

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 8th October 2025
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 21 villagers, Councillor Stewart Donaldson, Baillie Rhona Brock, PC Donnie Florence.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Colette and Mac Macleod, Isobel Howell, Russell Cunningham, Moira Loudon, John Littler, Trish Forrester, Hilary Burnett, Francis Brown, David Fettes

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 16th July 2025 were proposed as a true record by Steve Howell and seconded by Richard Graham.

3. Police Update

PC Florence advised that the police were not always able to attend CC meetings due to shifts and call outs. When PC Florence started as Community Officer 2012 there were 23 police officers covering Crieff area, this has been reduced to 10 officers in 2025, and the area they cover has been extended. There are two officers that cover St Fillans.

There has been one reported crime of theft since July 2025 at the caravan park.

There have been speed checks since the introduction of the 20mph speed limit, as the speed limit is new, police are educating rather than rigid enforcement. Blair Cramond would like to support the Police, the CC to send his details through to PC Florence.

PC Florence is retiring; Pauline Smart will attend as many meetings as possible.

There are a new Inspector and Sergeant for Tayside.

Tayside is introducing new legislation, which should mean that Community Officers will not get pulled into general calls.

4. Matters Arising

- a. 20 mph speed limit works have been completed
- b. Bus stop works have been completed, apart from the wooden bus stop at east end of the village, PKC requested to have it in their budget for 2026
- c. Weir update – Start date of 13th October for the fencing on the South Shore Road and start date of 31st October for the planting works. The planning application has been submitted to LLTNP planning for the works to the trees opposite the house Weirside.
- d. Update on village drainage from Ian Woodcock, Transport Scotland

BEAR Scotland have carried out a CCTV survey on the drainage network with operations, carrying out excavations of old gullies and set 5 new gully lid replacements and resets to aid the CCTV crew with getting into the gullies.

The CCTV identified a number of issues within the drainage network (namely a few broken pipes, displaced joints, blockages, etc) along with two gullies outside the Achray Hotel, St Fillans, that appear to have been completely severed from the network.

A contractor has been approached to undertake the works & required repairs as well as the need for further investigations and we are awaiting a quote from them to be included within our system for the necessary approvals prior to works commencing. Ian added that the majority of the repairs can be carried out with pipe lining, however there are some blockages, broken pipes and displaced joints that will require digs.

Ian will endeavour to provide timing of the works when known.

- e. Drummond Hotel – The owner has been contacted and will arrange a tidy up, unfortunately he has decided to sell the property on and has an agreement in place for the sale, which may happen before the end of October.
- f. Visitor Levy Proposals - Initial consultation has been completed, PKC will go through all the submissions and the results put to the Full Council on 11th December 2025. There will be further consultations after the meeting.

There have been a number of concerns raised including VAT Thresholds.

Long drawn-out process if the Levy is voted for in December it is unlikely that anything will happen before the summer of 2027.

5. Planning applications

Loch Lomond & Trossachs Planning

2025/0115/HAE

Proposal: Erect a single storey extension to south elevation

Location: Station House, Station Road, St Fillans

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Tom and Zoe Green, Station House, Station Road, St Fillans, PH6 2NE

2025/0160/TRE

Proposal: Tree works in a conservation area - removal to ground level of 4 no. Leyland Cypress

Location: Clach-Na-Ba, St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Cathy Moncrieff, Clach-Na-Ba, St Fillans, PH6 2NQ

2025/0184/HAE

Proposal: External alterations to dwellinghouse

Location: Earngrove Cottage, St Fillans

Applicant: Mr Gary Loudon, Earngrove Cottage, St Fillans, PH6 2ND

Perth and Kinross Planning

25/00899/ECU36

Proposal: Construction of 19 Wind Turbines and associated infrastructure ECU00004966

Location: 4.8km North of St Serfs Church, Comrie, Crieff PH6 2EA

Applicant: Scottish Government, Rebecca Hindson, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

6. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group

Garden Group - Half barrels have been removed from the war memorial as they were rotten, and the wooden front board has had preserver applied.

There will be a village litter pick on the 18th October 2025.

b. Paths Group

Paths group are looking for some assistance from the garden group to help clear some of the railway path, this will be on the 25th October. Lochearnhead don't have an active Paths group, so St Fillans are going to assist.

The paths group have received funding to construct Phase 7A, which is a small section near Lochearnhead.

Thanks to all, for clearing paths after storms, particularly Richard Graham.

c. Festive Committee

The Festive Committee thanked the village for their support during the festive weekend. It was very successful and some of the money raised will be donated to charities, £500 to Air Ambulance, £200 to Community Trust, £100 to Sandison Hall. Remaining monies will be held in the Community Trust to be used to fund further events and to purchase any resources required.

Next event is the Bonfire Night on Friday 7th November, starting at 6.30pm for the bonfire and 7pm for the fireworks. Wood will be required for the bonfire, please contact Carol or Richard Graham. If anyone would like to volunteer to help Richard collect wood, please contact him.

The Festive Committee was successful in obtaining a grant of £17,600 from SSE Hydro for the purchase of a new modular marquee, click flooring, lighting and a more powerful generator. It is proposed that the old marquees and generator are sold and the funds given to the Community Trust as they provided the funds to buy them originally.

d. Play Park Group

No report.

e. Cultural Heritage Group

The St Fillans Heritage Group are in the process of applying for charitable status which will take a few months to complete. Any funds will be held in the Community Trust. Once established the group will look at ways to engage new volunteers and members.

Carol Graham and Blair Cramond attended a digitisation course organised by Our Heritage, Our Future. The group will be invited to future training events that are appropriate.

Sheila Cramond has met with an original member of the Sew and Sews, it is hoped we will have access to photographs and documents from the inception of this group.

Linda Logan has kindly gifted the group documents and photographs from the Old School in Station Road.

An application to the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for £2950 has been successful, which will enable the group to purchase all basic resources required to record, conserve and safely store village documents.

The Heritage Group have produced a village calendar, all proceeds will go to support the group.

Village archive is available by appointment, if access is required, please contact Jim Brierley.

Sandison Hall annex, Carol Graham and Audrey Gavigan met to discuss the purchase of an appropriate building which will be insulated and climate controlled. Currently waiting for advice from The Scottish Council of Archives.

f. **Community Bus Group**

Tom Green has set up a lift group.

The group are preparing a business plan for PKC, to demonstrate that the transport running costs can be supported.

g. **Climate Change and Energy group**

No report.

7. AOB

- a. No updates from Councillors.
- b. Caravan Park, it has been suggested that the caravan park has applied to extend their season. The village have requested that the Council update the CC on any developments.
- c. The question of who to contact regarding injured or dead deer that are found. PKC are responsible for any animals found on the verges. The CC will enquire with Drummond Estates who is responsible for the railway path and surrounding areas.
- d. **National Park Updates from David Fettes – October 2025**

Youth Committee Survey

The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Youth Committee is inviting young people aged 14–26 from across Scotland to participate in a new survey designed to shape the future of the National Park. Open until 28th September 2025, the survey seeks to amplify youth voices in decision-making and ensure the Park remains inclusive, accessible, and relevant to future generations.

Participants are encouraged to share their aspirations for the Youth Committee and the wider National Park, as well as highlight any barriers that may limit access or engagement. This is a valuable opportunity to influence priorities, improve representation, and help build a more equitable and sustainable Park for all.

Conic Hill Path Improvements

A £900,000 investment in path infrastructure at Conic Hill reflects our long-term commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible visitor management. Welcoming over 200,000 visitors annually, Conic Hill now benefits from a 1.4km upgraded route from

Balmaha Visitor Centre to the summit. These improvements help guide visitors along designated paths, protecting the area's sensitive biodiversity and scenic landscape.

Trossachs Explorer – Mid-Season Highlights

With six weeks of the Trossachs Explorer summer bus service completed and six remaining, we're pleased to share the following highlights:

- Passenger numbers have exceeded last year's weekly figures, with nearly 3,000 passengers onboard as of 17th August.
- The service has achieved 100% reliability this season, marking a notable improvement.
- Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with particular praise for our dedicated drivers who consistently go above and beyond to ensure a welcoming and enjoyable experience.

As the pilot continues, we invite passengers to complete the Trossachs Explorer Pilot Evaluation Survey to help us gather insights and inform future service planning.

Visitor Management & Ranger Service Update

Our Ranger Service, alongside Volunteers and Junior Rangers, has contributed 167 hours since July to remove 3,792m² of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), supporting the National Park Partnership Plan's biodiversity goals.

Recent warm weather has brought increased visitor numbers, prompting our Environmental Officers and Rangers to intensify efforts across managed sites, including the removal of several tonnes of litter. Campsites and permit areas have reached full capacity on Saturdays, and we've welcomed record numbers of Duke of Edinburgh and Scout groups since the introduction of camping byelaws.

We continue to promote responsible visiting through social media and on-site engagement, encouraging visitors to plan ahead, dispose of waste appropriately, and park considerately.

Statement on Visitor Behaviour

Following an exceptionally busy weekend in July, Chief Executive Gordon Watson issued a public statement thanking the majority of visitors for their responsible behaviour, while addressing incidents of aggression towards staff. He reiterated the Park's zero-tolerance stance on such behaviour and reinforced key visitor guidance.

The statement received widespread media coverage, including interviews with BBC, BBC Radio Scotland, and STV, and was featured in outlets such as The Helensburgh Advertiser, Glasgow Times, The Lennox Herald, and The Stirling Observer.

Loch Long Fish Farm Planning Application – Authority Response

On 26th August, Scottish Ministers approved the planning application for a marine fish farm below Beinn Reithe, Loch Long. In response, Heather Reid, Convener of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, issued the following statement:

"The National Park Authority Board refused this application on 31st October 2022, concluding that a National Park is not an appropriate location for a fish farming development of such industrial scale. Concerns included significant landscape and visual impacts, and the potential risk to wild salmon populations from fish escapes.

We stand by our original decision and note that the Scottish Government Reporter also recommended dismissal of the appeal on several grounds. While Ministers have chosen to approve the application, we acknowledge this was a finely balanced decision. We also note that a substantial number of conditions have been attached to the approval, which aim to mitigate environmental and operational impacts on this nationally important landscape.

Although disappointed by the outcome, we respect the planning process and the right of appeal.”

Full details of the application are available on the DEPA website. The Authority’s original statement from October 2022 remains available for reference.

Killin Cycle & Pump Track – Opening Soon

We’re delighted to report that Killin’s long-awaited cycle and pump track is nearing completion and is expected to open in early November. This exciting new facility will provide a valuable recreational asset for the local community and visitors alike.

- e. Don Forrester and John Littler to remain as associate members of the Community Council to help manage the village website and email system. The website is currently receiving 1700 hits a month.

Donna Littler and Audrey Gavigan to be associate members of the Community Council to support the new Council.

8. Date and time of the next Community Council meeting

Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall, St Fillans