

MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

29th September 2025

Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM), Janette Anderson (JA) Carol Medlock (CM) Gordon Reid (GR) Ken Williams (KW) Paul Green (PG) Kevin Todd (KT), Dave Stewart (DS),

EX Officio Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison, Cllr Smith

Apologies: Alasdair Shiach (AS), John Lovell (JL) ,Chris Rushbridge (CR)

Date: 29th September 2025

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Circulated and reviewed with no further comment.

Proposed KW, seconded CM

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**

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 still** 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.**

4. Police Report

Circulated as received, this does not generate much value because it is so vague. It was confirmed that PC David Charnley has absolutely no intention of attending any meetings with Mearns Community Council in the evening. But would attend meetings during his working hours. Members were very disappointed about this attitude from the so-called community constable.

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5. Correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council

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

So far the Roads Dept have not provided a substantive reply to an email dated 28th August. They have acknowledged receipt and advised that staff are on holiday, in the meantime members are disappointed that roads continue to deteriorate and street lighting goes un repaired and likewise deteriorating.

Landscape Services confirmed they are happy for residents to clean streets and remove weeds.

Wild flower areas in Laurencekirk are to be resown and revived despite residents dissatisfaction.

6. Settlements

Auchenblae

Nothing reported.

Fettercairn

The status of planning development at Fasque discussed, it is not known if planning permission can be “sold” given it is understood that the planning was originally given as an enabling scheme.

A timescale was requested for repairs to the roundabout. Cllr Carr is to chase this up.

Fordoun

Nothing reported

Edzell Woods

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. Cllr Carr advised that this would be dealt with within the remit of Community Payback.

The loss of the Shakin Brig continues to be a real problem for residents. Aberdeenshire Council are causing confusion because of a failure of communication between internal departments. A meeting with Inveresk Community Council will be arranged, AM, KW and Cllr Smith will attend from MCC.

Glenbervie & Drumlithie

No report.

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Laurencekirk

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 still 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, no response.**

Work on investigations into the composition, management and accounting for the Common Good Assets continues.

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.**

Still no resolution to longstanding issues of hedges encroaching onto pavements and public accesses. all.

After 19 years the matter of access to the village hall is still unresolved despite warm words of intent from Aberdeenshire Council. **Action : Cllr Smith is going to talk to the Area Manager to find out what is going on.**

Marykirk

Nothing reported

7. SSEN Energy Infrastructure Development

A Convention of North East Community Councils is being held in Stonehaven Town Hall on 11th October, AM is attending and other members are intending to go.

8. Treasurers Report

£7006.62 in RBS , which includes SWH funding for community projects.

Aberdeenshire Council have issued guidelines. Members had questions about the ability to consider certain known costs (e.g. secretarial) on a “whole year basis”.

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9. AOCB

No other business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27th October 2025