

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th October 2024
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 24 villagers, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Constable Peter Sinclair

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Baillie Rhona Brock, David Gow, Isobel Howell, Russell & Liz Cunningham, Gary & Moira Loudon, Cathy Moncrieff, Stewart Gavigan, Ruth Graham

2. Minutes of last AGM meeting

Minutes of the last AGM Meeting on 1st November 2023 were proposed as a true record by Richard Graham and seconded by Barry Fisher.

3. Chairs report

Welcome to everyone here tonight and thank you for attending.

It's been another very busy year but also, I believe, a productive one.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all our volunteers for their support throughout the year.

Our Community Councillors, Audrey, Rico and Tom. Audrey works incredibly hard as part of a number of groups across the village and has kept us well organised this year. Thanks to Tom for completing his first year on the Council and his support attending and leading various meetings. Thanks also to Rico, who has now completed his 5th year on community council as Treasurer. Rico is planning to retire from community council ahead of our next meeting so, a special thank you for his support and time.

We also have our 2 associate members of the community council that we would like to extend thanks to, Don and John who both led on the building of our new village website. They continue to ensure its kept updated and technical glitches are fixed. Thanks also to John for arranging and setting up the Sandison Hall WIFI this year along with Stewart for supporting with the cabling works.

I also want to highlight the ongoing voluntary work completed across all the subsidiary groups of the community council. Everyone involved contributes to making St Fillans a fantastic place to live. These include Paths Group, Garden Group, Playpark Group, Festive Committee, and our newly formed Bus Group. Until recently, we also had the Place Plan Group however, after the completion and launch of the Local Place Plan, this group has served its purpose and delivered a well admired Local Place Plan for the next 10 years. Well done to Carol Graham and everyone who worked on this group.

A thank you also to the ongoing support of the Community Trust and Church for their support of the community council and the village. The Community Trust generously supported the cost of the development of our new website. We will be working particularly closely with the Trust in the coming year to ensure the village can maximise the potential community benefit options from the two potential windfarms in the planning.

There are so many people that have helped throughout this last year in various ways that I am sure I may have forgotten to mention something important, so apologies if I have.

Before I move on to summarise key activities for the year, I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to new villagers that have moved to St Fillans since our last AGM. Please, if you can, get involved in the activities across the village. We need new people to come through to community council after the end of the following year to ensure its continuity. The village volunteer groups will also welcome any additional pairs of hands.

Speeding/ Speed monitoring

In March this year we finally managed to get some speed monitoring through the village. We managed to get the length of time of the monitoring extended through to Easter and to get sight of the results from Transport Scotland. It showed there were pockets of speeding across a range of vehicles.

I've been told this week that final clearance has been given from Police to Transport Scotland to make St Fillans Village a 20mph zone. PKC will also be arranging for Station Road and Dundurn Walk to be converted to a 20mph zone, being the only PKC adopted side street in the village. This change aligns with the National Strategy. Transport Scotland are discussing implementation timelines for both, but Transport Scotland is stating at the moment, that they are expecting to implement to 20mph limit on the A85 through the village during the first half of 2025.

Dundurn Walk Phase 3 Development

Despite a number of objections from the village and one from the Community Council relating to topics including the unadopted waste pump in Dundurn Walk, parking concerns and the development not meeting the need of the new Local Place Plan, LLTNP Planning Committee opted to approve the Dundurn Phase 3 development in February of 2024 at a meeting at the Four Seasons. There was a strong turnout from the village, packing out the meeting room and disappointment that a number of concerns raised at representations were not added to conditions or discussed during the meeting.

Dundurn Waste Pump

After lengthy discussions with Scottish Water, they advised earlier this year that they will vest the Waste Pump under the non-Trading Process. Most importantly, Scottish Water have

committed they will take responsibility to attend and fix any repairs or breakdowns as they work through this process.

Public Toilets

The long-term future of the Public Toilets remains uncertain with just the Ladies left open as a multi-use toilet. After a period of the extra porta loos being in place again during the first half of the season, they were removed early Summer after The Four Seasons signed up to be part of the Comfort Scheme.

Policing

Engagement and attendance at Community meetings from Community Policing dropped this year, however, after a good meeting with Inspector David Rice, we are hopeful meeting attendance, communication and engagement will grow again this coming year

Unfortunately, following the review of final dash cam footage relating to the group who gained unauthorised access to a jetty beside the Drummond, it has been deemed there is not sufficient corroborating evidence to prosecute those that damaged the access chain.

Bus Stops, Shelters and Service

The work to the bus stops took place during the end of the summer. We are still awaiting our new bus shelters to be installed at site 1 and site 4 at opposite ends of the village. Disappointingly, the bus service continues to be scaled back. The new Bus Group is working to engage in discussions to investigate a community bus service moving forward and is working with PKC and Stewart Donaldson to discuss options around current scheduling.

Windfarms – Glentarken (SSE) and Glen Lednock (Low Carbon)

We have worked to engage both developers this last year with good success and we had well attended public exhibitions in the Sandison Hall take place. We look forward to continuing to build these relationships as we work with both developers to ensure that St Fillans benefits from a fair share of Community Benefits associated to the developments should they go ahead. More about next steps in the ordinary meeting.

The Drummond Hotel

We are pleased to advise that following a long delay at planning that the Drummond Hotel development has finally been approved. Start date of works are to be confirmed.

SSE Hydro Fund

The village is represented on the grant decisions panel. The Hydro Fund is now live. Please make the most of the monies available to secure some investment into village projects. The

fund has priorities for investment based on the survey Tom led on sharing this summer. Local Place Plan wants and needs will also be taken into consideration.

SSE Weir new Structure

This is an ongoing issue being supported by Pete Wishart and Jim Fairlie as well as our local Councillors. It's fair to say there is a lot of upset about the metal structure that has been built at the Weir. Discussions with the Community Council, SSE and LLTNP remain ongoing. More on this in the ordinary meeting.

As we move now towards the Christmas season, and given it's our last meeting of this year, I'd like to cast our minds back to last year and the very real possibility that the village would be without a Christmas Tree. Following some determined effort by Richard Graham and a very kind donation from The Hideaway as well as fundraising via Gents Supper Club, the Christmas Tree was secured and unveiled on a very wet evening to the village. Thank you to Richard and Stewart for working each year to make sure the village has a Christmas tree to welcome villagers and visitors over the festive period.

Lastly, Happy Halloween, bonfire night and a very merry Xmas season when it comes from all at the Community Council

4. Treasurer's report

The accounts have been prepared and are being audited. At the end of the previous financial year (31st August 2023) the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £0.00

Our **income** for the current year was **£1609.01** made up of

1. Advertising revenue from the Community Council (CC) Website of £175
2. A donation from the St Fillans Trust for £694.44 towards funding our fireworks
3. A P&K Council Administrative Grant of £700
4. A personnel loan of £39.57 to pay for bills due to lack of funds

Expenditure over the financial year was **£1609.01** made up of

1. IT annual maintenance of the village website of £577.30, which includes a payment towards the creation of our new website (thanks to the Trust)
2. Rent of Sandison Hall for CC meetings of £264.00
3. £33.70 stationary costs
4. £39.57 loan repayment
5. £694.44 for fireworks

Insurances were provided by P&K directly hence no additional cost to the council.

Our surplus at the end of the year is £0.00

At the end of the current financial year the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £0.00.

It is therefore anticipated that we will get a “top up grant” from P&K to cover administration costs as the bank balance is below £700 in the amount of **£700**.

Finally, a big thank you to Johnston Brown for auditing the accounts.

5. Elections

Cllr Stewart Donaldson took charge of the meeting, he thanked the Community Council members for their work, he said the highlight of the year was the issue of the St Fillans Place Plan and

Donna Littler was re-elected as Chair

Proposed by Richard Graham, Seconded by Steve Howell.

Donna Littler thanked Cllr. Stewart Donaldson and resumed the meeting.

Audrey Gavigan was re-elected as Secretary

Proposed by Barry Fisher, Seconded by Carol Graham

Tom Green was elected to the Community Council (full member from 1st November 2024)

Proposed by Johnston Brown, Seconded by Lorna Kennelly

Graham Price was co-opted onto the Community Council for the Treasurers Role

Proposed by Carol Graham, Seconded by Don Forrester

Rico Hollas is stepping down from the Community Council on the 1st November 2024, Donna Littler thanked him for his service to the Council.

6. Date of next AGM

Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall