

# MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM), Dave Stewart (DS) Janette Anderson (JA)  
Kevin Todd (KT) Carol Medlock (CM) Alasdair Shiach (AS) Chris Rushbridge (CR)  
Gordon Reid (GR) Ken Williams (KW) Phylis Bruce (PB)

Speaker Mr J Medlock

EX Officio Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison

Apologies: John Lovell (JL) Paul Green (PG) Emma Murray (EM)

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

### 2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

Circulated and reviewed with no further comment.

Proposed AS, seconded DS

### 3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

The Crown Hotel has now been paid.

Cllr Carr has still to escalate the matter of pot holes in the roadways at Luthermuir.

No reply from Aberdeenshire Council about waste issues at Laurencekirk.

Status of the occupation and use of a caravan at Luthermuir, Cllr Carr has this outstanding.

### 4. **Police Report**

Circulated as received, this does not generate much value because it is so vague.

### 5. **Correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council**

Circulated as received Road Closures, Planning, Roads and Landscape services).

### 6. **Correspondence from Residents and Stakeholders**

Concern has been raised about the parking around the Catalyst Community Church, it is causing congestion and creating an unsafe condition on the adjacent roadways.

**Action :** GR to investigate in the first instance.

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### 7. Police Report

Once again concern was voiced about the vague nature and lack of local content.

### 8. Settlements

#### **Auchenblae**

More instances of fly tipping in the Mearns, this time the community dealt with it themselves, much more effective than involving Aberdeenshire Council.

CR reported that there is water leaking through the pavement outside Lutherbank, upon investigation no evidence was found, situation will be monitored.

#### **Fettercairn**

Condition of road surfaces and ironworks in and around the square could foreseeably damage tyres.

#### **Fordoun**

No report.

#### **Edzell Woods**

The status and testing of water hydrants in Edzell Woods is causing concern. Cllr Carr advised Scottish water was the best first contact.

#### **Glenbervie & Drumlithie**

No report.

#### **Laurencekirk**

There is a significant stretch of the High St now not covered by street lighting come the dark nights this will be a hazard. **Action:** Cllr Carr to investigate with Aberdeenshire Council.

The planning status of a house renovation at Conveth Place was questioned. GR said that he believed all was in order but would investigate. **Action:** GR

Hedges are encroaching the footpath at Cairnview, apparently the residents believe it is a Council responsibility. The situation is unsafe because it forces pedestrians onto the roadway. **Action:** Cllr Carr to progress

It was noted that surveyors were seen at the Burgh Buildings, the cost of carry out such work was questioned. No action arising.

Still no progress with the corroded and damaged ironworks in the pavement on Blackiemuir Avenue, cones still in place but unsafe condition remains.

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Sandbags on the pavements are burst and spilling their contents, an ambiguous situation exists where responsibility lies for clearing these up after use.

Abandoned car in the Robson carpark, police say it is nothing to do with them although the vehicle is neither taxed nor insured and any SORN is understood to be invalid. **Action:** AM to write to the police.

### **West Cairnbeg**

Cairn O'Mount replacement infoboard to be delivered over the summer. AS was thanked for his effort.

### **Luthermuir**

Access at Crosspoles is still causing problems. It appears that an informal access is being put in place by a householder who appears to want to "adopt" the land as their own.

**Action:** AM to contact Aberdeenshire Council.

### **Marykirk**

Nothing reported

## **9. Aberdeenshire Consultations: Public Toilets & Visitor Levy**

It was agreed that the wording of these is "loaded "and skewed to give the answer the Council want.

It was agreed that public toilet provision was already abysmal and getting worse.

**It was agreed that there should not be a Visitor Levy**, it was most likely to mean yet another bureaucratic department which would create another layer of policies. Take years to create, cost a fortune and mean that they would have to charge more and more each year simply to cover costs before generating any revenue in the meantime scaring off even more visitors.

## **10. Roads, Planning and Landscape Services Planning**

All relevant points covered within discussions on settlements

## **11. Closure and curtailment of Services**

A free-flowing discussion took place during which very significant concerns about the ongoing degradation of service levels in the K&M area.

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Anything that “has been referred to Legal” seems to disappear without trace, is this a Council euphemism for “been kicked into the long grass”?

It was felt that the matter of the Common Good was being ignored by Aberdeenshire Council in the hope that the community would lose heart and go away.

This is an ongoing and worsening matter of great concern to the community; elected members felt this was very negative.

### **12. Place Planning.**

Mr Medlock gave a very interesting description of the very extensive and expensive work that was carried out and paid for from the public purse some years ago under the auspices of Villages in Control. This initiative delivered many benefits to Laurencekirk.

In these cash strapped times it is widely felt that it is being revisited with a different wrapper but no funding, so is little more than a political box ticking exercise that has no teeth nor genuine intent to deliver.

It is felt Laurencekirk has been consulted to death but there is nothing to show, no wonder people are apathetic and very dubious about Council initiatives.

### **13. Treasurers Report**

£8281.62 in RBS as at 31st May 2025, which includes SWH funding for community projects.

### **14. Briefing from Councillors**

Abbeyton Bridge remains at 3<sup>rd</sup> on the bridge to do list for Aberdeenshire Council, community action will be required to keep it there. No indication was given how to move it to No.1.

Council will be meeting on Friday to determine the outcome of the review of the future of Mearns Court, it may be that partial closure of the facility is the outcome.

### **15. AOCB**

It was agreed that more use should be made of the CC's Facebook page. **Action:** AM to ensure this is done.

Date of next meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025

No other business, the meeting was closed,