

MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

23rd February 2026

Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM), Janette Anderson (JA), Carol Medlock (CM), Gordon Reid (GR), Chris Rushbridge (CR), Dave Stewart (DS), John Lovell (JL), Ken Williams (KW), Mairi Millar (MM)

EX Officio: Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison, Cllr Smith

Apologies: Alasdair Shiach (AS), Paul Green (PG), Kevin Todd (KT), Rona MacAulay-Dicks (RM)

Date: 23rd February 2026

1. Declarations of Interest and welcome

There were no Declarations of Interest.

AM welcomed Mairi Millar to the meeting, MM is interested in joining MCC, which is great news.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Circulated and reviewed with no further comment.

Proposed KW, seconded CR.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Status of the occupation and use of a caravan at Luthermuir. Cllr Carr advised that this had been raised twice at recent Ward meetings, and that no answer had been provided yet. Concern was voiced that it appeared Council Services were being used (household waste collection) but the treatment of the property with regards to Council Tax was not. **It was agreed Cllr Smith would clarify with council officers. Ongoing**

There is a significant stretch of the High St, Laurencekirk still not covered by street lighting. **Cllr Carr** has raised this and stated that it is an ongoing problem throughout the area. MCC will be kept up to date on any further information surrounding this issue. **Ongoing.**

There was confusion about whether repairs to the roundabout in Fettercairn had taken place, or not. These are complete.

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Access to Luthermuir village hall – the Community Council can add no further value to this matter and will stand back and let Aberdeenshire Council bring the matter to a close. Very considerable concern was voiced about how long this whole process had taken.

Concerns continue about the Fasque House & Land sale. **Cllr Carr** is not happy about the fact that significant enabling works were due to have taken place, particularly surrounding the roof, and it is unclear how much of this has been done. **Cllr Carr** also noted that he had done an extensive walkaround with Paul Fretwell and feels there are still more questions, than answers surrounding the project. **Action: Cllr Carr to continue email communication and keep MCC informed.**

AM advised MCC had been successful with its grant application £2,000 from Nestrans . Very productive meetings with contractors, subject Matter experts and Inveresk Community Council have taken place. In addition, Aberdeenshire Council has been very supportive in getting to this stage which will allow a baseline survey to be conducted in the coming weeks. **AM will keep MCC up to date.**

Access at Crosspoles still an ongoing problem. **The Outdoor Access Team**, have engaged with MCC and requested maps of the path as used so as to progress the matter of formal recognition. **AM urged members to help where they can.**

CR has provided a map and regular updates on the problematic lade in Marykirk. **Cllr Carr** stated that the recent site visit was really helpful, however, there is still a section where there is unclear ownership. **Action: Cllr Carr continues to with the Council regarding pulling the various landowners together to establish a workable solution.**

4. Police Report

Circulated as received.

5. Correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council

Circulated as received.

6. Settlements

Auchenblae

Pavement repairs at the corner of Monboddo St have been completed to an apparently very good standard..

Fettercairn

No report

Fordoun

No report

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PG asked if it was possible to move the War Memorial from within the hall to a more visible outdoor space. AM reminded PG that Aberdeenshire Council are taking a hands off approach to War Memorials, however, edits to location and information about how it will be cleaned will need to be run by them. Cllr Carr advised that this would need to be a community project. There would likely need to be a planning application submitted for council land. There are pots of money available to help with such a project, eg windfarm grants. AM and AS advised contacting the Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) as they are very responsive. **Action: PG to contact Margo Titmuss at KDP.**

Edzell Woods

As previously reported the pavements along the Lang Stracht are impassable, it was thought that this would be sorted out by people doing community Service but apparently not. **Cllr Carr is going back to the Council with this very pressing safety matter**

There was a meeting with Inveresk Community Council on the 17th of February at The Panmure Arms to discuss the Shakin Brig. There was a site meeting on 19th February with survey contractors and a technical expert to agree the scope of a tactile survey of the bridge, no date has been agreed for this yet, but it will be before the end of March 2026.

Glenbervie & Drumlithie

The lack of a safe place to cross the A90 at Candy is stopping people from using the Ember bus service, apparently there is no budget for this essential work which leaves the people of Drumlithie and Glenbervie unable to access clean affordable transport safely. JL stated that the Ember bus ideally needs light and shelter to allow passengers to cross safely. **Cllr Carr** has raised this at the recent Bus Forum but was met with a wall of negativity.

This is another case of Transport Scotland not trying to engage or listen to road users.

Road surface breakdown in Drumlithie is reaching crisis point, the Council are apparently ignoring reports and telling residents that matters are not as bad as reported. There are a series of significant potholes on Glenbervie Road through the village from the hall to Glenbervie Church.

Laurencekirk

There is persistent dog fouling in the cemetery at the Church of Scotland on the High St, it is believed that neighbouring residents are letting their dog unsupervised and not cleaning up the subsequent mess. **AM will circulate the appropriate link so that members can report this public nuisance appropriately.**

GR reported that there seems to be an increase in anti-social behaviour in Laurencekirk and recently instance cars being “dumped” in the village. **Action : AM to contact PC David Charnley**

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Luthermuir

Luthermuir Hall - the matter of access at the Hall is the subject of legal action and so discussion was restricted on this topic.

Marykirk

CR has been in touch with Aberdeenshire Roads dept about the diversion of traffic from the A90 on to the B974 to facilitate planned roadworks, the Council agreed that this was against policy but it was the easiest option.

West Cairnbeg

No report

7. Roads, Planning & Landscape Services

8. Communications, social media etc

Members were reminded it would be appreciated if they could submit head and shoulder pictures of themselves for use on the revamped website.

It was noted that the revamped website, Facebook page and Instagram account are now up and running resulting in increased contact from the Community

9. Fordoun Pavilion, Fordoun and Borough Buildings, Laurencekirk

Deadline for MCC feedback has been extended to 31st March. However, it appears there is no interest in Fordoun regarding the Pavillion and after professional inspection of the Burgh Buildings in Laurencekirk MCC have no interest in the property.

It was asked why buildings are allowed to deteriorate to such an extent before being put up for disposal, Cllr Carr reminded members that the Burgh Buildings had been the subject of Community Asset Transfer bids in the past which for various reasons had been abandoned. But there was no reason for communities to wait for a building to be rendered out of service before attempting a CAT, such a move could be initiated at any time if a community believed they could make better use of a particular asset. Cllr Carr also advised the meeting that the cost of insurance was a very significant challenge to CATs.

10. SEEN Hurlie substation and OHL

This development will be the subject of a Public Enquiry, preparations for which are underway. MCC will be represented by Save Our Mearns.

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11. Treasurers Report

AS provided a copy of the report by email, the balance was £7731.50.

12. Update from Councillors

The Councillors stressed that Aberdeenshire Council will be operating under very severe financial constraints when setting the 2026/27 budget later in the week but commented that Roads would be in receipt of more funding.

13. AOCB

AM advised he will not be at the next meeting.

No other business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd March 2026