

MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

25th August 2025

Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM), Janette Anderson (JA) Carol Medlock (CM) Chris Rushbridge (CR) Gordon Reid (GR) Ken Williams (KW) Phylis Bruce (PB) John Lovell (JL) Paul Green (PG)

Speakers Ms Marina Byrne, Ms Kerry Byrne, Mrs Marion Robson

EX Officio Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison

Apologies: Dave Stewart (DS), Alasdair Shiach (AS), Kevin Todd (KT), Cllr Smith

Resignations: Phylis Bruce (Member), Emma Murray (Minutes Secretary).

Date: 25th August 2025

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

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

Circulated and reviewed with no further comment.

June Meeting Proposed KW, seconded CM

AGM Proposed CR, seconded JA

3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

The Planning status of the work being done to a house in Conveth Place remains unknown, **GR** is to continue to research this. **Ongoing**

Cllr Carr reported that a pothole repair campaign is underway, work is slow but positive, progress is being made.

Status of the occupation and use of a caravan at Luthermuir, this appears to be gaining a degree of permanency as a full suite of waste bins are now on site. **Cllr Carr** has this outstanding. **Ongoing**

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. **Ongoing.**

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4. Police Report

Circulated as received, this does not generate much value because it is so vague. Concern was raised that reported criminality is not being captured or reflected in this report. **AM will write to Police Scotland**

5. Correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council

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

This included a new email address for landscape services which is landscape.services@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

6. Settlements

Auchenblae

Nothing reported.

Fettercairn

No report.

Fordoun

Theft from Redhall Arms does not appear to feature in the police report. AM will ask Polie Scotland for clarification.

Redundant planters are still in place will they be removed? AM to ask Landscape Services.

Repairs to junction on to northbound A90, whilst a huge improvement appear to allow ponding during wet weather, this will be monitored.

Edzell Woods

Forth coming changes to speed limits are causing consternation in Edzell Woods where the Council are planning to increase speed limits!

The conditions of walkways and adjacent vegetation along the Lang Stracht are forcing pedestrians on to busy road ways, which is particularly hazardous when traffic is diverted off the A90.

The loss of the Shakin Brig has meant an actual reduction in active travel and increase in car usage. People have to travel to get basic grocery supplies.

Glenbervie & Drumlithie

Nothing to report.

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Laurencekirk

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 Ongoing**

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, situation continues**

Still no progress with the corroded and damaged ironworks in the pavement on Blackiemuir Avenue, cones still in place but unsafe condition remains. **Action AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council.**

The state of the wild flower areas at Memorial Park are an embarrassment. The Council give it a while to settle in and see how it goes, a few years later it has clearly been a failure. . **Action AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council.**

Still no resolution to longstanding issues of hedges encroaching onto pavements and public accesses. This is very annoying especially the access to the Public Hall, where the situation has ground on for years, the Council do not seem to attach any importance to this matter at all. **AM will write to the Council, again.**

West Cairnbeg

No report

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. It appears that the alternative route they have provided maybe an improvement due to the absence of a gate but the surface is inferior. **Action: AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council, again.**

Marykirk

Nothing reported

7. Roads, Planning and Landscape Services Planning

The new email address for Landscape Services will be useful as the growth of weeds in roads and footpaths is getting significantly worse. **AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council**

The ongoing reduction of Streetlights across the area continues to grow, with no sign of a replacement or remediation programme. It appears that one department makes the decision to proactively remove lamp posts and another decides what provision should be, anecdotally these departments do not liaise! **AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council.**

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The A90 junction at Candy continues to be a grave concern and will be exacerbated by the potential construction and use of a storage facility to support the planned work to enable TWP's Bowdun project.

8. SSEN Energy Infrastructure Development

A meeting is being held at Westerton of Pitarrow on Saturday 6th September to discuss the current projects being developed by SSEN. GR and CM are planning to attend..

A Convention of North East Community Councils is being held in Stonehaven Town Hall on 6th October, AM is attending and other members are intending to go.

9. **Treasurers Report**

£8281.62 in RBS as at 24th August 2025, which includes SWH funding for community projects.

Aberdeenshire Council are introducing a "use or lose it policy" with regards to council funding of Community Councils. It has been advised there will be guidelines issued regarding how this will be accounted for.

10. Briefing from Councillors

Abbeyton Bridge remains at 3rd 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.

Mearns Court, Aberdeenshire Council's plan is to partially close this facility, there are no clear plans how or when the current residents will be cared for in the future. *It is clear that the Council are purely motivated by money although there will be no savings at all in the foreseeable future and the dire state of elderly and vulnerable care in the Mearns exacerbated.*

It was clarified that the change to Community Council funding was not an Aberdeenshire Council initiative but part of a wider piece of work.

11. AOCB

Marina Byrne gave a short speech about her ideas to take over the room at the railway station currently used by the Mearns Heritage Club to store preserves and catalogue historic maps, documents and associated records. She made it clear she needed to establish the status of any lease for the space and needed the help of the Heritage Club to do so. Mrs Robson made it very clear that the Heritage Club are involved in an intricate, complex task which will take some time to complete. Ms Byrne kindly offered assistance to clear things up but was advised that this is a very specialised task that cannot and should not be rushed. Ms Byrne did not identify a suitable alternative location for the archives in question.

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It was agreed the parties would convene outwith the auspices of MCC to try to progress the matter although MCC would assist where possible.

No other business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29th September 2025