Cree Valley Community Council	Action point
Minutes of meeting held on 1st Dec 2025 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart	
Present: Jamie Hyslop (Chair); Iain Service (Secretary); Neil Skelton (Treasurer); Robert Boan; Paul Comacchio; Jackie Hedley; Debbie Monteith; Lisa Sykes; Cllr David Inglis; Cllr Richard Marsh.	
Apologies: Max Heughan; David Spruce; Charles Marshall; Morag McIlwraith.	
Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising: Agreed - proposed by Lisa Sykes; seconded by Neil Skelton. Dropped kerbs – CCS will be advised to contact Carol Gibson about locations, funds may be available through Active Travel to do them all; Cllr Marsh agreed to progress matters. Surface drainage – drains still need to be jetted, Iain following up. Workers today preparing Suspension bridge for re-opening; will need to be closed when tree felling and bat survey works being carried out. A714 & Wood of Cree road – no response from Strategic Timber fund; drainage clearance works at side of roads has not been done this year; problem will be exacerbated during spells of freezing weather; Cllr Marsh took note of situation. Glentrool Community Association local place plan – Iain following up. Sale of Resilience Group quad bike – Jamie awaiting reply from Kilgallioch Community Benefit fund confirming their agreement to the sale. Litter bin opposite Ashgrove Court – being followed up. Bus parked overnight at Douglas Terrace – Cllr Inglis to follow up.	Secretary Treasurer Cllr Marsh Secretary Chair Secretary Cllr Inglis
Police report: Nothing through yet this month.	
Treasurer's report: Circulated. Opening balance £4057.22. No income for period. Outgoings – DGC for VJ Day hall hire - £9.50; Bank charges £5.75; NS Wellbeing group room hire - £160.00 (from restricted funds); Remembrance Day wreaths - £147.72. Closing balance £3734.25. Outstanding invoices – LM Bookkeeping - £45.00 (estimated); Christmas Lights Group uniform - £150.00 (50% of total cost); Payments to R Kay as previously. Still to hear from DG Council and Co-op re potential refund/grant; liaising with NSI on potential future funding sources for NS Wellbeing Hub. No update on financial review and audit. CVCC accounts paperwork returned by DG Council allowing end of year grant reporting and will now be forwarded to LM Bookkeeping for audit. Issue with regard to former treasurer still not resolved – Cllr Inglis will speak to Mr Kay.	Treasurer Cllr Inglis
Complaints: Complaint from Richard Kay ongoing.	
Resilience report: Bob has been advising New Luce CC on resilience matters; Defibs checked again – none have been used; Police spokesperson reported things are quiet other than concern about unauthorised filming of children during the Christmas Lights switch on which they are following up, query whether closed circuit cameras in that area are working; A75 speed cameras near Creetown described as a trial before full roll-out; police authority finalising set up of newsletter to be circulated to all local community councils. Cllr Inglis to set up meeting between Bob and Carolanne Campbell, Senior Resilience Officer for DG Council; plea put out for former members of the	Cllr Inglis

Resilience Group to return jackets/trousers for re-use.	Lisa - Facebook
NS Wellbeing Hub: Early days but hope that more support groups will be in attendance; nearly £250 has been collected in donations, some of which will be used for a buffet lunch on the last day (15th Dec) before Christmas, more posters will also be printed – which could also be circulated to outlying villages.	
Elected members' report: Headline in Gazette re Chief Executive's expected pay rise – not great timing given proposed budget cuts which DG Council will require to make, COSLA national negotiations identified pay structure for chief executives nationwide has not been reviewed since 2001 resulting in increase of 13% being appropriate for a council of this size. Result of budget consultation – over 6,300 responses, being collated and presented to next weeks full council meeting; elected councillors feel front line services should not be cut; £12million deficit – increase in council tax may be looked at as a way to save critical frontline services. Elected councillors are available every Monday to speak to local residents about their concerns – see DG Council website for contact details. Following rejection of National Park proposal, strenuous efforts are being made to ensure Galloway gets its fair share of what funding might have been available and that bodies like Forest & Land Scotland should be more proactive in the area.	
Remembrance Sunday arrangements: Grateful thanks to all involved on the day, Iain will write to Stephon Bishop to acknowledge his contribution towards such a poignant and dignified event.	Secretary
Christmas Lights switch-on: There was a round of applause for the effort put in by the group and volunteers towards the very successful day of events and light switch-on; stalls sold out quickly so the lesson learned is bring more goodies for next year!	
Planning: Nothing much noticed, Artfield extension application expected next year (planning permission already granted); Craignarget at scoping stage; Challoch Solar Park expected to go to committee fairly soon.	
Correspondence: Letter from Christmas Lights group thanking CVCC members, volunteers and partner groups for their help at the switch-on. Situation of contact details held by DG Council resulting in correspondence going to wrong people (eg. re road closures) to be checked.	Chair/Secretary
Possible co-option of CVCC members: Numbers having fallen, efforts will be made to recruit new members - motion to elect to be added to agenda for next meeting.	Secretary
Community benefit fund body set up: Following joint meetings between CVCC, CVADT and NSI, CVCC had requested that changes be made to the Articles of Association of the Development Trust to meet certain criteria for receiving windfarm benefit funds on behalf of residents of the Cree Valley area. Around 40 members of the public attended the AGM of CVADT held last Thursday, a positive indication that there is interest in the community as to how the windfarm community benefit monies coming to the Cree Valley area will be distributed. There were two special resolutions put forward at the AGM:- 1) Changing the organisation's name to Cree Valley Benefit Trust and adoption of the new Articles of Association – passed by 22 votes in favour with 1 abstention; and	

2) There be a limit of one family member serving as a director – did not pass, 3 votes for, 19 against, 1 abstention. Distribution of windfarm funds:- Following the signing of a contract between the relevant windfarm and the receiving body (CVBT in the first instance), it was suggested that Foundation Scotland could be the body contracted to act as a conduit by setting up of a funding panel representative of the interests of the community which would allocate funds. The revised proposal submitted by Foundation Scotland following the recent meeting of NSI, CVCC, CVADT and FS is a viable option The revised cost, £4760, appeared to represent excellent value for money After a lengthy discussion it was agreed a further joint meeting should be arranged to clarify matters; the Secretary will request a copy of the minutes from the CVBT AGM and the revised Articles of Association submitted to Companies House as well as their thoughts on the latest offer from Foundation Scotland. It was suggested a public meeting could be called in the new year to allow the residents of the Cree Valley to express their views and to ensure that the whole community is involved in a final decision on how the community benefit fund is administered.	Secretary
AOCB: None.	
Public Forum: Dean Waugh reported the D&G Recovery Group is going well. Concern was raised that correct procedures may not have been followed at the CVBT (formerly CVADT) AGM.	
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm.	