

Meeting of the Pittenweem Community Council

On 18th February 2026 at 7pm

In New Town Hall

MINUTES

Items of Business

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2. Record members present and member apologies for absence

Members: Simon Learoyd, Stewart Moreland, Janet Dick, Graeme MacGilchrist
Others present: Jackie Clarke, Cllr. Alycia Hayes, 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Val Morrison

3. Minute of the last meeting: **21st January, 2026**

Chair to re-circulate previous meeting minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the last meeting

Website

It was acknowledged that follow-up with JC regarding development of Community Council website had not yet taken place. There was broad agreement that improved communication (including via a website) is necessary, particularly for:

- Publishing consultation notices
- Explaining planning matters in plain language
- Avoiding misinformation
- Demonstrating transparency in decision-making

ACTION:

- **[GM] Connect with JC regarding website development.**

Community Event / “Jamboree” – Strategic Reconsideration

The previously proposed large-scale community “jamboree” event (initially postponed to autumn) was reconsidered.

After reviewing historic documentation and consultations, the view emerged that:

- There has been significant past consultation work.
- Many initiatives remain unfinished.
- Community Council instability in recent years led to loss of continuity.
- Launching a major new event risks layering new commitments over unresolved ones.

Instead, members favoured:

- Consolidating and completing prior commitments.
- Reviewing historic consultation outputs.
- Identifying achievable short-term priorities.
- Potentially developing a community-wide “What’s On in Pittenweem” publication or database in collaboration with the Pittenweem Library and others.

There was consensus that the time for further consultation may have passed; the focus should now shift to delivery.

ACTIONS:

- **[All] All members to circulate any historic documents, consultation outputs, and draft plans they hold.**
- **[All] Next meeting to include a structured review session to identify and prioritise achievable actions.**
- **[JD] Explore feasibility of a “What’s On in Pittenweem” community publication/database.**

5. Other agreed items of business:

NnG Community Benefit Fund (Simon Learoyd)

A detailed presentation was provided on the £10,800 per annum community benefit funding.

Key points:

- Funds must begin being allocated soon to avoid future reallocation.
- Foundation Scotland will administer the fund at no cost.
- PCC retains decision-making authority.
- A 5-member local panel will be required:
 - 2 Community Councillors
 - 3 local residents

It was agreed that:

- PCC will proceed with Foundation Scotland administering.
- A single funding round is recommended for Year 1.
- Transparency regarding eligibility and conflicts of interest is essential.
- The statutory basis of the fund (linked to wind farm licensing) should be made clear to residents.

Two councillors (SL, SM) volunteered to sit on the panel.

ACTIONS:

- **[SL] Sign Memorandum of Understanding with Foundation Scotland.**
- **[SL] Draft and publish advertisement seeking 3 community panel members.**
- **[SL, all] Clarify conflict-of-interest framework in panel recruitment.**
- **[SL] Communicate clearly that funding arises from statutory community benefit obligations.**

Update on Cruden development consultation (Graeme MacGilchrist)

Extensive discussion occurred regarding Cruden Homes' proposed temporary use of Common Good land for construction access.

Context:

- Planning permission for the housing development is already granted.
- Current consultation concerns temporary access and compound use.
- Deadline for representations: **16 March**.
- Alternative to Milton Road access may involve prolonged temporary traffic lights on James Street.

Issues Raised:

- Ambiguity regarding access and egress routes.
- Concerns from Milton Road/Milton Place residents about safety.
- Concern that residents may not understand the implications or alternatives (the possibility of long term temporary traffic lights on James Street).
- Need to distinguish:
 - Planning approval (already granted)
 - Access arrangement consultation (current issue)

Some argued PCC's role is limited; others felt PCC must ensure informed local participation.

There was broad agreement that:

- Residents must be informed.
- The consultation is about access, not planning permission.
- PCC should not appear to re-litigate planning approval.
- PCC may express no objection to Common Good rental while still requesting proper consideration of traffic concerns.

ACTIONS:

- **[SL, SM] Ensure directly affected households are aware of consultation**
- **[GM] Draft PCC representation regarding Common Good land use.**
- **[GM] Request clarity from Cruden/Fife Council on traffic routing and safety mitigation.**

Role of PCC in planning consultations (Graeme MacGilchrist)

A significant policy-level discussion took place about:

- Whether PCC should comment on all planning applications.
- Whether it should limit involvement to:
 - Major developments
 - Conservation Area matters
- The tension between workload and statutory consultee role.

Councillor Hayes outlined systemic frustrations:

- Officer recommendations often override objections.
- Councillors must cite precise policy grounds.
- Legal pressures discourage refusal decisions.

- Community objections frequently feel disregarded.

There was agreement that:

- PCC cannot ignore its statutory consultee status.
- A principled framework for responding to planning applications is needed.

ACTION:

- **[All] Develop and agree a set of PCC planning response principles (to be discussed next meeting).**

Update on Pretty Pittenweem Project (Janet Dick)

Meeting held with local volunteers regarding former “Pittenweem in Bloom” assets. Issues identified:

- Unclear ownership of planters.
- Lack of inventory.
- Maintenance responsibilities unclear.
- Interest in historical documentation (e.g., named boat boxes at shore).

A March walkabout was proposed to audit assets. Volunteers may require funding support.

ACTIONS:

- **[JD] Co-ordinate with organisers of March walkabout to map and document planter ownership and condition.**
- **[GM] Clarify financial split between Community Council funds and Pretty Pittenweem funds.**
- **[GM] Provide funding support upon request (subject to budget clarification).**

Possible switch in regular timing of PCC meetings (Janet Dick)

It was agreed that to avoid clashes with other community council meetings and ensure regular attendance from Fife Council Councillors, the time of the PCC meeting will be moved back to 7:30pm. The day and timing in the month will not change.

Discussion of Local Place Plan (Janet Dick)

Key points covered in Matters Arising.

6. Correspondence

None beyond what was reported above.

7. Reports

- Councillors report(s)

Cllr. Alycia Hayes
Coastal Infrastructure & Sea Defences

- Severe underfunding of coastal protection (approx. £250k annual budget for entire Fife coastline).
- Multiple erosion risks (Pittenweem, St Monans, coastal path).
- Harris fencing is often used due to lack of repair funds.

Tourism Business Rates

- Sharp reassessments affecting local businesses.
- Meeting arranged with assessor to explain valuation methodology.

Visitor Levy (Tourism Tax)

- Debate ongoing over revenue distribution – whether distribution should occur locally in the areas affected most significantly by tourism, or broadly across Fife.
- AH suggested that FC would pursue the right balance between extremes.

Engagement with Chief Executive

Councillor Hayes secured meeting with Chief Executive to discuss:

- Planning system concerns.
- Community engagement deficiencies.
- Responsiveness of Fife Council.

- Treasurer report

Balance: £4,746.21

No recent transactions.

Outstanding:

- GDPR registration
- Hall hire invoices
- Clarification of historical fund allocation

ACTIONS:

- **[GM, JD] Pay outstanding invoices (hall hire, GDPR).**
- **[GM] Clarify allocation split between legacy Bloom funds and PCC funds.**

- Police report

No significant incidents noted.

- Planning lists

No significant applications present. One recent application for development in conservation area was withdrawn.

8. Any other Competent Business (AOCB)

In an email prior to the meeting, VM noted that she had liaised with with Councillor Sean Dillon and Louise Wilson (Secretary; Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland) to arrange a meeting and view of the Tolbooth. This will take place in March.

9. Any questions from members of the public

Noted by Bill Porteous:

- Ongoing sewer infrastructure works.

- Further consultation expected.
- Likely multi-phase timeline.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Wednesday 18th March, 7:30pm, New Town Hall

These minutes were initially prepared with the help of a LLM and checked and edited for accuracy by GM.