Cree Valley Community Council	Action point
Minutes of meeting held on 5th January 2026 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart	
Present: Jamie Hyslop (Chair); Iain Service (Secretary); Neil Skelton (Treasurer); Robert Boan; Paul Comacchio; Charles Marshall; Lisa Sykes; David Spruce; DEHS representative; Cllr Richard Marsh; Moyra Breckenridge (minutes).	
Apologies: Morag McIlwraith; Jackie Hedley; Debbie Monteith; Cllrs David Inglis and Jackie McCamon.	
Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising: Agreed - proposed by Paul Comacchio; seconded by David Spruce. Surface drainage – some jetting works have been carried out, heavy rain will demonstrate whether there are still issues – the public are encouraged to take photos of problem areas showing standing water and report to CVCC. Suspension bridge re-opened. A714 & Wood of Cree road – some works done, significant improvement at Clachaneasy; Cllr Marsh took note of problem areas at Penninghame. Glentrool Community Association local place plan – Neil 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 – appears to being parked elsewhere now. It was agreed the secretary should write to Jackie Hedley thanking him for his continued good work around Remembrance Day with wreaths and mounting boards at various locations including Albert Street Gardens. Resilience – Bob still waiting to hear from Carol Ann Campbell.	Secretary Cllr Marsh Treasurer Chair Secretary Secretary Bob Boan
Police report: New-look newsletter has been received from Police Scotland – few incidents reported; agreed this could be shared on CVCC Facebook page.	Lisa Sykes
Treasurer's report: Circulated. 24/25 Accounts finalised and sent to LM Book-keeping, giving time for return before end January deadline for submission for grant funding. Historical accounts for years when grants were unpaid submitted to Foundation Scotland, hopefully enabling the release of funds frozen due to non-submission. Opening balance £3734.25. Income (restricted funds) – Cash donations received during Wellbeing Hub pre-Christmas event, £216.45 (after deduction of £60 for provision of buffet). Outgoings – Christmas Lights Group (uniform) - £150; Bank charges £4.25. Closing balance £3796.45. Outstanding invoices – NSI for Wellbeing Hub room hire - £220.00 (awaiting clarification on a query); LM Bookkeeping - £45.00 (estimated); Payments to R Kay as previously. Available balance accounting for o/s payments and restricted funds - £1030.45. No progress on potential refund re music licence and Co-op re Wellbeing Hub grant application. Wellbeing Hub funding application submitted through NSI on 8th December. DG Council discretionary block grant expected to be released this March. No update on issue with regard to former treasurer. Awaiting response from Foundation Scotland concerning release of funds.	Treasurer Treasurer Cllr Inglis Treasurer
Resilience report: Defibs checked again – all ok; Bob has completed Met Office course and report is available; agreed that severe weather warnings be passed to Lisa to put on Facebook.	

Householder in property at bad corner on Wood of Cree road just after Monigaff Church concerned about the corner not being gritted when the vehicle is in the area; Jamie has spoken to gritter driver and suggested that he spreads right up to that corner; a grit box would also be useful; Bob to speak to householder.	Bob Boan
NS Wellbeing Hub: Christmas buffet event quite quiet, suggestion event might be held earlier in December in future, could be advertised on Facebook; funding ok until March; suggestion attending groups may have access to funding and that Wigtown Community shop might be approached. Observation that given the number of events taking place around Christmas time it would be useful to have everything advertised in one place; groups can pass details of their plans to the events flyer coordinators at nsieventscalendar@outlook.com and deadline will be advertised on Facebook, every effort being made to gather as much information as possible. Wellbeing hub starting again this coming Monday.	
Co-option of new CVCC member: The secretary has the necessary information to enable Carol Gibson to be co-opted onto CVCC as proposed by Lisa and seconded by Neil; nomination passed unanimously and Jamie welcomed Carol to join other members at the table; Iain will update DG Council.	Secretary
Elected members' report: Jamie thanked Cllr Marsh for his attendance; DG Council budget decisions will be made at end of February; agreed Bob will speak to Becky concerning Resilience updates. Drop kerbs – Cllr Marsh passed on Carol and Lisa's findings, DG Council will investigate external funding sources, initially £2000 would be available to identify and log problem areas; Carol and Lisa will review report on this matter from 2018 and pinpoint areas which are of greatest concern as well as identifying where remedial works have in fact been carried out; Facebook posting will ask members of the public to also report any issues they are aware of. Wood of Cree road – Council employees have carried out some works but issues still remain, ideally resurfacing would be carried out but budget restraints remain; Cllr Marsh to further pursue concerns raised, including questions as to the different bodies' maintenance responsibilities along this stretch of the road. Neil is awaiting Forest Land Scotland response, especially given proposed further timber extraction in the area.	Bob Boan Carol/Lisa Cllr Marsh Neil Skelton
Planning: Nothing relevant noted.	
Transport hub works: Works started, removal of cherry tree and recently refilled WOMANS group planters a cause for concern as well as contractors' dangerously parked vehicles during works; works project manager has advised planters have been saved and will be replanted; suggested a new well-established tree will be planted, Cllr Marsh will speak to project manager and report; better communication from the beginning would have been helpful; expected completion of works by end March.	Cllr Marsh
Correspondence: Glenvernoch wind farm – nothing sent to CVCC concerning participation in the process towards public enquiry; David has registered for a Zoom meeting on 30th January which will discuss the format of the enquiry, representations to enquiry reporters etc etc.	David Spruce
AOCB and Public Forum: Bob has a Zoom meeting with Police Scotland at the end of the month, anyone who wants any issues raised should contact him. Lisa will contact person who expressed an interest in being co-opted onto CVCC to advise they should attend the next meeting to take the process forward.	Bob Boan Lisa Sykes

Newton Stewart Round Table raised nearly £6,500 before Christmas on the Santa Sleigh run. The parlous state of tree growth on the U214W road from the hatchery to Auchenleck on the Forest Land Scotland side was highlighted; Cllr Marsh will take forward.	Cllr Marsh
Community benefit fund body set up: Jamie explained this discussion will explore how the community benefit fund is going to be administered; present are members of the Cree Valley Benefit Trust - Hugh Leslie and Charles Marshall (the new chair of CVBT). Hugh Leslie reported that following their AGM in November the Trust held a meeting to discuss the Foundation Scotland proposal, proposal agreed in principle subject to clarification of minor matters; CVBT await response from FS. Jamie expressed concern that the format of the AGM was not conducive to enabling members of the public in attendance to understand the workings of CVBT; eg. relevant documents were not physically distributed to attendees; Hugh Leslie responded that these documents were in fact available on a table at the front of the room. Iain Service raised the matter of the previous agreement that three members of CVCC should be co-opted onto the board of CVBT; the ensuing discussion failed to reach a mutually satisfactory conclusion. Jamie Hyslop pointed out that a stage had been reached where matters were progressing towards a mutually agreed position; however the situation changed dramatically when, just before Christmas, a member of CVBT acting in a personal capacity posted derogatory comments about CVCC generally and about certain individual members: this action calls into question the entire relationship between the 2 bodies and raises doubts as to how we can ever move forward; as a consequence he and the other office bearers have drafted a letter which they propose sending to Scottish Power Renewables making them aware of the situation and calling into question the whole relationship between CVCC and CVBT – can it move forward or do CVCC seek alternative solutions? – this draft letter has been circulated to all CVCC members; discussion then began to canvass members' views (at this stage there was a query from the floor whether this discussion should be in open session – Jamie responded that CVCC transparency may be called into question if that happened); the discussion turned to the historical difficulties which have been simmering under the surface and which have been exacerbated since the 2024 election when residents in the Cree Valley area elected the new CVCC, but it was agreed that in essence members of the community who put themselves forward to serve on these bodies do so with the best interests of the Cree Valley area at heart. No other questions being asked, CVCC reiterated they were happy for the office bearers from CVBT to be present for the further discussion – Charlie and Hugh felt it was appropriate to leave, and the CVCC understand and respect their decision. In order for a full and frank discussion to take place it was also decided by the CVCC committee that the members of the public be asked to leave; Cllr Marsh elected to remain and was present for the discussion. An honest and frank discussion took place between the seven elected and one co-opted member of CVCC; the outcome of this discussion was the unanimous agreement that the draft letter previously circulated to CVCC members should be sent to SPR with no changes.	
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7pm.	