

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 19th August 2026
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Tom Green, welcomed 17 villagers, Baillie Rhona Brock, Councillor Stewart Donaldson, PC Pauline Smart and PC Alistair Bloomer

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Murray Henderson, Geoff Carter, Ruth Graham.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 20th May 2026 were proposed as a true record by Richard Graham and seconded by Stewart Gavigan.

3. Police Update

PC Smart & PC Bloomer reported that there have been 3 crimes reported in the local area that are of interest to the wider community. All 3 relate to the same incident on 25th July. After being spoken to by Park Rangers a group who were camping there have since been charged with camping with no permit, refusal to give details and obstruction.

Police carried out speed checks on the A85 a couple of times in recent weeks. Only 1 car stopped for being marginally over speed limit. The police presence is really more of a deterrent. Blair spoke to them about the community speed watch programme and that he had applied for a Speed Watch form in February but has so far not received any response from the police. PC Smart said she would follow up on this. PC Smart did mention that this involves Public Liability insurance, training and risk assessments.

The police also mentioned that people can send dash cam footage of dangerous driving. Initially call 101 then the police will send a link that the footage can be attached to. This is not for speeding incidents.

The Fire service are thinking of holding a water safety day in the village due to the number of deaths this summer in the UK in open water. The village confirmed we would be interested in this.

4. Matters Arising

a. Update regarding the design/ maintenance works at Dundurn Lodge from Ian Woodcock:

- Enhanced inspection and maintenance continues on a quarterly basis.
- External consultants have been appointed and have commenced the initial stages of the investigation/ design and this task will continue through this year. They have yet to determine the best solution.
- Ian will continue to provide updates as and when required.

5. Planning applications

2026/0142/NOT

Proposal: Installation of replacement windows

Location: Earngrove Cottage, St Fillans, Crieff

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

2026/0136/DET

Proposal: Further application (under section 42) for planning permission for use of holiday let property approved under 2009/0163/DET without restriction to holiday use (Condition 2)

Location: Tarken Lodge, St Fillans, Crieff, PH6 2NG

Applicant: Mrs Gayle Gow, Tarken Lodge, St Fillans, Crieff PH6 2NG

6. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group

Audrey Gavigan reported that the group has not met recently and that a few jobs are needing done around the village so we will need a working group for this. A date for this will be advised in due course but likely to be in September.

b. Paths Group

Geoff asked Richard Graham to read out his report in his absence.

A special thanks to everyone helping to keep our paths clear of fallen trees, encroaching vegetation etc. and also mending signs; it's all really appreciated. Please contact Richard Graham in the first instance of any fallen trees and let Geoff know of any further access or maintenance issues, so that we can deal with them asap.

No news yet regarding a date for Power Brush Training – Geoff will keep chasing.

Geoff has ordered another bench from PKC and would like to install it somewhere on the path near the Yellow Flag and Old Settlement. (Help will be needed once it arrives.)

The Yellow Flag and Golf Pin have been replaced but please let Geoff know if these are not surviving.

Update on latest construction upgrade phases of the Loch Earn Railway Path Project:

For FY 26/27, we have been awarded £200k from LLTTNPA and have applied for £265k from WWCT for construction funding for the outstanding works for Phase 7 (Lochearnhead). These are:

- Drainage works.
- Fencing works.
- Section of route joining Lochearnhead to the Glenbeich Estate.

And also for construction of Phase 6B which commences at the east end of the Glenbeich Estate, heading east towards Derry Wood and Glen Tarken.

If anyone has any questions, please let Geoff know.

c. Festive Committee

Carol gave a huge thank you to SSE for their funding that allowed us to buy the new marquee. This made an amazing difference to the flooring and lighting and generator. Carol will send SSE some photos of the marquee and also some positive comments from villagers.

The festive weekend was again a great success and raised a significant amount of money for the village. The Community Trust, Play Park, Sandison Hall and the village firework event will all benefit from the monies raised.

A huge thank you was given to all volunteers who helped with putting up and taking down the marquee, working on the bar, the games etc.

4 members of the committee are standing down in November and we have 3 new members. We would really like a couple more people to put themselves forward to help with this committee. The current committee have put a manual together of all events and planning required.

The next event is Bonfire Night – date to follow.

d. Play Park Group

Barry advised that Alistair Spearing will be taking on the role as the Play Park group leader. He has great skills which match with this group and has a keen interest in the park. A group met a couple of times recently to look at what is required in the park. A number of the installations are rotting away and won't survive another winter. Barry has done some work around looking at like for like installations from recognised companies. He mentioned that we will need Hydro Funding when the next funding window opens up in December.

e. Cultural Heritage Group

The St Fillans Heritage Gin was launched at the Festive weekend. This is providing funds for the Heritage Group. The studio is almost completed. Just flooring, shelving and some

furniture required to be installed. They are hoping to have an open day in October. They are looking at an action plan which will hopefully involve a small exhibition in the Sandison Hall.

The group has also been working with Aquila CIC regarding funding for information boards and leaflets for a combined heritage and nature trail in the village.

f. Community Place Plan

Tom looking at finding ways for all the groups to work together better. A meeting planned in the Sandison Hall on 21st September at 7pm. Tom will resend the invite to those involved.

g. St Fillans Futures Group

Andrea advised that the resilience funding had been received in order that the Sandison Hall could be used as a community hub in the case of any emergencies. The next phase will be to circulate an online questionnaire to the village to establish information such as who might need support, a list of anyone who can help in emergencies, pulling together an inventory of who has got what i.e. generators etc. This will be followed up by some door knocking by some of our younger members of the community.

Audrey has been updating the village directory as there are quite few new villagers.

P&K Community Council Convention is being held on 29th August – Aquila will be attending as observers, but we would ask if a member of our CC attend to represent our community's interests.

6. AOB

a. Councillor Updates

Bailee Rhona Brock mentioned that the National Parks Camping Management Byelaws review is still at the public consultation stage which closes on Monday 21st September. The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on recommended changes and any evidence that would make the case for any further change to the existing Byelaws. If anyone wants their say, please do so before this date.

Councillor Donaldson reported that the Visitor Levy paper is in a 3 month consultation period with the Council and there is potentially significant sources of funding for tourism businesses in the area.

He also mentioned that the Comrie to Crieff core path will link with our core path.

He has also just received a large paper on Forestry Strategy and will send on anything if interest in due course.

An email was received a few days ago regarding vandalism in the public toilets at the end of the village. Reported to P&K council and an incident number has been raised. Feedback awaited.

b. Aquila Community Interest Company

Aquila have been very busy. As well as supporting other community groups, they have also volunteered for the Drovers' Tryst walking Festival in May by leading a walk and minibus driving and supporting the establishment of Friends of Strathearn – new gathering place in Commercial Lane, Comrie - please call in when Jen is there.

Andrea has continued her involvement with St Fillans Futures.

They have also supported Trust in the Park twice this year by running workshops.

They are currently working with Cumbernauld CC on a biodiversity improvement plan and will be supporting events – it would be great to do this for our community!

Projects

Land behind War Memorial – Aquila has received and signed a lease with the Drummond Foundation and are just awaiting on a signed copy back. They will be looking to start working on the land in October and will be organising volunteer days and events. The name of this piece of land as An-t-Eilean meaning the island in Gaelic.

Nature Mingle – they are continuing to support our current beneficiaries, but they have equipment to support more. They have a new partnership with a local company called FarmStream so they can install cameras in more local areas and share the footage with more people. They have set up a funding page to keep the project going. Link gofund.me/137d0dbce

Nature & Heritage Trail –they have recently had a meeting with the Heritage Group to discuss how to take things forward and they hope to jointly deliver the project within the next 6 months. It will be a trial to begin with to see how it goes so that they can look at expanding the trail at the later date with more funding.

Natural Narratives – the third season will start at the end of September. They are applying for funding to see if they can partner up with Comrie Community Cinema to reach more people and use their high-quality screening equipment.

Upcoming events

International Bat Night, Saturday 29th August.

Talk to local Macular Society and VisionPK, 7th September in Crieff.

Other activities

They have provided animal first aid with baby birds and hedgehogs found by members of the community and transported them to specialist care as well as their usual bat care duties across the wider area.

c. St Fillans Community Trust

Barry Fisher reiterated the support of the trust for village activity but asked that where banking and financial support is required for a project that village groups contact the Trust early. The

Current financial year has been a busy one for the Trust with its turnover now reaching over £500k, whilst this should be seen as a success for the activity across the village it does place additional work on the volunteers for the Trust and all early sight of activity is welcomed.

Date and time of the next Community Council meeting:

Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall, St Fillans

This will also include the AGM.