



**MINUTES**  
**Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in the Village Club.**  
Draft

**Members Present:** - Kate Ramsden; Grace Edmonds; Andrew Thompson; Ian Boardley; Pamela Lee; Rob Davies.

**In attendance:** Councillor Paul Henke; M Vass, SCDT + 7 residents

**Apologies:** Eleanor Balfour; Julie Hutchison; John Gray.

*(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust \* Denotes an action)*

**1. Welcome from the Chair and declarations of Interest**

KR welcomed everybody to the meeting.  
There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Minutes of February meeting and matters arising.**

The minutes had been circulated to all CC members and were accepted. Proposed by IB, Seconded by AT.

Matters arising: There is the ongoing saga of clinics being moved from the local surgery to Killearn and Balfour. We wrote to Evelyn Tweed who received a response from NHS Forth Valley which reiterated that the trial of a hub in Killearn and Balfour is now permanent. A resident told the meeting that the nurses say that we should keep the pressure on because they believe that it is a matter of resources rather than what is best for patients.

We were advised that money has become available to refurbish the public toilets in two other villages. We have been asking for our toilets to be reopened for many years. Gerry McGarvey pursued this on our behalf and the response that he got was the usual financial constraints. It would cost an estimated £70-80,000 to bring the building up to spec. Gerry told SCD that we do not understand why toilets that are in better condition than ours are being further improved. Paul Henke said that it is almost mandatory for the council to provide toilet facilities. He said that he thought the criteria used to decide which ones should be refurbished was based on visitor foot-fall. RD pointed out that the West Highland Way and John Muir Way pass near our village, with thousands of visitors per year. PH asked us to email him about this, and he will try to find out about the criteria used.

**3. Police Report**

There was no Police Report this month.

**4. Traffic measures**

We expected a traffic officer to join us, but he did not appear. He did not send us a report regarding speeding but had sent information to a resident. KR said that we want to know why we are constantly stalled by Roads when members of the public immediately get a response which sometimes conflicts with what we have been told. Paul Henke said that he had no response to a complaint about the state of the A81 outside the village, but a resident was told that that repair is scheduled for this year. Again, we have not been told about this. Paul Henke will chase this up. GE will email

him. AT found Gary Neill's behaviour unprofessional and discourteous. This issue is a very high priority for residents.

KR said that the process of monitoring speeding was started by SC. Now Gary Neill is not prepared to be accountable. KR said that residents should be assured that the CC shares all of their frustrations regarding lack of action regarding this issue.

## **5. Water Issues**

GE contacted Deni Kinnear at Scottish Water about residents losing water for an entire day. No bottled water was provided.

Her response was disappointing. Basically, she said that not enough people had contacted them. They assume that everybody is on-line and would know what was happening. A resident asked if SW want a lot of complaints before they take action rather than just a few people contacting them. KR said that this appears to be the case. KR said that one notification should be enough. We will pursue this with SW. MV said that she has registered with SW and gets a text message if water goes off anywhere in our postcode area. We will advertise this in the BVB to encourage residents to register. We will also raise this with Alyn Smith, the MSP.

MV reported about the water running on to the A81 from a blocked drain on Campsie Dene Road. MV met with several representatives from SW and there is a plan to dig another drain to solve the problem.

## **6. Elected Members' Report - Councillor Paul Henke.**

Councillor Henke had nothing that he wanted to say.

## **7. Planning and Licensing**

JG was unable to attend the meeting. There was nothing on the Planning Portal that required our attention.

There is a drop-in session on May 20<sup>th</sup> in The Edmonstone Hall from 2-6pm as part of the consultation on the Local Development Plan. We will publicise this on Facebook and on the notice boards.

## **8. Finance**

There is £4489.24 in the account.

PL and GE will meet to complete the application for the administration grant and also a grant for new litter picking equipment.

## **9. Correspondence**

We had an email from a resident asking if we had any information regarding electric car charging cables because many people with no driveways have to lay their cables across the footpath. They were enquiring if this allowed. They had asked SC who said they are waiting for guidance and suggested that they ask the CC. KR said that we will also wait for official guidance. We have no public car chargers in the village. Another resident asked about enhancing the playpark. Again this has been discussed and JH meets regularly with Jamie Aikman to see what can be done. Jamie has now moved on from that position, so we have to wait until his successor is appointed. We then take things forward. MV said that the Development Trust applied for a grant for t

the playpark but were unsuccessful. AT said he wonders if our area is seen as not deprived enough.

## **9. AOCB**

The local litter picking group have asked if we will apply for a community pride grant for new equipment. The CC members present agreed that PL and GE will do this. AT said that it is great that local people carry out regular litter picks but that we should be talking to the public about dropping litter.

IB reported that Greens has been sold and is now part of the One Stop group. We will invite them to a future meeting to tell us their plans.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

**June 8th, 2026 at 8.00pm This will follow the AGM**

Contact us at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk) Also on our website [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk). Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin