

Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 26 May 2026

Start time: approximately 7.30 pm

Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Geoff Cartwright, Mandy Littlewood, Barbara McKenzie, Peter Hutchings, Tom Leatherland, Matt Kirkbride, Cllr Andy Jackson, Beryl Leatherland, Malcolm Hamilton, Linda McPhee, Cllr Brian Goodall, Craig Lindsay, Jock Wilson, Paul Byford, Jo McFarlane, Saffron Moir, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Brian Machray, Robin & Lorna Gray, Eileen Ferguson, Liz Hutchings, Tess Gibson, Steve Williams, Leslie Laird.

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Verrecchia

1. Matters arising and project updates

Play park: An update was given that funding had been secured and procedural steps with Fife Council were continuing. Confirmation from the council on contractor arrangements was still awaited before publicising next steps more widely.

Double yellow lines: Members noted that the original request had ultimately been implemented, although with some variation. The change was said to be making a positive difference.

Village notice board: Concerns were raised about the practicality and upkeep of the third notice board.

Scottish Water pipe / other transport matters: Members noted ongoing delays and a lack of response on outstanding transport-related issues, with chaser emails continuing to be sent. It was confirmed that the Scottish Water pipe at Red Row/Promenade is not being replaced due to proposed rainwater capture activities.

Parking exemptions / local road concerns: It was reported that only some locations had been agreed for pavement parking exemption design work so far, and that staffing shortages were delaying progress.

2. Broomhall Estate matters

An update was given on estate matters including the piggery site, hedge trimming, potholes, wall issues affecting Old Orchard, drainage/water matters and other maintenance concerns. It was reported that the piggery remained a concern and continued to require monitoring.

The estate advised that hedge work would likely wait until after nesting season unless visibility became a greater concern. Members also raised concerns about recent fire incidents and communication between the police and land owner about such events.

Under AOCB, a resident raised the issue of the wall between the estate and The Old Orchard as a matter for the list of ongoing repairs/remedial works.

Action: Estate representatives to continue monitoring key sites and provide feedback on outstanding maintenance and safety concerns where possible.

3. War Memorial

Safety concerns were raised about the paths around the War Memorial, including matting becoming exposed. Discussion focused on uncertainty over ownership and responsibility for the surrounding land and paths, given previous volunteer and community involvement.

It was suggested that ownership records should be checked and that advice may be needed on what remedial work would be appropriate, particularly given accessibility and safety concerns.

Action: Check land ownership/records and consider options for addressing the path safety issue.

4. CLP Nature Action community and environmental projects

Updates were given on community projects including a social beach clean, a successful plant sale, and funding work linked to the community garden and wider environmental initiatives.

A new rain-ready/community engagement role funded through external support was highlighted. This work will focus on water capture, reducing pressure on storm drains and building community awareness, with a larger public engagement weekend planned for September.

The meeting also heard about engagement with industry regarding historic nurdle pollution in the Firth of Forth, and the possibility of developing practical proposals for clean-up support.

5. Charlestown Harbour project

A detailed update was provided on the Charlestown Harbour project. The next stakeholder meeting was due later that week, with several key actions and deliverables expected from the estate and partner agencies.

A community drop-in event was confirmed for **4 July** at the church hall to share progress over the past year, outline challenges and gather community views on future options for the harbour area.

Members were told that the estate had indicated willingness to move forward with lifting boats from the harbour, potentially in mid-July, with support from the sailing club. However, this remained dependent on a full plan for lifting, spill response, and disposal of boats once removed from the water.

It was noted that a spill response plan is required, alongside staff training and agreement with relevant agencies. Planning permission had also been approved for a boom across the harbour to prevent further movement of boats once the initial clearance phase is complete.

Discussion covered future options for the harbour, including environmental restoration, community use, commercial possibilities and the need to avoid transferring disproportionate legal or financial risk to the community. The importance of the 4 July consultation in shaping future direction was emphasised.

Actions: Stakeholder meeting to proceed; update to be provided after Friday's discussions; community consultation/drop-in to take place on 4 July.

6. Planning issues

It was reported that there had been no new planning applications in the immediate area since mid-April, although some previous applications had progressed.

7. CC governance and recruitment/retention

The meeting discussed community council governance and recruitment.

Members reflected on the need to rebuild membership following earlier resignations and to ensure the council remains representative, relevant and open to wider community input.

Ideas included using community events, questionnaires, leaflet drops, QR codes, social media and outreach to younger residents and community groups. It was agreed that governance/recruitment should remain a standing agenda item.

Action: Keep community council governance and recruitment as a standing item and continue developing ways to gather community views and encourage new members.

8. Police and Councillor reports

A police update was noted, including figures for road traffic matters, concern for person calls and antisocial behaviour across the wider reporting area. Members commented on the reduced level of direct police attendance and engagement compared with previous years.

Ward Councillors reported that many key issues for the area had already been covered, including road markings, transport matters and Charlestown Green. It was noted that surveys and preparatory work would be required before Charlestown Green works progress.

8. AOCB

Red phone box: An update was given that volunteer help and funding had been offered for repainting/restoration. The meeting felt the phone box should remain red and that no further special requirements were known beyond this.

Bench donation: A resident offered one or more benches for community use as part of ongoing work at the former pub/shop premises. Possible locations were discussed informally and to be considered further.

Pitliver junction: The meeting heard that Transport Scotland had asked for a review of forward visibility and of the suitability of the 50 mph limit. It was agreed that formal community council input would be most useful during any future statutory consultation.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was noted as **Tuesday 30 June**.

Meeting closed.