

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 30th April 2025
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 14 villagers, David Fettes, Councillor Stewart Donaldson, Baillie Rhona Brock.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Police Scotland, Mac and Colette Macleod, Lorna Kenelly, Johnston and Frances Brown, John Littler, Ruth Graham, Blair Cramond.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29th January 2025 were proposed as a true record by Richard Graham and seconded by Barry Fisher.

3. Police Update

PC Peter Sinclair has moved on and now works for the Sheriff Court, his replacement is PC Pauline Smart.

The police are on early shift on the 30th April, so are unable to attend the meeting. No Police report received.

4. Matters Arising

- a. Following the meeting with Stuart Mearns and Bob Cook from Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Planning in October, the CC are still waiting for the Conservation Area PDR Guidance Document for residents. The CC have been informed that the document will be available for the July meeting for sharing with the village.

The CC will continue to pursue the outstanding items from the meeting in October.

Article 4's for the area is still a point for ongoing discussion.

The request was made for a representative from LLTNP Planning to attend a CC meeting.

Richard Graham has written to MSP's regarding the options he was given at the time of renovating his property.

It was suggested there should be funding available to those whose advice was given before the change of thinking regarding climate change and security is sought that any improvements on the legislation around PDR won't bring about a hard cut-off date for homes that chose to invest in the only heating options available at the time.

- b. Work for the village 20mph speed limit is due to start in at the end of June. It will take two weeks to complete the signage and other amendments. The limit will be introduced between, east of Station Road to the west of Manse Lane. It will be an eighteen-month trial, and the police will monitor. No published map or distance yet.

Still requesting vehicle activated signage as supplied to other villages.

Station Road and Dundurn Walk are also supposed to be 20mph zones. Councillor Stewart Donaldson to check if both streets will be changed to 20mph at the same time.

- c. Date still to be set for completion of the bus stops, the CC will advise the village when known. There will be no replacement bus shelter at the East end of the village this financial year. Correct local bus services need to be advertised at the bus stops.
- d. Weir update - SSE have agreed to paint the structure green to match the proposed fence they intend to install on the South Shore Road. Painting of the structure is due to start on 5th May.

Mitigation proposal Option 2 was selected and this is being progressed, there is to be a site meeting to decide on the evergreen selection of planting. There will be a written maintenance agreement to be stored with the CC. It has also been requested that once ownership of the foreshores around the weir is established, that a map and details be stored with the CC for future reference.

The tree lopping of overgrown trees will take place after the nesting season has finished. It was also requested that some evergreen trees be planted behind the sycamore trees for winter coverage, the area needs to be surveyed and if the site is deemed suitable SSE will plant these.

5. Planning applications

Perth & Kinross Planning:

25/00151/ECU36

Proposal: To construct and operate Glentarken Wind Farm

Location: Land 5.5km Northwest of Kopje, St Fillans, PH6 2NG

Applicant: Scottish Government Energy Consent

There have been several objections to this planning application from Comrie and Crieff, but also several positive comments as well. One item that hasn't been highlighted previously is the requirement for lighting on the turbines. Low flying RAF aircraft require this for flight safety, the MOD have requested infrared lighting.

Loch Lomond and Trossachs Planning:

2025/0030/DET

Proposal: Construction Of 145kW Run-of-River hydro-electric scheme

Location: Ardtrostan, Allt Na Galanaich Burn, South Loch Earn

Applicant: Mr Michael Aldridge, Drummond Estate, Muthill, PH7 4HZ

The scheme is similar in concept to the one at Glentarken with the powerhouse at the rear of the farm building opposite the Sailing Club, which has been operating for 11 years,

although the powerhouse is a different design. The intake will be smaller with a footbridge incorporated, so there will be a circular walk.

2025/0078/TRE

Proposal: Tree works within a conservation area - removal of large Cypress tree

Location: Tigh Na Mar, St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Wendy Russell, Tigh Na Mar, St Fillans, PH6 2ND

2025/0055/DET

Proposal: Erection of staff welfare building

Location: Land to East of Ardvorlich House, Lochearnhead, FK19 8QE

Applicant: Ardvorlich Estate Ltd, Lochearnhead, FK19 8QE

6. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group (Including Still)

Garden Group – The annual pre-season litter pick took place on 22nd March in conjunction with the Keep Scotland Beautiful, Spring Clean Scotland Campaign.

Still Project – Still was installed back into Loch Earn on the 14th March 2025, we are holding an event on Saturday 3rd May 2025 to celebrate the sculpture's return, with refreshments in the Sandison Hall afterwards.

b. Paths Group

Paths group looking for funding for the Project Management of the design for construction on the next section of path. The group are trying different options for getting funding for smaller sections of the work. Three phases left to go.

The power brush training has had to be re-scheduled again.

There are two people counters for the path, one going out of the village toward Comrie and the other near the power lines at the west end of the village. The counters are being monitored but they are nearing the end of life. The group are hoping to replace with new solar powered counters.

It was mentioned that Killin put in a successful path application to the SSE Hydro fund.

c. Festive Committee

The Festive Committee now has four members, Carol Graham, Marie-Claire Fisher, Zoe Green and Sorcha Fitzgerald.

The dates for the festive weekend are 15th to 17th August, posters will be published in due course. The committee are looking for volunteers to help with the weekend organisation without having to commit to being on the committee.

The annual bonfire night has also to be discussed. Drummond have been asked to remove cut down trees.

d. Play Park Group

Rotting wood on some structures causing some concern. The group have been in touch with Tayside Contracts to do some work at the play park. The group is still looking for someone to take over as lead, so if anyone is interested, please let Barry Fisher know.

e. Cultural Heritage Group

There have been five full meetings, the group have developed an action plan and decided which areas to work on:

Proforma's for people's information to be used.

Properties, biographies of a range of different houses.

Production of a website.

Survey off the South Shore Road where games were possibly held, to take place when the bracken dies down.

Audit of the conservation archive.

The group have been attending training for archiving and walking tours and are looking to network with other heritage groups. The group is also looking into funding opportunities.

It was raised about Community Ownership of heritage buildings, there are many churches up for sale. To be investigated further.

f. Community Bus Group

The group have distributed a leaflet requesting volunteers for driving a community bus, there is the potential for six drivers to date. The group are forming a constitution, there are three board members currently but up to nine can participate. Villagers would need to be members to be able to use the bus. Trustees and board members to come from members.

The group require some help for advertising from someone with social media and IT admin skills. They are also looking for funding opportunities to cover insurance and running costs.

The group are charting all buses that run through St Fillans currently.

g. Climate Change and Energy group

A new group has been set up, there have been a couple of meetings, currently eight members. Still in early days, but meetings with SSE and Low Carbon are planned.

7. AOB

a. Councillors Updates.

No updates from Baillie Rhona Brock.

Councillor Stewart Donald has a cultural heritage group contact for the heritage Group.

Some new windfarms over in other parts of Strathearn on a much smaller scale were also mentioned.

Ash dieback – trees to be felled on council properties. Discussion took place that most of the route between Comrie and St Fillans have already had the trees cut down as part of the work in February

- b. Stewart Gavigan had a meeting with Ian Woodcock of Transport Scotland in relation to his complaint regarding the recent road flooding and the village drains being continually blocked. It was a very positive meeting; Ian Woodcock has requested Bear Scotland to program further investigation works through this financial year, with camera surveys of the drains in the village to find out why they keep blocking. A date for the works to be notified when available.
- c. Swishing Event – A brilliant afternoon which raised a lot of money for charity, total raised before expenses is £1810.68. This will be split between CHAS, Maggie's Cancer Centre and the Sandison Hall. A huge thank you to everyone that donated clothes and prizes for the tombola including The Achray Hotel, The Handy Shop and villagers. All remaining clothes have been donated to local charity shops and will continue to raise money for their charities.
- d. The CC had a meeting with Foundation Scotland regarding Community Benefits and are hoping for the Government structures for benefits to be available for the next CC meeting so the village can formulate ideas for the funds to support the Local Place Plan.

SSE have a tried and tested method for their community benefits.

Low Carbon have not submitted their planning application yet.

- e. Legal agreement for affordable housing still outstanding for the development in Dundurn, it's now four years since planning went in. No developer has been appointed yet. Concerns were raised regarding wildfires with the shrub and tree felling debris which has been left in situ. Drummond are going to assess this and advise the CC of the outcome.
- f. Blue Green Algae on the loch, this can be poisonous, it can be tested, the question was raised if SEPA can do this, or could the National Parks assist.
- g. The question of access to the Glentarken building site was raised, this should be through the Drummond Hotel car park, there have been issues with suppliers missing the entrance and trying to use Shoemakers Lane.
- h. Ash dieback – some marked trees were missed during the recent roadside felling in February, contact Transport Scotland to establish who is responsible to arrange for these to be removed.
- i. Friends of Cemeteries – the question of whether there is still someone within P & K dealing with this, Councillor Stewart Donaldson will investigate this and advise.

8. Date and time of the next Community Council meeting.

Wednesday 16th July 2025 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall, St Fillans