



Minutes of the meeting held on

12th February 2020

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Michele Bennett, Karen Milliken
- Councillor Graham Lambie
- P.C. Gary Martin
- 29 members of the public
- **Apologies:** Hendy Spence, Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing)

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- Councillor Lambie's report is attached.
- Councillor Lambie encouraged residents to get in touch with him if they were aware of any work that needed doing on roads, footpaths, etc.

V. Treasurer's Report

- There had been no applicants in the latest round of grants. Surplus money would be carried forward to the next financial year.
- Money had been spent on the completion of Cicely's Way and on a defibrillator at the church hall.
- The Kingsburn Fund administrators have requested reports from recipients of the grants in 2019.
- Funding has been obtained through the Postcode Lottery enabling work to start on a second resilience hub.

Fintry Community Council	May 2019-April 2020	Kingsburn Fund Spend Proposal		
Foundation Scotland Budget	Description	Budget	Spend to date	Funds Remaining
Commissioned Service	Community Transport Scheme	£2,500.00	£1,656.00	£844.00
Commissioned Activity	Continued Path Maintenance	£4,000.00	£3,402.72	£597.28
Commissioned Activity	Maintenance of resilience fund assets	£1,000.00		
Fintry Special Project	Project 1 Completion Cicelys Way	£10,000.00	£6,823.09	£1,647.89
Fintry Special Project	Project 2 Difibrilator for Church Hall		£1,529.02	
Micro Grants-B	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,500.00	£1,000.00	£1,500.00
Main Grants	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,500.00		£2,500.00
Administration Fee	Constituted Groups £500-2500	£15,000.00		£15,000.00
	FCC Admin work	£500.00	£204.12	£295.88
	Total	£38,000.00	£14,614.95	£22,385.05

VI. Police Report

- Anti-Social Behaviour: A report of noise disturbance from the Young Farmers Event in the hall. Police attended and monitored, no further issues reported and all in order.

- ROAD TRAFFIC - There have been no road traffic collisions reported since the last report. However, once again, with high winds and heavy rainfall, the driving conditions have been quite treacherous with many roads flooded. A car bumper was ripped off a car in the floods and left on the roadway just outside the village. I see the 20mph signs are now up and operational which is great news of course. I travel through the village on my way to work and it is instantly clear that 20mph is a far more appropriate speed limit. There have been road checks carried out in relation to drunk drivers with drivers stopped and thereafter providing negative breath tests.
- THEFT - Again, no reports of theft in the village since the last report. There were suspect persons reported in the grounds of Culcreuch Castle. Police attended however there was no trace of any persons. There were no further reports and nothing was reported stolen. An alarm was activated at a residential property in the village, as always, Police attended immediately and it was confirmed that all was in order. Alarm activation at The Menzies Hall, Police attended immediately and again it was confirmed that all was in order. A call received in relation to an insecure property. Police attended immediately and confirmed all in order. Front door had been left open accidentally. Look out for your neighbours!! On many occasions housebreakers are immediately apprehended due to a neighbour acting quickly in relation to something they may have witnessed from their address. There is no issue if anyone contacts Police and it turns out to be a false alarm. Also, if you do see a crime being committed, contact us on 999, it is quicker than the 101. All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. As the evenings are darker earlier at this time of year please consider the following:
 - Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
 - Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
 - If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
 - Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
 - Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
 - Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
 - If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
 - Create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
 - If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101..
- ADVICE FOR DRIVERS - Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing. Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre. Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse. All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working. Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:
 - An ice scraper and de-icer

- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

Be mindful of the road conditions when you drive; bad weather is often blamed for causing accidents however the real cause is often inappropriate driving for the conditions that exist. In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip. Ice and snow can increase stopping distances by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE - PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are the only community ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, based at Balfron Police Office. They can be contacted at Balfron Police Office, on 101, or by emailing ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Please contact us at Balfron should there be any issues you would like to discuss and we will be delighted to assist. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision
www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol
www.twitter.com/policescotland
- OTHER INCIDENTS / ACTIVITY OF NOTE - There have been reports more recently of pedlars going round doors selling household items in the neighbouring villages and of persons trying doors. It is unknown if these are connected however if these people are observed, please contact Police and we will attend immediately. They require to have a pedlar's certificate in order to sell items door to door.
- Ken noted that there were still issues with drivers speeding through the village particularly at the Clachan end. P.C. Martin said that they will aim to carry out speed checks in the next few weeks.
- Angela referred to the incident of anti-social behaviour outside the Menzies Hall recently. The main issues were threatening and abusive language, urinating in gardens, noise levels in the early hours of the morning and driveways being blocked by cars. A resident living on Main Street had asked Angela to raise the incident with P.C. Martin to ask the correct protocol for incidents such as these. P.C. Martin confirmed that residents should call 101. Angela asked if it was an offence to block someone's driveway. P.C. Martin stated that it is only an offence if your car is already in the driveway. A member of the Hall committee outlined the measures that had been taken by the organisers of the event to limit any disturbance to the residents of Main Street including employing bouncers, limiting the amount of time the bar was open and using only plastic cups and bottles. It was pointed out that there had been another event happening in the village that night so it was impossible to know which event the troublemakers had attended. Next year the organisers will ensure that the two events do not occur on the same evening and will request a police presence.

VII. Sports Club/Rugby Club changes

- Fintry Community Council had recently been made aware of proposed changes to be made at Fintry Sports Club.
- A representative from Strathendrick Rugby Club was present to inform the community of the reason for the changes and what the proposals are. The Rugby Club has been

working closely with Balfour High School and both the club and the school now have several teams who are competing successfully. This has led to a need to expand and improve the changing facilities at the Sports Club. The new changing rooms would have disability access and would be LGBT friendly and would be suitable for participants in sports other than rugby. It is hoped that the changes would encourage female rugby teams to be formed. The Rugby Club are also keen for the new changing facilities to have a direct link to the Sports Club. This would mean creating a walkway into the current fitness room and reconfiguring the whole squash court/fitness room area to create a larger fitness suite. This would mean the loss of one squash court. The proposed changes also incorporate a level being built on top of the changing rooms which would be an area where spectators could get refreshments and would have a viewing gallery. There would also be a rooftop balcony. An extra line of car parking spaces would also be provided. The Rugby Club have applied for grants to fund the proposed work and have spoken to the local M.P. and M.S.P.

- Concerns were raised by the community with regard to car parking, noise levels and flooding issues. At busy times cars already park along Main Street and along Kippen Road and often cause obstructions and park on footpaths. There was concern that the changes would attract more people and exacerbate the parking issues. A representative from the Sports Club raised the possibility of making the Community Garden at the far end of the sports field into extra parking spaces or trying to find an area within the village that could become a village car park. A resident from Main Street was concerned that there would be a lot of noise from the rooftop balcony particularly if it was to be used as an additional bar for social functions as the description of improvements implied. Assurance was given that it would not be used for that purpose. The sports field is a flood plain and is often flooded by the Endrick Water. There was concern that any building work would add to the flooding problems. A resident asked if any more trees would be felled in the process and were assured that they would not and that a number of trees and shrubs had been planted to replace the ones that had to be taken down previously.
- The Sports Club will continue to be a charitable organisation but the catering and bar will be run by the trading company which the Club will own. Like every other company, it will be liable for tax but this could be reduced significantly if profits are gifted to the Sports Club. Because of the difficulties caused by rural isolation, the shop is considered by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as a charitable activity
- A resident wondered if this would affect the bar licence but was told that it would not. Another resident commented that the change would make the Sports Club a very profitable business which would not be subject to the same taxation levels as other local businesses.

VIII. Planning

- An application has been made for one dwelling house for a sawmill manager and family 175 metres from Dovetail Oakwood Studio, Kippen Road.
- An application has been made to convert three Portacabins to provide temporary accommodation for the manager of the Family Tree Art Gallery at Dovetail Oakwood Studio.
- An application has been made by Mrs. Katy Rodger for an extension to the café shop at Knockraich Farm. This is a 6 metre squared extension to the kitchen.
- An application has been made by Mr. Kevin Byrne for a new house in the grounds of Schoolhouse, Fintry.
- An application by Mr. Robert Aitken for planning permission for a new house east of Croftinstilly has been approved with conditions.

IX. Culcreuch Castle Drive

- Following the closure of Culcreuch Castle, three gates have been erected at various points along the Castle Drive to prevent vehicular access. The gates are secured by a

coded padlock. As the Castle Drive is a core path, access has to be available for pedestrians, wheelchair users, prams, horse-riders and cyclists. Councillor Lambie confirmed that an application had been submitted to close the grounds totally to the public but this had been refused and that a letter of warning had been sent to the owners asking them to remove the signs at the ends of the drive as they are illegal. Several concerns were raised regarding the locked gates:

- The Castle Drive is listed in Fintry's resilience plan as a route into and out of the village when Kippen Road is flooded.
- The farmer whose property is past the locked gate cannot get mail, any deliveries including meal for his livestock and is very concerned that there is no access for emergency vehicles to his property. He is also concerned about the safety of his wife having to get out of her vehicle to open the gate in an area where there is no street lighting and he noted that during lambing season he often has to travel up and down the Castle Drive around 20 times a day. He was advised to contact SHELTER and the Farmers' Union for advice.
- Other concerns were raised regarding the castle including:
 - Potholes on the Castle Drive were not being repaired.
 - Other residents living along the Castle Drive had been given no notification of the plans to close the Castle and erect the gates.
 - Having an absent landlord has resulted in a lack of communication.
 - The castle is an A-Listed building and wallpaper in some of the rooms is A-Listed. This places certain legal obligations on the owners to prevent any deterioration occurring. Historic Environment Scotland has been contacted for advice.
 - An application has been made for a change of use back to a private home.

X. Speeding in the village

- New 20 m.p.h. signs have been erected but do not seem to have had much impact yet. P.C. Martin confirmed that there would be a police presence in the next few weeks to monitor speeding and Michele confirmed that there will be speed activation signs going up at each entrance to the village at some point in the future which should help to raise awareness of the speed limit.
- Councillor Lambie mentioned a report which shows that slowing motorists down even a little bit does help to make the roads safer.
- Ken confirmed that the faded signs will be replaced by newer ones.

XI. Correspondence

- Correspondence from a family on Main Street concerning the issues addressed in Agenda Point VI.
- A flier regarding a social Drop-In cafe for anyone living with dementia and their family and friends held at the Strathendrick Care Home in Balfron on the second Tuesday of every month from 13.30-15.30.
- A flier with information about a free handyman service for older people and/or people with disabilities.
- A flier with information about the tree planting in the village to be held on Saturday 29th February. Meet at 10.30 a.m. behind The Fintry Inn.

XII. A.O.B.

- Cicely's Way (Core Path): Michele had been approached by Andrew Haslam, who had gifted the land for the path, requesting some of the land to be returned to enable the entrance to the field to be widened. As the path is now recognised as a Core Path this request cannot be granted.

XIII. Questions from the floor

- A resident asked about a camera that has been recently installed on a lamppost on Kippen Road. Michele confirmed that the camera has been installed to monitor the flooding in that area.

XIV. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 11th March, 2020

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Forth and Endrick News – Fintry – Wednesday 12th February 2020

Arnprior Balfour Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen **Fintry** Gargunnoch Killearn
Kippen Strathblane

Councillor Lambie Report:

- **Culcreuch Castle Building:** I have sent an email to the Christina Cox (Service Manager, Planning & Building Standards) and copied to Stuart Oliver (Service Manager - Economic Growth, Tourism, Culture and Events); Cllr Rob Davies; Cllr Alasdair MacPherson (Planning Panel Convener). "Given the A listing, what legal obligations are on the owners to preserve the building and in the event of deterioration what enforcement powers does the council have?"
- **Culcreuch Castle Listing Details:**
 - Entry Name: Culcreuch Castle
 - Listing Date: 5 October 1971
 - Category: A
 - Source: Historic Scotland
 - Source ID: 342927
 - Historic Scotland Designation Reference: LB10467
 - Building Class: Cultural
 - Location: Fintry
 - County: Stirling
 - Electoral Ward: Forth and Endrick
 - Parish: Fintry
 - Traditional County: Stirlingshire
- **Listed Building Restrictions:** "It is a criminal offence to demolish, alter or extend a listed building in any way which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest unless you have listed building consent." Ref: Scotland's Listed Buildings – Historic Environment Scotland.
- **Culcreuch Castle Access:** I have contacted Angela Simpson (Access & Sustainable Travel Officer); Guy Harewood (Sustainable Development Project Officer); Cllr Rob Davies; and Bruce Crawford MSP, about the core path concerns and access for authorised vehicles. Would a Kissing Gate be a solution for walkers?
- **Road Safety:** Along with Gargunnoch - Kippen and Fintry have 20 mph speed limits within their villages. There are interesting reports about the benefits of a 20 mph reduction from ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and Brake – the Road Safety Charity. "A 1mph reduction in average speeds on urban roads reduces collisions by 6%". The respective websites are: www.rospa.com and www.brake.org.uk

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Stirling Council Budget:** The Council has a significant budget shortfall to be met. It is planned to achieve this with a combination of efficiency savings and some income generation proposals.
 - **Key Dates for the Diary**
 - **Thursday 6th Feb: Scottish Government Budget Meeting**
 - **Appendix 2:**
 - **Thursday 27th Feb: Stirling Council Budget Meeting**
 - **Thursday 5 March: Scottish Budget Stage 3 debate and Vote**
 - **Wednesday 11th March: UK Government Budget Meeting**
 - **Note:** The UK budget is normally set in Oct or Nov but has been delayed due to the General Election.
- **Croftamie Nursery:** The Children and Young People committee voted to close the nursery and build a new nursery next to Drymen Primary School. This has caused concern in Croftamie as the nursery is the only public building left in the village. The CC are going to challenge the decision and are looking at alternative uses for the building and the site.
- **Balfron Bank of Scotland Closures:** Balfron and Killin are the two Stirling area branches earmarked for closure. This means there will be no banks in the Forth and Endrick ward. Complaints can be sent to the Financial Ombudsman - <https://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/>
- **Roads Programme and A811 Works:** There are 4 sections that have been patched with inlay and were surface dressed later this year. The full programme for the Forth and Endrick ward is on **Appendix 1:**
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen:** The site is now subject to a 'live' planning application and I am now restricted in giving public positions of support or objection to the application. But I would be allowed to visit the site if accompanied by the council planning officer and the applicant. There is a new case officer Ritchie Gillies for the application and I have emailed him for a progress report, and if the application, given its size, will be referred to the planning panel by default, and not via an elected member referral. **Update:** Cllr Davies and I met with officers recently as there are concerns about the number of surveys/reports been asked of the applicant as we all want a solution for the site which provides off road parking, safe visitor access to the site, and an economic development opportunity.
- **Police Update:** There is a new Forth Valley area commander Chief Superintendent Alan Gibson, who has a background in both urban and rural policing and lives in Aberfoyle.
- **Killearn Hospital Site:** Cllr Davis and I met Cala representatives and the site owner in autumn 2019 and the news is the clean-up costs are higher than anticipated. This includes the removal of contaminated material and poor ground conditions where some piling will be required for foundations. This may reduce the committed sum for affordable housing but we are insistent that the mixed use area is not reduced. This area could be used for: Business Space; Bunk house for West Highland Way; Mini Care Village; Beatson Satellite Research Unit; Renewable Technology Centre. **Update:** Planning Officers have met Cala this year, and my understanding is an application is likely in Feb 2020.

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Fintry and Other Ward Issues:**

- **Planning - 20/00061/FUL | Extension to existing Cafe shop | Courtyard Cafe - Knockraich Farm Fintry:** This is subject to a delegated decision by planning officers and can't be referred to a planning panel. **Comment:** I'm noticing a healthy number of business related applications in the Ward although I have picked up that more business space/units would be desirable.
- **Planning - 20/00030/FUL - remove Condition 2 of planning permission 03/00060/DET | The Isles Fintry:** This is not an unusual request where there is an existing agricultural occupancy condition which can constrain the next owner from obtaining a mortgage on the property.
- **Fintry Flooding:** There was severe flooding at Jenny's Burn in Blanefield recently and I gave a mention of the work the Fintry Flood Forum was doing at Strathblane CC. A useful site with respect to slope stabilization and tree planting is <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/farm-woodlands/the-benefits-of-planting-trees>
- **Road Maintenance Fintry 2019:** I was pleased to see resurfacing works completed at B822 Balafark Farm, Fintry Cemetery, Culcreuch Avenue and at Bogside Fence Repair. The road maintenance policy changed over 10 years ago which allows the council to improve C and unclassified roads, including housing estate roads.
- **Road Maintenance Kippen 2020:** I would like to see some more projects on the B822 Fintry to Kippen, B818 Fintry to the A875, and the section on and near the Endrick Bridge.
- **Road Safety Blanewater Bridge Repair:** Recent works on the bridge have been completed, but further works are required on one of the retaining walls, not visible from the roadway. I've passed on the proposal that gabions could be used as an alternative.
- **Mugdock Country Park:** Commercial income is looking very positive with £122K from the last financial year. It costs £450K approx. to run the park with 87% provided by East Dunbartonshire and 12.5% from Stirling Council, who own the park and lease it to East Dunbartonshire. I have suggested charging for the carpark and using the Friends of Mugdock currently set at £15 as a parking permit.
- **Balmaha Carpark Charging Proposal:** Stirling Council are proposing to introduce charges at the Balmaha carpark and provide parking for camper vans and caravans. I attended an open session at the Buchanan Memorial Hall on Wed 15th to listen to residents views about this. **Update:** There is a possible community request for ownership of the carpark.
- **National Park:** A key issue for the National Park will be the 2020/2021 budget. At this stage, we do not know the full outcome but a flat settlement, in light of financial constraints, would be a relatively good outcome for the park. The 2018/2019 budget Income was £8.2 million which, in my opinion, is relatively modest for a national organisation.
- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Road Maintenance Programme 2019 – 2020 Forth and Endrick				
'A' Class Roads	Type	Value	Dates	Completed
A811 Stirling Carse - Gargunnoch	SD	£166,015	19 th May	Yes
A811 Kirk Lane Junction - Gargunnoch	SD	£61,650	"	Yes
A811 Balwill Layby - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£67,678	27 th May	Yes
A811 Ballat Crossroads to WD Boundary	SD	£145,733	3 rd June	Yes
A875 Boquhan - Balfroon	Inlay	£85,488	Oct 2019	Yes
A875 Coop Area - Balfroon	Inlay	£49,320	TBC	TBC
'B' Class Roads				
B837 Mill Burn - Drymen	Inlay	£70,418	Oct 2019	Moved
B822 Cemetery - Fintry	Overlay	£56,565	15 th July	Yes
B822 Balafark Farm - Kippen	Overlay	£56,565	29 th July	Yes
B835 Wester Auchentroig - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£69,135	15 th July	Yes
B835 Primary School - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£14,248	TBC	Yes
'C' Class Roads				
C6 Rowardennan	Overlay	£50,280	Oct 2019	Moved
C21 from A81 to Balfroon	Overlay	£50,280	22 nd July	Yes
C23 from B818 to Balfroon	Overlay	£50,280	29 th July	Yes
'Unclassified' Roads				
Glinns Road - Kippen	Overlay	£26,397	TBC	TBC
Mye Road - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£31,425	22 nd July	TBC
Burnside Road - Kippen	Overlay	£67,878	17 th Jun	Yes
Old Gartmore Road - Drymen	Inlay	£37,710	TBC	Yes
Streets				
Endrick Way - Croftamie	Inlay	£20,550	TBC	Yes
Branziert Rd North - Killearn	Inlay	£63,505	TBC	TBC
Culcreuch Avenue - Fintry	Inlay	£34,661	15 th July	Yes
Footways				
Branziert Road - Killearn	Inlay	£55,000	Oct 2019	TBC
McNeill Crescent - Gargunnoch	Inlay	£20,000	Nov 2019	Yes
Leckie Road Bridge - Gargunnoch	Inlay	£20,000	Nov 2019	TBC
B818 Bogside Fence Repair - Fintry	PostWire	N/a	20 th May	Complete
Station Rd - Gargunnoch	Fence	N/a	15 th July	Complete
	TOTAL	£1,370,781		

Key: SD = Surface Dress, WD = West Dunbartonshire

Appendix 2: Budget Notes

Kate Forbes MSP (Skye, Lochaber & Badenoch, Minister for Public Finance & Digital Economy). 29. First woman to deliver Scottish budget.

- Last year, the Scottish government had just under £34bn to spend - £28.6bn for day-to-day expenditure on public services, and £5.1bn for investment in infrastructure. - £14bn on health – 41% of total.
- The Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill has been passed by MSPs by 78 votes to 32, with 6 abstentions.
- No changes to income tax rates in Scotland
- More than £15bn for health and care services
- £117m of investment in mental health support
- Real-terms increase in revenue funding for councils
- £180m for closing the attainment gap in schools
- £270m for rail services
- 60% boost in funding to reduce harm from alcohol and drugs
- £40m investment in an agricultural transformation programme to help farmers develop the tools and techniques needed to tackle climate change.
- £1.25 billion on rail, and the £289 million on concessionary fares and bus services.
- Council Tax – up to 4.8%
- **Economic Forecast**
- Scottish GDP is forecast to grow by 1% in 2020 and by 1.1% in 2021
- Employment is expected to remain broadly level at 2.67 million, with an unemployment rate of 4%
- Average earnings are forecast to grow by 3% in 2020 and by 3.1% in 2021
- The projections are based on the Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts document drawn up by the Scottish Fiscal Commission
- <https://www.fiscalcommission.scot/forecast/scotlands-economic-and-fiscal-forecasts-february-2020/>