

Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council

26 June 2026 at 7pm – Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: Geoff Cartwright (Chair) Mandy Littlewood (Secretary) Lesley Scott, Sue Hamilton, Saffron Moir, Tom Leatherland, Jo McFarlane, Ellen Curry, Alex Lodge, Barbara McKenzie, Matt Kirkbride, Lesley Laird, Malcolm Hamilton, Cllr Andy Jackson, Steve and Carol Williams

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 pm. Apologies were noted from Cllr Andrew Verecchia, Cllr Brian Goodall, Paul Byford, Peter Hutchings and Tess Gibson. The meeting also recorded sadness at the tragic death of Jocky Wilson Snr. and acknowledged his contribution and character within the villages.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 May, including the AGM and ordinary meeting, were discussed. The ordinary meeting minutes were proposed by Lesley Scott and seconded by Sue Hamilton. AGM minutes will be addressed at the next AGM.

3. Matters Arising

- **Playpark:** Delivery of new equipment is expected on 17 August. Confirmation is awaited from Fife Council regarding the contractor start date.
- **Double yellow lines:** The new lines are now in place and the item may be removed from the agenda unless further issues arise.
- **Third village notice board:** Waterproofing has been improved, but the cork backing still requires attention. The invoice of £60 is to be passed to the Treasurer for payment.
- **School bollard:** The matter has been escalated within Fife Council by Cllr Goodall. The Council has indicated that it is now in hand.
- **Planning support organisations:** The Community Council agreed to renew membership of APRS and Planning Democracy at £40 each.
- **Parking exemptions:** No substantive update was available; item to remain on the agenda.

4. Broomhall Estate Matters

Pattiesmuir Piggery remains a concern and should be made secure. Hedge trimming will continue after the nesting season. Issues were also raised regarding the Queen's Hall car park area, estate walls, trees and paths.

5. Memorial path safety

Concerns remain about loose stones and poor footing on the path. A representative from West Fife Woodlands (who have upgraded various village paths/rights of way) is

expected to inspect and propose a practical solution, potentially including steps. The Floral Display group may support costs if modest.

6. CLP Nature Action

CLP Nature Action reported positive funding news, including individual donations and a Fife Council grant, allowing Josh's role in the garden project to continue until the end of March next year. The group is considering a community crowdfunder and event to build wider local support. Two people have been recruited to deliver the Rain Ready CLP project, which will focus on water capture and flood prevention, particularly in Limekilns. A water-themed weekend is planned for 25–27 September, including a film night, Scottish Water event and Great British Beach Clean. The group is also increasing its focus on the marine environment and school engagement.

7. Planning

Planning matters included the renewed application relating to the former schoolhouse and land behind the Sutlery in Charlestown, with four houses proposed. Broadband poles were discussed, including concerns about siting and visual impact. Members noted the Auchtertool data centre application and the imminent deadline for comments. Other development and signage issues were briefly noted.

8. Recruitment and Community Council Membership

The Council discussed ways to encourage wider community engagement, including using a table at the harbour event for informal written feedback and revisiting the previous community survey. Matt Kirkbride was formally voted in as a new Community Council member by unanimous agreement of the present Community Councillors.

9. Police Report

The police report covered Area 1C, including Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown, Crombie and Cairneyhill. Between 25 May and 28 June, 18 crimes were recorded, including road traffic offences, assaults and threatening or abusive behaviour. There were 252 calls across West Fife during the period. Members noted that the reporting area is broad and requested more locally specific bullet-point information where possible.

10. Councillor Update

Cllr Andy Jackson attended and confirmed that although future availability may be affected by other commitments from September, he remains keen to support the area and attend the Community Council meeting where possible. Residents were encouraged to continue raising issues through councillors as needed.

11. Twinning Association

The Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Twinning Association reported successful work with Limekilns Primary School pupils on logo ideas. Trustees have undertaken training and two trustees made a self-funded visit to Gensac, France, where they met local twinning representatives, mayors, school staff and community groups. Potential links include schools, sport, nature action, community gardens, knitting, music and local history. Priorities include widening membership, arranging a public signing ceremony, participating in the village gala, holding a Christmas quiz night and finalising policies and procedures.

12. Harbour update

Significant progress was reported on the harbour project. Craning out of boats is scheduled for 16 and 17 July, with the Sailing Club playing a key role in assessing, grouping and preparing boats. Some boats may not be capable of being lifted safely and will require further review. The harbour boom is expected to be installed the following week, after which boats will no longer be able to enter or leave the harbour. The estate is obtaining contractor quotations for disposal and must comply with SEPA requirements, including safe handling of fuel or oil, fencing and licensed disposal. A public drop-in event will take place on Saturday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in the church hall. Feedback will be collected and shared through the stakeholder group, Community Council and website. A meeting is also planned with Forth Shores to explore possible salt marsh development.

13. Any Other Business

- **Charlestown Green one-way system:** A resident asked whether the one-way arrangement could be reinstated. Members noted mixed views and the need for the correct consultation process before any signage or change is pursued.
- **Village bins:** Additional seagull-proof bins were requested, particularly along the route from the bus stop near Bruce Arms towards Red Row/Pan Knowe, particularly at the seating area near Red Row beach. The matter will be raised with councillors.
- **Promenade railings:** Concerns were raised about peeling paint, rust and the general appearance of railings. Members agreed this should first be treated as a council maintenance and safety matter.
- **Phone Box painting:** The Rotary Club has funded a local painter and decorator to undertake the repainting of the phone box at Limekilns village green.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25 August. There will be no meeting in July.