| **Cree Valley Community Council** | Action point |
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| Minutes of meeting held on 1st Sept 2025 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart | |
| **Present:** Jamie Hyslop (Chair); Iain Service (Secretary); Neil Skelton (Treasurer); Robert Boan; Paul Comacchio; Jackie Hedley; Morag McIlwraith; Lisa Sykes; David Spruce; Moyra Breckenridge (minutes). | |
| **Apologies:** Debbie Monteith; David Malcolm; Charles Marshall; Cllr Jackie McCamon; Cllr David Inglis | |
| **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:** Agreed - proposed by Bob Boan; seconded by Lisa Sykes.<br>CCES – all issues have been addressed except the bus shelter at NS sorting office which still has cones in place and an upright for signage to be removed.<br>League of Friends – meeting tomorrow, Neil Skelton will report back.<br>Community council area (federation) meetings – no progress to report.<br>CVCC website – DEHS pupil to be co-opted to assist in website design.<br>Designated campsites – further enquiries to be made.<br>Cash machines – following removal of cash machine on closure of Bank of Scotland, Lisa to canvass opinion on Facebook on people's experiences using the remaining cash machines in town.<br>Galloway Pageant – event well attended, CVCC help appreciated.<br>Challoch solar park & Shennanton windfarm – representations submitted, await responses. | Neil Skelton<br><br>Lisa Sykes |
| **Police report:** Circulated - banners at Wigtown Road roundabout not causing undue concern; pointed out that Church Lane (up from the Central Bar) is not a one-way street; cones made available to deal with parking issues at Penninghame PS, increased school roll means more traffic in area; disused Social Work Dept car park adjacent to school can be used as drop-off point; school is raising awareness with pupils and working towards finding solutions. | |
| **Treasurer's report:** Progressing towards Neil being named on bank account.<br>Opening balance £6040.79; no income in period.<br>Outgoings – Examination of 22/23 & 23/24 accounts £85.00; Christmas Lights group to upgrade lampposts £1700.00; Defib pads (4no) £268.80; bank charges (2 months) £9.00. Closing balance £3977.99.<br>Outstanding invoices – NSI Events flyer £500.00 (cheque issued); VJ Day hall hire £30 (form completed); VJ Piper £40 (thanks to Jamie Hyslop for paying this himself); VJ wreath £42.90 (invoice with Jamie); £462.45 and £1079.99 claimed by Richard Kay being held over until all matters resolved (see below).<br>Potential income – support sought from League of Friends to help fund Monday coffee & chat group, response awaited; £3463.98 due from Foundation Scotland will be released when they have necessary accounts info; application made to Wigtown Area Committee for £1000.00 for defib batteries and pads rejected as they only support events, other funding sources being investigated.<br>Application for grant assistance received from CVADT towards Winter Wonderland on 13th December (£800 plus cost of band) – secretary to respond suggesting they apply to Wigtown Area Committee.<br>Richard Fox's report (auditor appointed by DG Council) – Auditor considered record keeping for period 2022/25 somewhat confused and not best practice, concerned about discrepancies regarding bank statements but did not consider this resulted in any loss of funds. Jamie Hyslop voiced his concern this was not a full audit, or indeed what was requested but CVCC do not have funds to instruct | Secretary |

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| an independent review. Jamie will contact Melinda Dolan about these matters, he will also retrieve the accounts so we can secure the funds due from Foundation Scotland.<br>Neil has drafted a letter to Richard Kay suggesting that 1) to enable CVCC to function effectively accounts for 2024/25 require to be signed off – this could be done by co-signing said accounts with each person taking responsibility for the period in that year when they held the post of treasurer, 2) CVCC will reimburse RK £779.99 for defib pads and piper subject to Mr Kay's agreement as set out in the letter, and 3) the remaining disputed loan of £300 and Kilgallioch account matters will only be considered if Mr Kay agrees to meet with RBS and a CVCC member in order to attain full transparency and resolution in this regard. | |
| **Arecleoch/Kilgallioch community benefit report:** It's expected transportation of materials will be complete by mid Sept after which traffic lights will be removed and Bargrennan Bridge parapet reinstated; Kilgallioch to be operational by end of 2025, Arecleoch by 2026. Contracts for initial dispersal of funds should be ready by end of October with first payments released in February 2026. | |
| **CVADT discussions:** Draft minutes recently received were circulated from the meeting on 21st August between members of NSI, CVCC and CVADT (chaired by Cllr K Hagmann and with a representative of the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) in attendance); concern was raised minutes did not make clear that this was an initial meeting to discuss distribution of wind farm community benefit funds – no firm proposals were agreed. Funds cannot be distributed by CVCC as the constitution is not suitable for receiving funds and NSI have indicated they do not wish to distribute them – the CVADT constitution is suitable for receiving community benefit funds. It was agreed to continue discussions with CVADT and also that Foundation Scotland (FS) should play a central role in the distribution of community benefit funds. Local community organisations should also be represented on the body distributing funds. A meeting between CVCC, CVADT and FS was to be organised. | |
| **Complaints:** No progress having been made in these matters as set out in the Scheme of Establishment, given the length of time which has passed and in the spirit of reconciliation all parties agreed these should go no further. | |
| **Elected members' report:** No elected members present but Cllr Jackie McCamon had provided an update on the closure of the suspension bridge; estimated repair costs and timeline will hopefully be provided shortly; it was pointed out annual inspections of such crossings would most likely identify problems (rotten trees for example) before they could cause major damage. | |
| **Turbine transport issues:** Dealt with above. | |
| **Resilience/police update:** Bob has been attending Resilience courses (Paul will attend the next meeting in Wigtown on 13th October in his place) and carrying out monthly checks on the defibs; police officers will be carrying out spot checks to identify vehicles which are parked all day in Victoria Street; mobile phones' nationwide sound emergency alert test is to take place at 3pm on 7th September - Lisa to post this on the CVCC Facebook page. | Paul Comacchio<br><br>Lisa Sykes |
| **VJ Day:** Well attended events in both Newton Stewart and Glentrool; thanks to Stephon and all concerned for all their hard work. | |
| **Remembrance Sunday:** Stephon will liaise with Jamie to ensure necessary permissions are obtained for road closures etc; wreaths will be laid at Dashwood Square, Minnigaff, Glentrool and Bargrennan as in previous years. Refreshments | Stephon Bishop and |

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| after the ceremony in Dashwood Square will be provided by CVCC. | Jamie Hyslop |
| **Monday Coffee & Chat in Vibe 75:** More support groups attending; as funding has run out it was agreed CVCC will support the group financially for the coming month, suggestion Co-op in Newton Stewart could be approached for help and that members could think about fund-raising ideas; highlighting the group's work in the press could also raise its profile. (NB. Since the meeting Newton Stewart League of Friends have awarded a very generous grant which is most welcome). | |
| **Planning:** Newton Stewart Bowling Club making alterations to clubhouse. | |
| **Glenvernoch windfarm:** DUMGAL Council have objected but the ECU (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit) are yet to make a decision. | |
| **Challoch solar park:** We await the DUMGAL Council decision. | |
| **Blair Hill and Shennanton:** DUMGAL Council are still considering their response before they are passed on to the ECU for a decision. | |
| **Other wind farms:** Artfield Forest and Whitminhill are still at the pre-application stage. | |
| **Home (back) Field path:** This path was very overgrown; the WOMANS group did a great job in cutting back foliage; since DG Council do not take responsibility for this it was agreed CVCC need to tidy up this walkway in Spring to avoid it getting to that state again. | |
| **Correspondence:** DG Council want to know about brown tourist info signs which are no longer needed so they can be removed, contact dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk<br>Community Land Scotland are holding a community ownership roadshow in Wigtown on 18th September from 6-8pm; full details on Facebook | |
| **AOCB:** Concern raised that some drop kerbs are not suitable for mobility scooters; locations to be pinpointed so DG Council can be informed. | Lisa Sykes |
| **Public Forum:** Questions again asked about which public body is responsible for overhanging trees and general maintenance of forest walks etc; ongoing pothole problem on Wood of Cree road in particular; parking on both sides of the A714 near Brewery Pool is restricting traffic flow; War Memorials at Dashwood Square and in Minnigaff have won awards at national level – special thanks to Jackie and the WOMANS group for keeping these monuments in tip-top condition. | |
| **Date and time of next meeting:** Monday 6th October at 7pm. | |