

Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on 30 September 2025 at 7pm, in the Queens Hall

Attendees: Geoff Cartwright, Peter Hutchings, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Mandy Littlewood, Alex Lodge, Craig Lindsay, Cllr Goodall, Barbara Mackenzie, Brian Machray, Rob and Norma Gray, Steve and Carol Williams, Scott McAllister

Apologies: Paul Byford, Leslie Laird, Peter Wilson, Dan Simms, Tom Leatherland, Malcolm Hamilton, Jo McFarlane, Cllr Jackson, Tess Gibson, Cllr Verrecchia,

1. Introduction and Attendance

Geoff welcomed all in attendance and explained that we would again be using AI for recording and transcribing the meeting.

2. Minutes of August Meeting. Geoff proposed, Peter seconded. Approved

3. Matters Arising from August Meeting

- a) War Memorial was reinstated on 2nd September. Recommend that all tier joints should be repointed, using appropriate materials. Also address damage caused by wreaths and wire; consider alternative arrangements for wreath display. Cleaning discussed but not recommended due to potential loss of historical patina and risk of increased erosion. Action: Explore partnership for re-pointing and repairs; consider volunteer involvement.
- b) War Memorial Information Panel. Craig has been co-ordinating with Scott McAllister of the Lime Centre, the sign people in Rosyth, and contacts at Babcock to get the right design for an 'accessible' information panel about the War memorial. He brought along a wee model to show the general idea. A planning application was made by the Community Council as it is charged half price!
- c) Play Park. Final design in preparation, incorporating community feedback. Project to go out to tender in December; managed by Fife Council. Fundraising ongoing. Recent Bucket Shake event at East End Park raised over £500. Many thanks for all efforts and contributions
- d) Charlestown Phone Box. Decision made to withdraw our expression of interest in adopting the Charlestown payphone box.
- e) Third Village Notice Board: Sue has discussed design and location with Mike Burrows of Rosyth Men's Shed. Peter Douglas is content for it to be fixed to his back. Should be designed to accommodate four A4 sheets. Key holding and access arrangements to be determined.
- f) Twinning Project: SCIO application submitted to OSCR to formalize charitable status. Recent French Pop-up Café event at The Coorie included a live video link with a café in the French partner village who were holding a Scottish evening at the same time!
- g) Double Yellow Lines at Old Orchard had been discussed at SW Area Committee on 3rd Sept. Approval was given for a longer length up the hill. Will now be subject to public

consultation. (The Double Yellow lines on the Prom are still in the long queue for road painting jobs.) A Steven Lawlor had passed a thoughtful note to the meeting via Karen Grant. He was suggesting the concept of 'Shared Space' for the length of Church Street. This is something that has been used in residential areas, whereby careful design of street surfacing and placement of street furniture and signage mean that all traffic speeds are reduced to below 10mph. However idyllic the concept, it would be unlikely to be considered for a bus route with regular HGV movements.

h) Pavement Parking ban seems to have been implemented without incident, thus far, in the villages.

i) Bin at Douglas Bank. Within days of the last meeting, a new bin had been installed outside the cemetery. Excellent co-operative effort between Robbie Blyth and Waste management, (with an added nudge from Brian G!).

Mandy took the Chair for item 7

7. Premier Homes Scotland

Mr and Mrs Williams were invited to provide an update on the Pattiesmuir Development. They responded that 'we have planning permission to build eight houses, and that's all I can say at the moment. There are still ongoing legal cases, so I'm kind of limited to what I can say at the moment'.

8. Charlestown Harbour.

At the second meeting (on Sept 5th) of key stakeholders relating to the harbour, there was disappointment at the lack of progress that had been made since the first meeting. Nothing had been done about a boom across the entrance, or an assessment of the state of the outer wall. It seems people are still bringing boats in and out, but mainly in. The Estate has been made well aware that it is their responsibility, but professes a lack of expertise and resource. They even suggested that a community asset transfer could take place (supposedly to give us access to funding that is not available to them!) It is most unlikely that there's an appetite for that within the community. After all, the Estate took back ownership of Charlestown Harbour in 1964 as property speculation, and it is now a millstone that needs fixed. They have brought in a Hugh Garrett, a trustee of privately owned Eyemouth Harbour. Apparently, he has expertise in obtaining grants, and in harbour management. He also has a structural engineering qualification, so he's well suited to the purpose. But he has, as yet, not been introduced to the stakeholder group, or produced anything in writing. Shirley Anne Somerville has been at both meetings despite her parliamentary commitments. Graham Downie, MP, was also there asking basic questions like, do you have insurance? There is plenty of support for the Estate on offer, but little take-up thus far.

9. Other Estate Issues

Tess said that they have contractors coming to look what needs done about the Piggery.

10. West Road Closure.

Closed for two weeks from yesterday for resurfacing. Stagecoach has arranged a shuttle bus to fetch people from Charlestown. Hope they will make a more defined edge to the roadway.

11. Treasurer Report.

Secretary awaits refund for planning fee which she paid for the War Memorial information panel. Also still requires a copy of last year's accounts for her records.

12. CLP Nature Action

No report, but very successful beach clean on 21st September. Great Nurdle Hunt to come on 26th October.

13. Planning

East 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.

14. Police Report. None received. Always seems to arrive the day after CC meetings.

15. Councillor Reports. Brian's is on the Community Council web site (www.clpvillages.com).

16. AOCB

Village Link. A September issue has been published.

Broadband – more ducting. Morrisons have been working for BT in the Charles Way area to check the extent of an open route along the street for fibre. They have identified blockages where they will have to investigate further

Roadside hedge trimming, Secretary has contacted John Hutcheson.

Fife Card renewal / replacement. Apparently, this can no longer be done at Community Centres. Has to be done on line, or at Queen Anne, or Dunfermline High schools

Date of Next Meeting. October 28th Queens Hall 7pm.