

STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 5th June 2025 in the Village Hall

The Community Council Annual General Meeting and ordinary meeting were preceded by a discussion with two residents about planning application 25/00773/FULL. Community Councillors raised some concerns but it was agreed that these did not merit an objection to the application.

Minute of Annual General Meeting

Present: L. Walker [Chair], J. Houston, A. McArdle, E. Saunders, G. Brown, B. Lawrie. Fife Councillors J. A. Liston, A. Verner.

Apologies: L. Meyer, L. Jess. Fife Councillors R. Lawson, A. Clark.

Chair's Report: Good evening everyone and welcome once again to Strathkinness Community Council's AGM.

As we have moved the AGM back to June from September we have had a very short year of only 7 meetings rather than the usual 10. This past year has as usual been a very busy one, with many issues still to be resolved satisfactorily. The problems regarding the usage of the Section 75 funds is moving forward though and we do have confirmation from the Planning Service that it can be used for drainage at Bonfield Playpark, about a third of which is unusable at present. We took the decision not to press for reinstatement of the steps until the building work is complete.

Meetings have taken place with Police and Council officials regarding improvements at the crossroads on the Low Road, following a spate of accidents resulting in one fatality last August. Unfortunately, Fife Council do not have funds for a roundabout as we requested, and also have refused our request for the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph or erect 'STOP' signs rather than the existing 'GIVE WAY'. They have decided to place rumble strips at the east/west approaches to the crossroads. We will continue to monitor the situation and report to the Councillors and Fife Council.

Speed Watch is no longer viable due to lack of support, though we are awaiting feedback regarding an automated Community Speed Watch which has taken or is taking place in Giffordtown.

The footpath/cycle path on the High Road linking Strathkinness to St Andrews is still ongoing with hopefully some movement on this in the coming year.

Last October Ken Topping was compelled to resign from the Community Council due to ill health. A final thanks to him for his many years on the Community Council and we hope his health is continuing to improve.

I would like to thank George, our representative on the Out of Hours Group, Emily our Treasurer, Jane our representative on the Fife Community Councils Group as well as our Secretary, and our Community Councillors. Last but definitely not least our heartfelt thanks to our Councillors Ann, Jane Ann, Al and Robin who are always ready to listen to our complaints and always ready to do their utmost. Your time and help given is always very much appreciated by us all. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report on Annual Accounts: Ms Saunders presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025. These have been examined by Mr Hugh Elliott and show a bank balance of £542.12. Ms Saunders thanked Mr Elliott for examining the accounts, and these were approved by the Community Council.

Election of Office Bearers: Councillor Verner took the chair for this item. The following Office Bearers were elected.

Chair: L. Walker – proposed by J. Houston, seconded by E. Saunders

Vice-Chair: G. Brown – proposed by L. Walker, seconded by A. McArdle

Secretary: J. Houston – proposed by E. Saunders, seconded by B. Lawrie

Treasurer: E. Saunders – proposed by B. Lawrie, seconded by G. Brown.

Minute of Community Council Meeting

Minute of meeting of 1st May 2025 Proposed by B. Lawrie, seconded by E. Saunders.

Matters Arising: None

Springfield Homes

S.75 funding: Mrs Houston had contacted Kirstie Freeman, Community Manager to try to obtain an update on progress with the drainage at Bonfield playing field, and also to raise the Community Council's dissatisfaction with the apparent absence of procedures for redirecting emails when an officer leaves the Council. Despite a prompt response to the initial contact there is still no update on either matter, and Mrs Houston will pursue these again.

Barrier at the foot of the path leading onto Bonfield Road: Mrs Houston had written to Dale Ashelford, the new Community Engagement contact at Springfield Homes to ask for a barrier to be installed in place of the bollards, to help prevent children running or cycling into the road. There has been no response, and Councillors Verner and Liston undertook to write to him again.

Standing Items

Treasurer's Report The current balance is £471.

Policing No matters raised.

Village Infrastructure Proposal for Christmas lights: Ms McArdle has obtained indicative costs which include creation of the light, installation of electricity by Fife Council and installation of the light itself, amounting to over £2,000 per light. This would require funding applications. It was agreed to continue the matter and Councillors Verner and Liston undertook to try to obtain information from colleagues in other areas where lights have been installed e.g. Newburgh and Guardbridge.

The electronic speed sign on lower Main Street is still not working; Councillor Verner will pursue this.

The collapsed road edge on Craigtoun Road opposite the road to Denhead needs attention; Councillor Liston will report this.

The pothole on Craigtoun Road near the bend after the entrance to Denbrae Farm, which has been filled previously, needs attention again; Councillor Verner will pursue this.

Traffic and Transportation

Roadworks on lower Main Street: Mrs Walker thanked Councillor Lawson for requesting that the signage be moved to improve traffic flows.

Bends at Kincapple: yet another accident occurred towards the end of May. The chevrons have still to be replaced; Mrs Houston will contact Councillor Clark to try to have this expedited. Ms Saunders reported that the vegetation at Monksholm needs to be cut back; she will report this online to Roads Service.

Low Road Crossroads: the vegetation here also needs to be cut back. Steven Sellars had advised that this would be treated as a priority on an ongoing basis; Mrs Houston will write to him to request that the necessary work is carried out in early course. The petition to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on the B939 at the crossroads is now ready to be published online. Once this has been done Community Councillors will begin collecting hard copy signatures – at least 21 such signatures will be required for the petition to be competent for submission to Fife Council.

Proposed cycle/footpath on High Road to St Andrews: Fife Councillors advised that the proposed report to the North East Fife Area Committee on 18th June has been deferred, as further work on this is required.

Community Trust Report Mrs Lawrie reported that the Trust had held a successful Open Day on 1st June, raising £900 which will be used for repairs and fencing in the garden. Mrs Walker thanked Mr Tebbs for putting up notices on Bonfield Road asking those attending the Open Day to park considerately. The Trust is very grateful to Mr & Mrs Patterson who have donated two new seats for the village green.

Fife Community Councils The next meeting will be held online on 23rd June. Mrs Houston and Mr Brown will attend. Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services in Fife Council will attend to discuss CC's concerns about differing standards of contact with Council Officers.

Out of Hours Group (St Andrews Community Hospital) There was no update.

Correspondence There was no correspondence.

AOCB Mrs Walker has been approached about the condition of the War Memorial, which is in need of cleaning. Councillor Liston will raise this with Kirstie Freeman, Community Manager in the first instance.

Mrs Walker has identified a suitable plaque for the Coronation tree which was planted at the play park next to Church Road; Councillor Verner will ask Roger Honeyman about any necessary permissions.

Planning Applications There were no applications apart from the application discussed above.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall