

Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council – Meeting Minutes

Date: 25 November 2025

Time: Meeting opened at 7:00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Attendees: Geoff Cartwright (Chair), Mandy Littlewood (Secretary), Paul Byford (Treasurer) Peter Hutchings, Tom Leatherland, Councillor Andy Jackson, Malcolm Hamilton, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Brian Machray, Alex Lodge, Craig Lindsay, Mr and Mrs Williams (Premier Homes Scotland)
- Apologies received from: Councillor Brian Goodall, Councillor Andrew Verrecchia, Peter Wilson, Jo McFarlane, Tess Gibson (Broomhall Estate representative)

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Thanks extended to Alex and Mandy for compiling the October minutes.
- Minutes proposed for adoption by Geoff; seconded by Leslie.
- Amendments requested:**
 - Premier Homes Scotland (PHS) requested an additional note under item 5H: "Premier Homes reminded the Community Council that on four occasions last year they offered to meet Pattiesmuir Community Council members and local councillors to try and find a way forward with the development, but their offers were declined".
 - The community felt that the constraints imposed on possible meetings with PHS made them impractical. The CC clarified its role is not to mediate disputes between private parties.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Wreath Display / Remembrance Day

- Thanks expressed to all involved in wreath arrangements and War Memorial information panel. Positive community feedback noted.

3.2 Play Park Update (Report from Peter Wilson)

Members may have seen the recent Facebook post, and Dunfermline Press coverage on an assessment by the Council maintenance team that parts of the Playpark are deemed to be unsafe due to deterioration and are to be fenced off. This will affect the larger play tower, and equipment in the immediate area, but not all of the park.

At the same time, final designs and costs are being agreed with the Council Link Officer and the

equipment provider. It is planned that tender invitation documents the ground work, site clearance, preparation and installation will be ready for issue in early December. The process is likely to take three months into 2026 before completion. During that time the whole Playpark site will be fenced off.

There are some issues still to be finalised, e.g. the replacement fence work, and to cover any unexpected costs, fundraising continues with recent applications to Miller Homes and the Airport Community Fund. Donations large and small continue to be received, including £1,000 from a local resident and £2,000 from Survivability Ltd. The fundraising group continue to be grateful for all donations.

3.3 Local Issues (Roads, Notices, Village Boards)

- Discussion around:
 - Play area fencing around Flying Fox only.
 - Delays in Council decisions on objections.
 - Double yellow line requests – notices up re. consultation. Decision needs to go to a local council meeting.
 - Third village notice board progress – Mike Burrows of Men's Shed is on it.

3.4 Potholes

- Significant repair works recently completed; praised efficiency.
- Ongoing issues noted at specific village locations.

3.5 Broadband Ducting

- Patchy and inconsistent communication from contractors.
- Only some residents received ducting in preparation for fibre optic cables.

3.6 Hedge Trimming / Cycle Track

- Hedge still causing vehicle whiplash concerns. Pattiesmuir hedge has still not been done. This needs to be added to the list for Broomhall Estate.
- Cycle track bumps: council access expected next August due to crop cycle.

4. Estate Update (from Tess Gibson)

4.1 Piggery Site & Asbestos

- Newly discovered asbestos type more complex to remove so an updated quote is required from the contractors.
- Warning signs and reinforced gateway planned. Continued vandalism and youth access remains a concern for Pattiesmuir residents. CC will press the estate for urgent action.

4.2 Cesspit Safety Concerns

- Large uncovered cesspit poses danger to trespassing youth.
- CC stressed need for improved full-perimeter fencing.

4.3 Lamping Activity

- Reports of illegal hare-hunting ("lamping") in Pattiesmuir.
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4.3 Floral display request

- Proposal to build a wooden mirror-image flower bed opposite existing stone structure.
 - To be constructed by Russell Kelly.
 - Estate approval required; Tess to be contacted.
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6. Charlestown Harbour Update

- Third stakeholder meeting held on 21st November.
- Strong coordinated progress reported.

6.1 Long-Term Vision

- Proposal to convert harbour area into a **salt marsh**, improving:
 - Environmental quality
 - Habitat for wildlife
 - Aesthetic value
- Presented by representatives from Open Seas.

6.2 Boat Removal

- Boats now legally owned by Broomhall Estate after deadline for removal passed.
- High cost for removal (estimated £100k–£200k).
- Potential "fire sale" for reusable boats.
- Fife Council may assist with skips for land-based debris.

6.3 Grant Funding

- Historic Scotland, Crown Estate and others identified as funders.
- Need clarity on land ownership/lease requirements for grants.

6.4 Press Release

- Estate, Lesley Laird and Chair preparing official release following premature media article.

7. Airspace Change / Airport Noise Update (Report by Tom)

- Printed summaries delayed by airport.
- New flight path proposals reviewed.
- Key concerns:
 - Flights over East Neuk villages
 - Need to shift airspace southwards
 - Conflict with Northumbrian Gliding Club airspace
- Public drop-in events noted (Dalgety Bay on 17 December).
- Residents encouraged to respond to consultation.
- Runway reconstruction ongoing nightly (Sun–Thu).

8. Treasurer's Report

8.1 Accounts Summary

- Approx. £30,000 in the CC account for play park.
- Reallocation of unused or no-longer-needed funds:
 - £100 (phone box) → unreserved
 - £35 (Zoom surplus) → unreserved
 - £80 (data protection fee – to be clarified)
 - £81 (Rob Thompson project) → unreserved
 - £280 (motorsport balance) → unreserved

8.2 New Funding Allocations

- £100 – Website support
- £100 – Harbour stakeholder Christmas cards
- £300 – Twinning group start-up and insurance costs
- Remaining £100 of £600 additional funds for Village Link printing

9. Planning Updates

- Sailing Club repainting applications submitted (conservation + listed building).
 - Double Row property seeking plastic sash windows – concern expressed.
 - Pattiesmuir mobile home application: Council extended decision deadline until the end of January.
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10. Police Report

- September report included Pattiesmuir burglary/assault.
 - October highlights:
 - 52 reported crimes in West Fife & Coastal Villages area; majority road traffic.
 - Ongoing issues with off-road bikes and quads.
 - Police working with CCs on youth education initiatives.
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11. Councillors' Reports

- Brian's report circulated.
 - Issues raised for Andy:
 - Missing road bollard at school
 - Knocked-down entrance pillar at school (major hazard)
 - Andy to follow up with Council/education department.
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12. Twinning Group Update

- Group expecting formal SCIO status in New Year.
 - Seeking start-up funds (insurance primary cost).
 - French-themed family quiz in The Bruce Arms: **30 January**.
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13. CLP Nature Action Report

- Thanks to nurdles hunters for a successful event, with 1,000s of nurdles collected.
 - Ongoing raffle and bake sale fundraising.
 - Beach clean completed by Community Payback team.
 - Example salt marsh at Skinflats recommended for reference.
 - Christmas gathering planned for 6 December.
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14. AOCB

- Memorial Tree for Eileen Kirkpatrick planted in Upper Wellheads. Thanks to Lesley Scott for growing the maple tree from a seedling.
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15. Date of Next Meeting - 27 January 2026

Meeting closed with festive greetings.