility hub' as per the LPP. No timeline has been given for this but JR noted our interest in the project with the committee overseeing this.
4. Steve Barron – Email on issues with energy providers. A local resident having problems with Octopus energy regarding the installation of the correct equipment to operate the smart meter they were made to put in and wanted to see if anyone else was having a similar problem. BS suggested she could ask the question of the community in her emails but would pass any responses to SB to collate and action. AOE suggested to JB that it was possible that utility companies could not bill more than a year in arrears so to check this.

5. Ongoing Matters

5.1 Minutes Secretary – Nicky Finney has offered to be our minutes secretary but was away on the day of the meeting. The fee was discussed and it was agreed that BS should contact ME to see if SB had agreed to £60 (the current £40 being below the minimum wage) as discussed at the last meeting.

ACTION BS

5.2 Website – BS advised that Matthew Cole has offered to help with this and has started tidying up a sandboxed version of the site. We are currently awaiting a conversation with the hall on how they might want to integrate their site. AOE mentioned that the BDTRH organisers had offered to do the village site but it was explained that this would necessitate switching to Wordpress and them editing it so we had gratefully declined. AOE said he would ask if they would give a financial contribution towards our site.

5.3 Broadband provision and gaps in roll out BS chased Gene M who said he wd contact Shaun Marley on our behalf after the last meeting - nothing was heard back but it was pointed out that the Morrisons vans working on the A81 last week said they were working on broadband provision so it might be worth pursuing GM with this information to see if this might result in broadband for the gaps.

6. Local Place Plan and Community Action Plan –

LPP & CAP - MS noted that neither LLTNPA nor SC had yet registered the plan. MS said he would chase LLTNPA. Email in from James Lamont on 14.10.25 querying the community engagement section which was in draft. MS was unsure this was supposed to have been submitted and said this was covered in section. BS said she would just phone James Lamont to see what he wanted as it was not clear from his email.

JR keen to show and note progress on the 13 LPP proposals and to consider how a CAP could be developed and taken forward, JR had circulated a list of the LPP actions and a subsequent set of actions that had been suggested by the community at the Spring into Action and the Food Fair events. Some of these actions link into work being taken forward by COSP and the McLaren Futures group. JR went through the LPP proposals/actions with a brief update on each, several of the items were considered elsewhere on the agenda and it was agreed to align the naming of such actions and record progress against the LPP.

It was suggested we condensed the actions into a list and put it into a short poll and put it out to the community as to what work had been done so far on those actions and which 3 actions they wanted to take forward further. It was concluded however that this work will need to be done by sub groups formed from the local community as the CC and VHC could not do it all.

ACTION BS & MS

Pathways and mobility in and around the village was one of the key items within the LPP which stimulated much discussion. 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. JR/MS suggested creating a subgroup to look into this. AOE suggested engaging landowners as part of the solution to this from the get go and getting a better understanding as to their concerns. MS has contacted LLTNPA to get their opinions on how best to progress this. AOE stressed that the distinction between access for local people to get around over creating designated footpaths with way markers needed to be clarified with landowners. AOE agreed to help MS formulate a plan for this in the first instance.

ACTION MS & AOE

7. McLaren Community Futures

A meeting on 27th October at Brig O'Turk tearoom by a joint climate action group for all local communities working together will be attended by JR and he would like to encourage anyone else with an interest to attend.

ACTION JR

8. Roads & Other Issues

8.1 Cardross Bridge Update – Surfacing done. Weight still restricted and it was agreed to chase this up. Community benefit was poor – a small bit of tarmac that was not given a proper base and filling the drainage ditch at the back. No amount was given and contractor agreed things that were not done. It was agreed to take these points back to Maria Lucey.

ACTION BS

8.2 Footways and cemetery parking – no further progress as yet.

8.3 Kate's Brae – BS had a meeting with Martin Earl, Malcolm Pye (landowner), Jo Tomlinson (farmer), Matt Buckland (LLTNPA) and Angela McGibbon (SC) about the possible solutions for the issues with parking, littering and environmental degradation at Kate's Brae on B8034. It was decided and agreed by AM that the council would put in yellow lines, reduce the parking bay down to 4 cars with the use of boulders and concrete bollards and the landowner will add fencing in an attempt to stop overuse. The NP said they could help with signage and advised that having steps there makes the landlord liable for any trips or falls. Landlord advised that if this was not done by next summer he may consider robust deer fencing with a gate offer access via a combination padlock to local residents only.

9. Financial

The treasurer reported that the bank balance was unchanged at £628.80.

10. Reports

10.1 Councillor's Report

Councillor E Watterson

Rollout of new glass recycling bins underway. All residents will receive a letter outlining details of new changes which will include key dates and a full FAQ

By-election will take place on Thursday 30 October 20, 2025 for Ward 6 Stirling East

Brian Roberts appointed Chief Executive

10.2 Port Hall/Combined Committees Report

Kevin Harrison

Informal Report from Kevin Harrison

We are keen to move forward with the reorganisation of the Village Hall Charity.

In order to do this, we are setting up the new charity under the name: Port of Menteith Community Development Trust. We are processing an application with OSCR to set this up as a SCIO. Once this is done, with the existing charity trustees from the Village Hall, and adding any new ones, we will transfer the hall deeds to the new charity and close up the old one. This will take some time, but I would like to achieve this in the next three months.

The draft constitution was attached. If anyone wants to get involved please get in touch.

The village hall has had a number of new events, and some exciting use by local villagers for their anniversaries and birthdays as well as a very successful Food Festival attended by many and including presentations by Nick Nairn, Collymoon Gin and Green Routes. A massive thanks to everyone who made it such a success for the community and vendors. We also want to thank Jodie Fowler, Jim Riach, the Parent Council, Church Council and many other local volunteers and businesses for getting involved. Thanks to FEL for part funding.

SCHOOL REPORT FOR OCTOBER MEETING OF THE CC

It has been a busy start to the year at Port of Menteith Primary. There were 5 new P1's to settle into school life. Their group photo was printed in the Stirling Observer at the start of October.

As part of the pupils learning they visited the Church in Port of Menteith this term where they learned a lot about how a church is laid out and the importance of certain areas and also unique things about the church itself.

The school has also been working hard with the Bee Conservation Trust to become accredited as a Bee Friendly school. Lots of bee based learning has been going on in the classroom along with the school grounds being improved to make it more bee friendly. The shop Willow in Callander is supporting the school by donating seeds and some winter flowering plants.

After the October break the school Parent Council will be putting on a small Halloween disco for the school children at the village hall. Hopefully it will be a resounding success and next year it can be opened to the wider community.

A future date for the diary is on Saturday the 13th of December the Parent council will be putting on a small Winter Fayre at the village hall to fundraise for the school. This will be a few tables, tombola, raffle, children's decorations etc and teas and coffees. This will be open to the community to attend and support the school, details will be shared nearer the time.

10.4 Carse of Stirling Project Group Report**Jim Riach**

Nothing to report currently but several projects are in the offing to report on later

10.5 Strathard & Trossachs Visitor Management**Jim Riach**

Nothing to report ahead of a meeting in November

Port Church & Cemetery**Robin Armstrong**

It was reported that on 8th October a successful event was held where the school visited the church and were given a talk by Alan Simpson and did a project put together by the teacher to identify various elements of the building. It did much to foster the good relations between the school and the church and was deemed a success.

10.6 NPA Report & Entry Sign progress**Matt Buckland**

The cc have approved a sign for the NP but it has not as yet been put up.

Reporting Period: 15/08/25 to 19/10/25 Compiled by PC Lorna Deans

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.
In the early hours of 14/10/25 officers were carrying out patrols on A81 when they had reason to stop a vehicle near to Port of Menteith. The driver was arrested in relation to a number of road traffic offences and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The vehicle was also seized as the driver did not have valid insurance.

Theft

You are concerned about homes being broken into and travelling criminals.
Overnight between 12th and 13th October a vehicle was stolen from a property on B8034 between Port of Menteith and Arnprior. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to this.

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 TrossachsTeithCPT@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 / Activity of note New Sergeant

David Dempster is the new Sergeant covering the Trossachs and Teith ward area. He is based at Callander Police office.

Neighbourhood Watch

Donald and I are looking to encourage people to sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Alerts as we are planning to use this going forwards as one of the ways we communicate with our local residents.

This will allow us to provide local information that is hopefully more relevant to you and the area in which you live including appeals for information, work we are carrying out in your area, alerts regarding crime trends and any community events we will be involved in.

We ask that you encourage neighbours, friends and family to sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Alerts, the more people signed up the more effective it will become.

The sign up link can be found on the following website www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

New police equipment

On 24/09/25 all front line officers within Forth Valley division were issued with body worn video cameras as part of their everyday policing equipment. More information can be found on Police Scotland website explaining why and what officers will do with the footage recorded, how long the footage is retained for and how that footage is shared with the Procurator Fiscal Service.

It was noted that the theft referred to in the police report was from a farm and that two men are under suspicion by the police who are currently trying to build evidence against them. They have asked that if anyone sees an Electric Blue Mitsubishi Pick up L200 Registration WT19 JUO that these men should not be approached but to notify police of where it has been seen.

With regard to Neighbourhood Watch, the information will be passed to the community.

10.9 Forestry and Land Scotland

Julie McAlpine

In file and no comment made

11. Any Other Business

Having removed licensing from the agenda as a permanent point we have had a request from Nick Nairn Cook School for a variation to their license as per the attached pdf. No one had any objections to this.

Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday 8th December 2025. 7pm Port of Menteith Village Hall