Cree Valley Community Council	Action point
Minutes of meeting held on 6th Oct 2025 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart	
Present: Jamie Hyslop (Chair); Iain Service (Secretary); Neil Skelton (Treasurer); Paul Comacchio; Jackie Hedley; Charles Marshall; Morag McIlwraith; Debbie Monteith; Lisa Sykes; David Spruce; Cllr David Inglis; Moyra Breckenridge (minutes).	
Apologies: Robert Boan	
Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising: Agreed - proposed by Lisa Sykes; seconded by Paul Comacchio. League of Friends ring-fenced funding received for Coffee & Chat in Vibe 75. Cash machines – felt another (reliable) terminal is needed, secretary to contact Cash Access to see if one can be installed outside the new banking hub. CVADT were unsuccessful in their application to Wigtown Area Committee for funding towards their Winter Wonderland event. Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday ordered and licences applied for, volunteers needed to supply refreshments after Dashwood Square service. Dropped kerb problems – matter still being investigated.	Secretary Lisa Sykes
Police report: Circulated – fairly small number of issues reported; it would be useful to find out from community liaison virtual meetings how other local areas are affected and to liaise with local neighbourhood watch schemes.	
Resignation: David Malcolm has resigned from CVCC due to new work commitments; Jamie expressed thanks for his contribution to CVCC.	
Associate member: Lisa Sykes proposed a DEHS pupil be co-opted to help with social media/website; motion passed.	
Treasurer's report: Neil now has online access to the CVCC bank account which allows him to view up to date statements. Carsecreugh: Payments of £2605.70 and £2689.60 received in March 2025 – drawdown/spend records have been added to accounts spreadsheet. Opening balance £3977.99; (grant of £1000 from League of Friends is ringfenced for use by the Coffee & Chat group). Outgoings – NSI events flyer grant - £500; VJ Day wreath - £42.90; Bank charges £5.75. Closing balance £4429.34. Outstanding invoices - VJ Day hall hire £30 (final invoice is £135.58 which includes music licence); Remembrance Sunday - £180 (estimated); LM Bookkeeping - £45 (estimated); Defib pads – to be confirmed (potential funding sources being sought); £462.45 and £1079.99 claimed by Richard Kay held over. Available funds accounting for o/s payments and restricted funds - £1633.40. Foundation Scotland grant of £3463.98 to be released once accounts finalised; discretionary grant forms and approved accounts must be completed and returned to DUMGAL no later than 31st January 2026; Neil to inform Foundation Scotland historical financial paperwork is still in the hands of DUMGAL. Limited progress with Richard Kay towards resolution of accounting matters. Request for in-depth financial review to be escalated – Jamie to pursue.	Treasurer Chair
Coffee & Chat in Vibe 75: Going well, average attendance each week of 20 people; arrangements in hand for new advice/support groups to come along; fundraising possibilities being explored including NS Co-op charity scheme.	
Forest & Land Scotland: Consultation events held online as well as in Vibe 75	

and Glentrool; Ben and Lindy explained their roles and how the organisation is coping in straitened financial times whilst still managing 96 local facilities; useful question and answer session; considered a good introductory session opening up links with CVCC; local groups and volunteer support/interest seen as vital for the maintenance/upkeep of Galloway Forest Park trails and facilities.	
Elected members' report: Cllr Inglis reported budgetary deficits will result in further cutbacks to an already stretched situation; the independent councillors in Wards 1 and 2 are holding drop-in help sessions in the McMillan Hall from 9.30-4pm on Mondays or by appointment; following refusal of the Galloway National Park proposal, funding opportunities for the area are being explored; schemes such as the NSI Youthwork & Outreach project are examples of what can be achieved locally.	
Resilience update: Defibs checked, one has been used, replacement pad ordered; following Storm Amy, need highlighted for clogged silt traps in surface drains to be cleared; missing drain covers at Belted Galloway site and need for drain at the NS side of the Sparling bridge to be followed up; retaining walls at side of river need inspection/maintenance; sandbags available outside Barnkirk depot; suggestion in next flood emergency they be made available within the town (Central Bar and Riverside car park); resilience store also has a stock; blocked rainwater gullies in Old Minnigaff/bowling club; crumbling speed bumps on road outside DEHS need repair.	Secretary/ Cllr Inglis
Planning applications: Nothing significant noted other than the proposed cycle/bus hub at Dashwood Square.	
Community funding body set-up: Recent discussions between CVCC, CVADT, NSI and Foundation Scotland outlined; it would be useful to find out how community benefit funds are distributed in other areas; role Foundation Scotland may play to be further examined, Jamie will have further discussions with FS; a further meeting is being arranged; it is imperative the outcome of these discussions results in an open, fair and transparent system representing the interests of the whole CVCC community.	Chair
Remembrance Sunday: Wreaths ordered, Jackie making one for memorial gardens; Stephon has arrangements in hand, need refreshment volunteers; police officers will halt traffic during ceremony.	Jackie Hedley Stephon Bishop
Christmas Lights group: Request for helpers – held over to next meeting.	
Walking Festival AGM 8th October: Lisa to share date on Facebook	Lisa Sykes
Bus timetable consultation: Deadline for responses is 17th October; issues with new timetable, especially sparse service during school holidays; rural transport link system to be investigated.	
Correspondence: Thank you letter from NSI for grant towards the Events Flyer; Newton Stewart has been nominated for Town of the Year Awards taking place on 5th November, Lisa and Iain hope to attend; tickets available for BBC Scotland Question Time in Lockerbie on 15th October.	Lisa Sykes/ Iain Service
AOCB: No update on re-opening of Suspension Bridge; state of speed bumps on Corsbie Road opposite DEHS (being reported); lack of white lines in Riverside Road car park (re-painting scheduled); Flood Scheme – River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board meeting to consider and lodge impact assessment.	
Public Forum: Presentation on community orchard works on Loreburn grounds	

behind Health Centre; NSI is being given trees to plant locally and will liaise with group on possible locations.	
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 3rd November at 7pm.	