

Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council
Minutes of Meeting on 26 August 2025 at 7pm, in the Queens Hall

Attendees: Geoff Cartwright, Peter Hutchings, Paul Byford, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Tom Leatherland, Malcolm Hamilton, Craig Lindsay, Jo McFarlane, Tess Gibson, Cllr Goodall. Cllr Jackson, Carol Ritchie, Kirsty Smith, Barbara Mackenzie, Brian Machray, Steve Williams,

Apologies: Mandy Littlewood, Alex Lodge, Leslie Laird, Peter Wilson, Cllr Verrechia,

1. Introduction and Attendance

Geoff welcomed all in attendance and explained that we would again be using AI for recording and transcribing the meeting. He invited new attendees to introduce themselves. Dan Simms has lived in Limekilns for the last 18 months, and is interested in being involved in the Community Council. Carole Ritchie and Kirsty Smith came about the Pavement Parking.

2. Minutes of June Meeting. Approved after Lesley proposed, Malcolm seconded.

3. Matters Arising from June Meeting

a) War Memorial. Cllr Goodall heard today that the work should start and possibly finish on the 1st of September. Big crane coming in so there may be some disruption on the Promenade. There's always the issue that when they do lift the pillar, they may discover that there's more damage done than originally thought, in which case it would take longer

b) Play Park. Fundraising has now reached over £210,000. He thanks everybody for the generosity of small gifts and a series of large grants, the most recent being a conditional offer of £25,000 from the Fife Rural Development Fund, which is going to be spent by mid-February 2027. A local treasure hunt in aid of the playpark at the Play Park raised several hundred pounds. A Bucket Shake at East End Park takes place this Saturday. We're working with Fife Council towards its entry stage, and in the meantime fundraising will continue. Thanks from Peter to all who have supported the project, and I would say our thanks to Peter for the work he's done. He's taken on what seemed an insurmountable challenge and realised the funds so hopefully it will be built in short order.

c) Street Lighting: Main Street work is unlikely to start before the new financial year

b) Uneven slabs at Charles Way footpath. Slabs have been relayed, tailored and cut so you couldn't trip over anything whatsoever. Robbie Blyth denied responsibility, saying it was probably Muir Homes. He will convey our thanks to them.

c) Defibrillator in Phone Box: BT are not pushing us for a decision. The British Heart Foundation were offering free defibrillators recently, but they said we need to supply electricity. (Community Heartbeat, were guaranteeing electricity for seven years) Unlikely that BT will remove the phone box. Let's advertise again in Village Link.

d) Third Village Notice Board: Sue still to discuss design and cost with Rosyth Men's Shed.

e) War Memorial and Village Information Panels: Craig is making good progress with the War Memorial panel. May be best to make a general Village Information Panel a second project. Planning Permission would be required. Community Councils get some discount, so probably best to apply through the CC, even if funding might come via Rotary, or other funders.

f) Twinning Project: A fuller report is on the CC web site (www.clpvillages.com). We have developed a draft a constitution as a SCIO with a board of trustees and a membership. We are actively seeking potential trustees and members. Contact us at limekilns.info@gmail.com A French pop-up cafe will be run by the Coorie on the 19th of September. More details on the Coorie web site. Thanks to the Community Council and Fife Councillors for their encouragement and support.

g) Double Yellow Lines at Old Orchard. To be discussed at South and West Area Committee on 3rd Sept. Transportation still proposing a longer length up the hill. (The Double Yellow lines on the Prom are still in the long queue for road painting jobs.)

h) Charlestown Harbour. Main progress so far seems to be the erection of a sign indicating the closure of the harbour. We've a second meeting on the 5th of September, which we've had good interest from and commitments from all relevant parties, including SEPA, Forth Ports, Marine Scotland, local MPs and MSPs and councillors and others. The Estate has enlisted the advice of Hugh Garrett who is a trustee of Eyemouth Harbour (also privately owned).

i) Other Broomhall Estate: Core Path Closure through the Estate from the 6th - 8th September for the RAF Benevolent Fund event on the 7th. The alternative route is the main road. The half-built cycle track on the main road still reflects badly on the Estate and on BEAR. Both parties need to sort it out. Tess reported that the Estate is seeking quotes for the removal of the roof from the Piggery, but has no other plans. Cllr Goodall said there is a fund from the Scottish Government for councils to identify and treat contaminated land. Fife's funding has been used up for this year, but worth keeping it in mind.

5. Dog Bins at Douglas Bank.

Secretary had been contacted about the absence of a bin beside the cemetery. The welcome to the cemetery is grim. It's got lots of notices about dog fouling, dogs on leads, dogs this, and dogs that, and one saying 'Just bin it' but no bin. And there's no real title visible saying this is the wonderful Douglas Bank Cemetery that you've all heard of. There is a tiny sign on the other fence that has gone green with age. Contacted Brian and Liz Murphy of Bereavement Services and both responded immediately. Robbie Blythe, (magic man), can supply a bin from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, because it's the Pilgrim Way. The problem is managing to get it into an emptying schedule. Jim Stenhouse who is in charge of bin emptying, (and a problem solver) is off sick at the moment. Brian will follow up with Waste Management.

Sue asked that 'While we are in Pattiesmuir, and as Steve Williams is here, whether he might give any update on the housing development from a Premier Homes perspective?' He replied 'No, not at the moment'. She asked 'If you need a bit of notice of that, maybe you could give us an update at the next meeting (September 30th)'.

6. Pavement Parking

There was extensive discussion, during which these facts emerged: The Scottish Government gave Fife £188,000 to implement the legislation. Fife is not planning to employ any additional parking attendants to monitor/ enforce the ban. Date for implementation of the ban is 1st September. Consultations between Transportation and the local councillors are ongoing. The meeting for this ward is not until 9th September. The streets that Brian has listed for exemption in Limekilns are Charles Way South, Upper Wellheads, Brucehaven Road, Main Street and the Promenade. When streets have been identified for exemption, this has to be marked on the ground and with signs. Brian undertook to inform the residents of Charles Way South of the outcome of the meeting on the 9th. It seems rather likely that enforcement is likely when there are cases of repeat offenders causing obstruction.

7. Treasurer Report.

Not much to report, it's a quiet time bills being paid. There's money in the account the largest sum of money is for the Play Park. Sue mentioned that the annual accounts were not visible at for the AGM in May. Paul will send Sue a copy for her file.

8. CLP Nature Action

Jo spoke enthusiastically about all that is happening. A fuller report is on the CC web site (www.clpvillages.com).

- British Beach Clean 21st of September from 11.30 to 12.30 Sunday, doing 8 beaches and that's partly because we've got more trained up beach clean leaders (two of them are young people). We desperately need more volunteers for this big beach clean of the year.
- Also doing our river pollution sampling on the Lynburn at two sites, one at Waulkmill one at Iron Mill Bay, just tried out one at Rex Park as well. We're monitoring invertebrates and insects in the river. The numbers indicate regular pollution, which should trigger SEPA inspection. Next dates are of August and 14th of September. If anyone would like to come along and see what it's all about, that'd be great.
- School and community garden.. We've got some lovely volunteers helping with the children again this year. Josh, our school community garden warden, is there two days a week, and I will be fundraising to get him next year or else I don't know what will happen. But the project is going brilliantly. Over the holidays, we invited the community to help themselves to any excess produce – and they did!
- We also have a seagrass meadow at Brucehaven. A lot of effort is made to try and grow seagrass elsewhere, but our seagrass meadow is growing naturally. It's a dwarf version of the eelgrass. Herriot Watt and others are interested in our seagrass as to why ours is growing where others aren't. So that's exciting.
- I've been invited to Parliament to talk to heads of planning, Scottish MSPs, lots of people around the fact that communities such as ours do not have a voice when it comes to developments, particularly around biodiversity and nature.
- We've had some success in working with Stirling Developments, who were initially open to working with us as a nature group and Community Council. But it has been difficult. Navigating the planning system is an absolute nightmare for small

communities that have no resource or money. And we have such little voice, which is very unjust when it's our nature and our local area that is to be built over.

- We also doing a global nurdle hunt on Sunday, the 26th of October from 11.30 to 12.30. Thank you one and all, who supported us at the gala and gave us donations. We're not just about beach cleaning.
- Cllr Jackson said he would like to get on the beach to help, but his visual impairment, makes it difficult. Jo reassured him that he could work with others in small groups

9. Planning

Kingswood. Will not start to break ground till the new year. At that stage, they will be starting to build a road from the bad bend on Limekilns Road towards Grange Road with all sorts of infrastructure that has to go with that road building, drainage and services and eventually tarmac. After that, there will be development of plots to the north of it between that road and Dunfermline.

Salt pans. The planning application to build a house beyond 9 Saltpans has now been withdrawn.

West End Cottage, Pattiesmuir Application to put two static caravans in the garden between the house and the Brankholm Burn. Objection from residents and the Community Council on a number of grounds.

10. Police Report. None received

11. Councillor Reports. Brian's is on the Community Council web site (www.clpvillages.com). He gave Lesley laminated A5 posters of his Surgeries for the noticeboards. Lesley also thanked Brian for finally getting the dangerous stub removed that was left from the Limekilns sign by the War Memorial.

12. AOCB

Broadband. Houses at the bottom of Charles Way are being offered installation of free ducting from the pavement to their house, ready for whenever fibre comes. They needed the householder's permission to dig a trench across the garden and fill it in after laying ducting. The lady, who was from Morrison Construction said those were the addresses she was given. Who knows what's happening for the rest of us!

Overnight closure of Limekilns junction with the A985. It took BEAR a long time to get the correct date on their signs, and finally got it right as the night of 18th/19th. They've done an amazing job of resurfacing the whole road and re-white lining it, very cleanly and quickly. They obviously practised at these things.

Roadside hedge trimming, It's that time of year when you cannot walk safely along the footpath on the Limekilns Road. It is the responsibility of the farmer, and he's still busy with harvest. The stretches where the pavement is blocked should be the priority.

SGN works at Charles Way. They came with a lot of kit and diggers, dug two holes, and then, after a couple of days, filled them in again. Their plan showed some metal pipe on the supply lines to the wooden houses. When they dug the holes, they find nice yellow plastic pipe down there. (Householders had been told that they could be without gas for around about a day.)

Green Freeport is mentioned in Brian's report. Solar panels, still not installed. Brian said he's still waiting to hear what community benefit we're going to see from it when it goes ahead, because I think if there was a solar or a wind farm going on anywhere else, community benefit would be one of the key outcomes from, so I don't want them to hide behind the Green Freeport and say, well, we're part of a bigger project, so we don't have to make contributions to the community, so I keep chasing them on that. At the moment, the community dis-benefit is that the aircraft carrier is sitting there generating its own electricity from filthy oil, and we're getting the sulphur dioxide which is not terribly green. It's a 35-year project. Maybe they're going to do it all in year 30, with the way things are going. They are investigating rail access - again. Tom reminded the meeting that 10 years back, they had investigated rail access to the port, and you couldn't get a 40-foot container around the corners in the tunnel, which links the dockyard to the main railway network!

Speed humps. Years ago, we were told that 20mph zones couldn't be implemented without speed humps. Everyone else now has 20mph zones and no speed humps. Has there been a change in the legislation? Brian said probably not, more likely just a change in the budget! Comment was made about parking opposite the school meant that humps couldn't be properly negotiated. Jo suggested an email be sent to the school asking that 'new intake' parents be reminded of the parking advice that was developed.

Fire at Lochhead. There is a suggestion it was because of a wrongly disposed battery. Wasn't there going to be a battery collection service?

Fife has a new Senior Access Officer working with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Katherine Wilson from the Woodlands Trust. Beryl says she's inherited a rather large caseload!

Limekilns Park bins. There is just one rusty one at the moment and we originally had three. Brian said two have been ordered. A request was made for a third one at the exit to Upper Wellheads

Gala. Brian commented on the great achievement of Charlestown winning the tug of war for the first time ever.

Date of Next Meeting. September 30th Queens Hall 7pm.