Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 22 September 2026 at 7pm
Location: Queen's Hall, Charlestown
Chair: Geoff Cartwright
Secretary: Mandy Littlewood
Minutes prepared from: Meeting transcript

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Geoff Cartright (Chair), Mandy Littlewood (Secretary) Peter Hutchings, Alex Lodge, Paul Byford (Treasurer), Tom Leatherland, Cllr Brian Goodall, PC Sam Mackay and PC Kay Parter, Sheila & Robin Hutton, Craig Lindsay, Cllr Andrew Verrecchia, Saffron Moir, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Angie Donald

The meeting welcomed two new local police contacts, Sam and Kay.
Apologies were recorded from Lesley Laird, Peter Wilson, Matt Kirkbride, Jo McFarlane and Malcolm Hamilton.

2. Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were approved, proposed by Sue Hamilton and seconded by Tom Leatherland.

3. Matters Arising

- **Play Park:** New equipment had been installed apart from the flying fox/zip wire, which was delayed by a design and installation issue. Surfacing and landscaping were continuing, with signage and an opening event being planned. Peter Wilson was thanked for his leadership.
- **Planning support organisations:** Continued membership had previously been agreed and subscriptions had been paid.
- **Bin at Red Row:** Enquiries had been made, but no response had yet been received.
- **Promenade railings:** Repainting remained subject to inspection; no further update had been received.
- **Pavement parking exemptions:** The first phase remained in design and any additional street would fall into a later phase. The committee and consultation process was expected to be lengthy.
- **Speeding, parking and road safety:** A site visit re. Main Street is awaited. Sufficient notice has been requested so residents could attend or submit views. Potential measures included sign relocation and renewed road markings. *(ML has chased up Fife Council for this meeting date)*
- **Wiggly Bridge:** Overgrown vegetation was restricting visibility at the bridge out past Charlestown towards the A985 at Merryhill, particularly on the north side. Ownership and responsibility should be established, and suitable safety measures investigated.
- **War Memorial:** Surface and safety works remained under review, with completion expected before Remembrance Sunday.

4. Police Update

The incoming local police officers confirmed that they would take over community coverage and attend meetings when shifts allowed. The community mailbox would remain the main contact route, and meeting dates would continue to be supplied to the police.

Concerns included off-road bikes, e-bikes and quad bikes. Possible use of police drones was being explored at a wider Fife/Scotland level, alongside an online youth-awareness video. Members asked for future crime statistics to distinguish the local villages from larger neighbouring areas. This should now be the case, as the villages are reported separately from Rosyth.

5. Charlestown Harbour

- The permanent harbour boom was clearing customs and Briggs Marine was on standby to install it.
- The harbour-wall survey report was about three-quarters complete; costs and responsibilities would be considered once available.
- Boat removal was almost complete. Partly submerged boats would continue to be monitored because removal could disturb contaminated sediment.
- The estate was considering future harbour access and liability, including possible community uses such as kayaking.
- St Andrews University was undertaking pro bono work on the feasibility of salt-marsh restoration. Sampling and a LiDAR survey were ongoing, with a report expected in March 2027.

6. Treasurer's Report and Community Projects

- Standing orders had been set up for Planning Democracy and APRS subscriptions.
- A Remembrance Sunday wreath was expected shortly.
- Approximately £57 in parts was approved in principle for electrical safety work and lighting in the Limekilns telephone box; labour was being offered free. Many thanks to the sub-group looking after this – Elaine, Sue and Jerry.
- Grant Thompson was appointed as an associate to the CLPCC to lead a small volunteer group for the Charlestown telephone box. External funding is being sought for a defibrillator and other improvements.
- Payment to the Men's Shed had been completed.

7. CLP Nature Action and Environmental Updates

- Members were asked to promote the film night, *Our Blue World*, at the church from 7.00–9.00 pm on Friday 25 September.
- A Scottish Water community event on local water and sewage management was scheduled at the church from 11.00 am–3.00 pm on Saturday 26th September. (*See the photo of the Lego model, below*).
- The Great British Beach Clean was scheduled for Sunday 27 September, with refreshments afterwards at the Bruce Arms. *(The rain trolleyed down but we had loads of volunteers of all ages – also see below)*
- The final river-sampling session of the year recorded encouraging biodiversity at Waulkmill, although recent dry weather meant storm sewers had not been activated.

(Soggy) beach cleaning



Rain capture models in Lego



8. Planning

- There had been little local planning activity. Permission had been granted for change of use and alterations at 16 Halketts Hall, formerly “The Ship”.
- Members objected to the proposed removal, from 1 October, of email submissions as a means of making planning comments. Concerns included short notice, lack of consultation, accessibility and reliability of the online portal. Councillors indicated that cross-party objections were being raised.

9. Community Council Matters

- The “Have Your Say” survey would remain open for another week. Further paper copies would be distributed and a summary presented at the next meeting.
- Costs and funding options would be investigated for a portable hearing-loop system to improve accessibility at community meetings.

10. Councillor Reports

- **Charlestown Green:** £25,000 had been allocated, but design work was delayed because council staffing design resources were committed elsewhere. External construction would also be required. Councillor Goodall is going to request that the design works also be outsourced if possible and, if not, request a firm timetable for works.
- A one-way system around the Green remained under consideration. Evidence of road-safety concerns and damage caused by vehicles leaving the carriageway would be submitted.
- Members reiterated that repairs should address both the road and reinforcement of the Green’s edge to prevent repeat damage.
- Concerns about Pattiesmuir Piggery, belonging to the Estate, including fire-setting and asbestos, had been passed between council services. The possibility of adding the site to community-warden patrols would be pursued.

11. Any Other Business

- **Broadband pole:** An objection had been made to the siting of a new pole beside the public toilets/shelter in Charlestown. Openreach had advised that it found no legal reason to move it; escalation would be considered.
- **Limekilns Pier notice board:** The former board had been removed as part of a coastal-path signage project. A new plinth and interpretation board are planned. Completion was intended ahead of the coastal path anniversary in 2027.
- **Lamping:** Suspected illegal activity in fields should be reported through 101 or the Police Scotland online contact form; a link would be added to the community website.
- **20 mph sign:** The non-functioning flashing speed sign had been reported and would be followed up with Transportation.
- **Twinning:** The proposed 27 October event will not go ahead. A Family Games Afternoon with a French theme is planned for 14 November in the Church Hall.
- **Coastal path:** Responsibility and funding for the damaged path between the Scout Hall and Pattiesmuir, past the Old Churchyard remained unclear and is to be investigated further (*ML to action*).
- **Hospital parking campaign:** The council agreed to support Largo Community Council's campaign, using the generic community-council email address.
- **School road safety:** Concerns were raised about pupils crossing near the high school, particularly at lunchtime.
- **Drifting yacht:** The sailing/yacht club was thanked for securing and refloating an unmanned yacht that had broken free from moorings and drifted into the bay.
- **Local business:** Members congratulated the incoming operator of the Sundial Café and Pantry, Saffron Muir.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 27 October 2026 at 7pm in The Queen's Hall, Charlestown.