



Minutes of the meeting held on
11th June 2025

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Michele Bennett (Chair), Hendy Spence (Secretary), Jackie Garvie, Ronnie Garvie, Ian Rodger (Vice Chair)
- Gerry McGarvey (Stirling Councillor)
- **Apologies:** Moira Mackay (Treasurer)
- 3 members of the public

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

There were no declarations of interest.

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting

The previous minutes were approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- Councillor McGarvey encouraged residents to participate in the statutory consultation on the visitor's levy scheme.
- By mutual consent, Stirling's Chief Executive has left their position. Brian Roberts will be acting until a new Chief Executive can be appointed.
- A council meeting will be held at the end of the month where various issues will be addressed including the controversial organisational change policy. This is to ensure that the organisation is cost efficient whilst protecting jobs at the same time.
- In terms of Health and Social Care, the council are looking to incorporate Adult Justice and Adult Social Services into another committee so that all social care services are together. This is to try and ensure that people do not slip through the net.
- Councillor McGarvey emphasised that he is always more than happy to address any concerns within the community and invited questions.
- A member of the public commented that Councillor McGarvey had done a good job with the issues around Fintry Nursery.
- Councillor McGarvey noted that there are currently issues with the provision of music tuition. He assured the meeting that the council still holds to the commitment that was made in March to provide this provision.
- A member of the public raised the issue of the ongoing problem with crows in and around Culcreuch Avenue. Councillor McGarvey confirmed that he would be happy to try and help with this situation but noted that several things were going on to investigate the situation already. FCC are due to meet with representatives from SC on site soon and hoped to have a public meeting following that. Councillor McGarvey felt that concerns would be raised around bird welfare but was happy to try and help to find a solution. The issue has been raised before – it is a recurring problem. Every year the problem gets worse – the area where the birds are roosting is expanding year by year. A member of the public noted that the noise levels are over 80 decibels for several hours a day and that the birds are becoming a public health issue. Councillor McGarvey encouraged residents to write to him to highlight their concerns particularly where there are health and safety concerns. MB noted that there are other issues with the wooded area where the majority of the birds roost – furniture has been dumped there and there is concern over the stability of some of the trees

particularly after the storm earlier in the year. It was noted that the trees are planted very close together and have no growth lower down on the trunks. The whole area needs to be cleared out and assessed. It could be a useable space if it was tidied and cleared. The land belongs to SC so it is their responsibility. Councillor McGarvey suggested asking SC what can be done rather than making suggestions to them which they may reject.

V. Police Report

Forth and Endrick, Community Council Police Report May 2025 – compiled by PC Matt McCammon.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems. PC Matt McCammon and PC Laura Newlands are the Ward Officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact however this should not be used to report crimes.

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;

<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotlandForthValley>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland>

X - @PSOSForthValley

X - @PoliceScotland

Arnprior

No crimes or incidents of note.

Balfron

Fraud - A resident has been defrauded out of a large sum of money after making contact with what they believed to be an online investment company. The suspect was able to gain the victims trust and over the course of several months was able to convince the victim to transfer their investments to illicit offshore accounts.

Enquiry is still ongoing to trace those responsible.

Another resident has been a victim of fraud after they were contacted by telephone from someone purporting to be from their bank. The suspect advised them there had been suspicious activity on their account and to tell them the 4-digit security code they received to their phone. Unfortunately, two fraudulent withdrawals were made before the victim realised it was a scam. Enquiries are ongoing.

Anti-social behaviour - Enquiries are ongoing to identify a suspect after a resident received a threatening phone call from an unknown number.

A person was arrested, charged and held for custody for threatening and abusive behaviour and thereafter resisting arrest.

Buchlyvie

Vandalism - 3 Flagstones have been damaged from a circular drystone structure within the community garden of Buchlyvie Primary School. Unfortunately, there are no further lines of enquiry and this remains undetected.

Theft from vehicle - A bicycle has been stolen from a motor vehicle's roof rack within the village. Unfortunately, there are no further lines of enquiry and this remains undetected.

Croftamie

Theft - A theft has been recorded after unknown suspect(s) stole a garden trolley from a driveway at the locus whilst left unattended. There are no further lines of enquiry and this remains undetected.

Road Traffic - A report was received from a resident regarding ongoing issues with vehicles driving at speed through Croftamie.

Whilst carrying out patrols in the village a driver was stopped and issued with a fixed penalty ticket for driving a vehicle without a valid MOT certificate.

Drymen

Incidents of note - A driver was issued with a recorded police warning after intentionally opening their car door striking another person and driving off.

There was a report of numerous cars parked on the clearway and causing obstructions at Balmaha and on the road between Rowardennan and Balmaha. Road closures were put in place to alleviate the congestion and to discourage others from parking on the roadway. Police were contacted regarding a male who had gone into cardiac arrest at the foot of Conic hill. With help from national park rangers, ambulance service and Lomond Mountain rescue team the male was resuscitated and brought down from the hill on a stretcher and taken to hospital. The latest update was the casualty remained in a stable condition.

A male and his son had climbed Ben Lomond but found themselves in difficulty on the descent due to poor visibility. With thanks to Lomond Mountain rescue team and members of the public the pair were helped off the hill without issue.

Fintry

Anti-social Behaviour - A report has been received regarding the conduct of persons towards other residents in the village. Enquires are ongoing.

Gargunnock

Poaching - Enquiries are ongoing after a local farmer observed a white van and pickup driving through his field. He also observed an unknown male within his field and a greyhound type dog chasing a hare. Upon seeing the farmer the male, along with the dog and the vehicle left the area.

Killlearn

Theft - Enquiries are ongoing after a Theft by Shoplifting occurred when an expensive bottle of whisky was stolen from the gift shop at Glengoyne Distillery.

A theft was recorded after a fruit machine within Campsie Glen Holiday Park was stolen. Unfortunately, there are no further lines of enquiry.

Fraud - Two fraud crimes were recorded during the period. One related to direct debits that had been set up without the knowledge of the account holder to transfer monies to another account and the other was in relation to an unknown suspect pretending to be calling from the complainer's bank and convincing the complainer to authorise transactions. Enquires are ongoing for both crimes.

Incidents of note Police along with other emergency services, were called to Finnich Glen after reports of a male entering the water and failing to resurface were received.

Unfortunately, a body was recovered from the water and pronounced dead at the scene.

We would like to thank Lomond Mountain rescue, Scottish Fire and Rescue service and Scottish ambulance Service for their efforts. The family have been informed.

There were several other calls to Finnich Glen throughout the period ranging from issues due to cars parking along the road to safety fears for members of the public and this area remains a concern.

Kippen

Fraud - A resident has been defrauded of a sum of money after the vehicle that they believed they were purchasing from Facebook Marketplace failed to be delivered despite deposits being paid. Enquires in relation to this are ongoing.

Strathblane

Road Traffic - A theft of a motor vehicle has been recorded following the attempted theft of an all-terrain vehicle and a device for spreading animal feed from a farm by unknown persons. Fortunately, the suspect was unable to start the vehicle and left the scene.

Enquires are ongoing.

A male was issued with a fixed penalty notice for using a handheld mobile phone device whilst driving along the A809.

Theft - Two quad bikes were stolen from a farm within the Blane field area. One was recovered by police and the other remains outstanding. Extensive enquiries in relation to this and other quad bike thefts are ongoing.

A report was made regarding poachers regularly attending and fishing at Carbeth Loch. The local wildlife crime officer has been made aware.

Vandalism - Enquiries are ongoing in relation to two vandalisms, both of which occurred within Mugdock Country Park. The first was recorded when a wall was damaged by the removal of stones along a three-metre section affording a vehicle a means of exiting the locked car park and the other involved damage to the perimeter metal fence that is in place to prevent people accessing the water-filled quarry. (Both still live and undetected but all relevant lines of enquiry complete and likely suitable for closure.)

Fraud - A resident was the victim of a fraud where money was taken from her bank account after an unknown person contacted her via telephone then sent an approval request through the victim's banking app. Unfortunately, there are no further lines of enquiry and this remains undetected.

VI. Planning

- There were no planning applications submitted in the past month.

VII. Finance

- The grant application forms need to be updated to enable residents to apply online now that the website is up and running again.

VIII. Resilience update

- There was a fault on the defibrillator at the Sports Centre. Trossachs Search and Rescue came out to have a look at it.
- Clearance of Himalayan Balsam is planned for early July.
- An application is being worked on with SEPA to fund the rest of the Leaky Dams.

IX. Roads/paths

- The replacement of the street lighting with LED lighting is ongoing. Work should have started on Culcreuch Avenue but there have been hold ups on the Menzies Estate.
- The FCC notice board is being put back up on Saturday.
- MB attended a meeting recently about additional rural transport. It will be part funded through the tourism levy.
- Repair work will be carried out on the wall around the garden area at the cross over the summer.
- There has been an enquiry from a member of the public about the pavement being weeded. MB will contact SC regarding this but the Fintry Wombles are currently engaged in a weeding project and are working their way around the village.
- Road sweeping is scheduled to be done but no date has been confirmed yet.
- JG commented on the grass cutting at the cross and the fact that the cut grass is now left. MB said that this is now the council policy but that she will raise it with them. JG and RG asked if extra cuts could be done and paid for by the FCC. A member of the public has done extra cuts previously. MB will speak to them to ask if they would be continuing.
- A member of the public has offered to fund the repair of the sluice gate at Craigton Pond. Water is currently running down onto the park. Discussions are under way with the land owners.
- Road Closures – The A81 Strathblane Road between its junctions with the B8030 Station Road/Baldernock Road and Moor Road will be closed from 6 a.m. on Sunday 15 June until 6 p.m. on Sunday 22 June 2025. The Denny Road (B818) is closing at 6 a.m. on Monday 30 June until 6 p.m. on Friday 4 July. The road through Buchlyvie (A811) will be closed from Monday 30 June until Sunday 6 July.

X. Correspondence

- An email has been received from a resident at Balgair asking if the trial bus on a Saturday would be able to pick them up en route. MB advised that that would be no problem.
- An email has been received from a resident regarding water damage to the notice at the Sports Centre about the defibrillator. A permanent sign has been erected.
- An email has been received from a member of the public regarding the Himalayan Balsam. The removal of this is already planned.
- A letter has been received from a member of the public about the area known locally as 'the jungle' regarding the dumped furniture, the crows and the general tidy-up that is needed. This issue is being pursued.

XI. Any other business

- The website is now up and running again but has been out of action for a long time so needs to be updated. MB has a meeting next week regarding this.

- Repairs to the bus shelter should be completed later in the summer. The bus shelter belongs to FCC.
- Two of the trees planted by FCC have died. MB to organise their replacement.
- Balfour Library is having an event on the 24th June to discuss the results of the recent Library survey.
- A Survey Monkey will be issued soon to gather information for a Fintry Community Booklet to include useful phone numbers and local businesses.
- Benches – a grant application has been submitted for benches and picnic tables. JG has spoken to a representative from the Sports Centre about siting two benches just outwith the community garden. Confirmation will be sought once the grant has been approved.
- RG raised the issue of flooding on the Endrick Bridge getting worse. MB will speak to SC. Major works are already planned for the bridge at some point.
- A meeting regarding affordable housing will be arranged soon.
- The trial of a bus to Stirling on a Saturday will continue throughout June.

XII. Date of next meeting

- The next FCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th September at 7.30 p.m. and will be the A.G.M.