

Approved Minutes

Balmullo Community Council – Monday 9th June 2025

Committee present: Colin Finlay (CF) Convener, Mike Ashburn (MA) Andrew Donald (AF), Mike Fearon (MF), Sue Smith (SS), Cllr Jonny Tepp (JT)

Public present: 4

Apologies: Cllr Alan Knox, Cllr Louise Kennedy Dalby, Sheryl Morris

Minutes: Mike Fearon

Summary of Action Points	ACTION
Request extension of consultation period and form a sub-group to take ownership of the playing fields	JT/MF

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Corrections
There were no errors or omissions

- b. Actions arising

	ACTION	OUTCOME
Request for more regular updates of works carried out by SP Energy in relation to network upgrade	LKD	Complete
Develop a one-page information summary for publication on the CC website	SN/SM	Complete
Report ivy growth to FC grounds	LKD	Ongoing
Confirm responsibility of the burn with Greenbelt and report flooding risk to SEPA	LKD/CF	Ongoing
Report to Quarry Liaison Group regarding siren volume and operating hours.	JT/CF	Ongoing
Review website analytics to identify any improvements.	SM	Ongoing
Arrange temporary monitoring within the community – Breedon to install equipment at a local resident's house before the next blast date.	CF	Ongoing
Request an update on complaints process including contact details.	CF	Ongoing
Request/install a speeding sign on A914 exiting Balmullo towards Dairsie	LKD/JT	Ongoing

2. Councillors Reports

- a. JT provided a detailed report of current topics (*appendix 1*) including the acquisition of Balmullo Playing Fields by Fife Council [**ACTION**]

3. Treasurers Report

- a. Outstanding invoices to be resolved later this week

4. Incoming Correspondence

- a. SS provided details of the current planning applications within the community including (25/00417/EIA, 16/03871/NMV1)
- b. SS has circulated all incoming correspondence with committee members including.
 - Newsletters
 - Police report (*appendix 2*)

5. Updates

- a. Save Lucklawhill – A meeting was held with Wendy Chamberlain MP during a site visit to a walking route on Lucklaw Hill to discuss significant concerns regarding the proposed continuation and expansion of the quarry. Key issues raised included the scale of the development and the potential loss of public access. The Access Officer will be consulted to determine if the proposed changes meet the relevant criteria. Further discussion focused on the potential environmental and residential impacts, including noise, dust, and the short and long-term health risks associated with silica exposure for the nearby village. A formal response to the Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMP) is being prepared. This response will highlight concerns that the proposed changes to planning conditions represent a regression in monitoring and reporting standards. It will be strongly advocated that the Quarry Liaison Group remains a key stakeholder in all future developments. Additionally, it was noted that the developer's climate change response is considered inadequate and fails to address the full environmental impact of the proposal.
- b. Local Development – no concerns
- c. Planting – Taking place on Monday evening (18:30). Barrels to be sourced for replacement later in the year

6. AOB

- a. Taybridgehead meeting – 18th June 19:30 at Balmullo Village Hall (CF/MF to attend).

7. Date of next meeting – Monday 8th September

Cllr Jonny Tepp & Cllr Allan Knox– Tay Bridgehead Focus Team Report & News

Matters Arising

The following matters arising after our last report

1. **Dangerous building and debris** – We have been in regular contact with Public Safety officers at the Council who have in turn been in contact with Vodafone Mitie and Cellnet. We understand that Cellnet have removed debris on Lucklaw Hill but that Vodafone still require to attend to fencing. Our last emails on this were exchange on Friday 6th with Council officers
2. **Quarry Fencing** – We have shared concerns about the fencing situation at the quarry with Breedon and asked them to consider concerns. They have promised to consider options and will bring these to the liaison group for comments,
3. **Balmullo Playing Fields** – The Council is seeking to acquire the above and have consulted on this for comments by 11th June – see **APPENDIX 1**
4. **Community Benefits request form** – A form has been shared with us for use by community organisations who would like to complete it in order to request ‘potential community benefit opportunities within Fife Council procurement contracts’. The gist is that where there are new ‘large contracts’ the council can ask for and negotiate on potential community benefits. There is no promise that these might come to pass but if any organisations do have any ideas please let us know or ask for the form (we have shared with community councils so submitting ideas through or with community councils might be a good idea).
5. **Budget Brief & Financial Plans 2025-2026** - The Budget Brief and Financial Plans for 2025-26 are both now published on Revenue Budget | Fife Council. The Budget Brief provides a summary of the Council's revenue budget for 2025-26 and of the 10-year capital investment plan. Information relating to Council Tax and some key statistics and performance indicators are also included within the Budget Brief. The Financial Plans provides more detail for the revenue budget for both General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), with budget provided for each Directorate.
6. **E-Scooters** – A briefing note has been issued on the risks and dangers posed by E-Scooters. For the avoidance of doubt below is guidance from Police Scotland regarding the legal position on e-scooters:

It is not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. This means it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car

7. **Vaping Concerns** – Concerns have been shared with us over an epidemic of vaping taking place at Madras College, particularly in the female toilets, and impacting those who do not wish to be impacted by it. We raised this with the Rector and were reassured that:

We do regular toilet monitoring across the 5 toilet blocks and changing spaces and follow up with parents where found. Please can you ask the grandparent if they'd like to get in touch with the DHT or I to discuss in more depth about the experience and enable us to offer some practical supports. We monitor toilets regularly with staff and following discussion with pupils have started the process of:

- 1. Commissioning vape detectors in each toilet block/ changing spaces as a deterrent, based on pupil voice.*
- 2. Developing a pupil voice approach to toilets spaces - assembly messages, signage in the toilet spaces.*

8. **Local development plan** – It will set out the **planning** policies and proposals for the use and **development** of land across **Fife** for the next 10 to 20 years. Work on this has been ongoing for several years. The 'call for sites and ideas' stage closed on 25 February and Fife council planners now have to assess these ideas which may include proposals for housing developments in Tay Bridgehead. The public will be able to see the sites submitted when the committee papers for the Proposed Plan are published early next year. Elected members will be aware when these are shared and will alert communities on the opportunities that exist for them to comment.

9. **Pothole repairs** – We all get asked about the efficacy of temporary pothole repairs and 'quality control' of same – when we would all rather see permanent repairs carried out first time. From time to time we ask for 'current thinking' on how the service operates in this regard and we thought that constituents might find it helpful to see this (it is also interesting to note that before we changed to the current risk based regime prioritising on speed x traffic volume x context as opposed to simply on size, the proportion of temporary repairs has reduced from 60% of the total to just 30% - so more repairs are now 'permanent' – and repeat visits have fallen too):

You may already be aware, and I apologise if this is the case, but Roads and Transportation Services operate two separate branches for undertaking pothole repairs. We have a Maintenance Operations team, who generally undertake reactive smaller (P1 & P2) repairs to deal with immediate safety defects, and a planned Design & Build construction team who are equipped to undertake larger planned patching (P3 & P4) repairs.

Temporary infill repairs are issued when a defect needs to be made safe and/or when larger planned patching or ARP resurfacing is approved. There is no point in the Service doing any sort of high-quality repairs along a stretch of road with upcoming resurfacing works, so temporary infills are utilised to make safe any identified defects. I acknowledge that temporary infill repairs do not look aesthetically pleasing and can give the impression of poor workmanship, but safety is the Service's priority in the first instance.

In other scenarios, where there is a localised pothole, then a high-quality pothole repair can be issued by a Technical Inspector with a repair undertaken by our Maintenance Operations team (I've attached an example to this email for info). There are a number of factors to consider, but these can generally only be issued if the surrounding road condition allows.

The benefits of this approach have reduced our repeat visits to previously attended pothole repairs from 32% (22/23) to 21% (23/24) across the whole of Fife, and an increase in the square meterage treated from 56,584m² (22/23) to 72,132m² (23/24).

10. **Woodland Strategy** – Fife Council is consulting on its Woodland Strategy last reviewed and signed-off in 2013. It proposes new targets on woodland coverage and places a greater emphasis on the impacts of climate change and addressing the biodiversity emergency. The draft strategy has been developed by consultants LUC in partnership with Fife Council and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust.

[consultation on a draft Fife Forestry and Woodlad Strategy.](#)

The following news items may be of interest are extracts from Willie Rennie MSP and Wendy Chamberlain MP regular newsletters. Let us know if you would like to know more:

CUPAR MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership has decided to close the Minor Injuries Unit based at Adamson Hospital.

TEACHER WORKFORCE CRISIS

Willie led a debate on the crisis in teacher workforce planning, with many teachers struggling to find work or stuck on temporary contracts, and shortages in secondary school subjects particularly in rural areas.

AUTISM AND ADHD SUPPORT

Too many people with neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism and ADHD are being let down by a lack of support. They have huge potential and a great amount to offer, but face years and years on waiting lists before they can be assessed and receive the services they need.

GPs AND CONTINUITY OF CARE

A recent report has highlighted the lack of priority for embedding continuity of care in GP services. In a survey fewer than half of GPs said they felt able to deliver continuity of care which meets their patients' needs.

PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR STRATEGY

Willie brought amendments to the Housing Bill which would have required the government to produce a strategy for the private rented sector. He wants to make clear that the sector is part of the solution to the housing crisis, and was glad that the Cabinet Secretary confirmed that work on a strategy is being taken forward with the CIH through the Housing to 2040 Board.

NHS FIFE OVERSPEND

NHS Fife overspent its budget by over £55 million in the last financial year, showing the immense strain health services are under.

BROADBAND ACCESS

Half of the areas in North East Fife are amongst the worst-served 10% for broadband coverage in the UK. This creates unnecessary barriers to online services, and requires action from the Scottish and UK governments.

ASSISTED DYING VOTE

Last week MSPs voted on the first stage of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill in the Scottish Parliament. The Bill was passed with a majority, and it will now go to the health committee for scrutiny and votes on proposed amendments. MSPs across the parliament will then have a chance to vote on further amendments before a final vote.

INVESTMENT NEEDED TO TACKLE HOUSING EMERGENCY

Investment in housebuilding is the key to increasing the supply of homes and tackling the housing emergency. This was badly impacted by cuts to the affordable housing budget

FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANTS

Fife Council has announced the extension of its Property Flood Resilience Grant scheme for a further year. If your property has been flooded or is at risk of flooding you can apply for up to £5,000 to put flood prevention measures in place.

SEPA WATER SCARCITY ALERT

SEPA has extended its 'moderate scarcity' warning for water scarcity. It follows a drier than normal autumn and winter with some areas of the east now having eleven months of below average rainfall.

CHILDMINDER RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The Scottish Childminding Association is leading a recruitment drive to train and support new childminders in Fife. A package of support is available to help get started, with a minimum £750 start-up grant, unique package of childminding-specific training and one-to-one support from a dedicated Workforce Officer who helps support candidates at every stage of their journey. No previous childcare experience is required to become a childminder, but you should be passionate about working with children.

Tay Bridgehead Focus Team

Councillor Jonny Tepp Westfield Terrace NEWPORT-ON-TAY DD6 8HX Mobile: 07840919734 Email: cllr.jonny.tepp@fife.gov.uk	Councillor Allan Knox Crawford Gardens ST ANDREWS KY16 8XQ Mobile 07719 770073 Email: cllr.allan.knox@fife.gov.uk
	

Council Out Of Hours:

For genuine emergencies concerning drainage, flooding, street lighting, building repairs, roads, repairs to council houses and social care. 03451 55 00 99
From 5 pm to 8 am weekdays, 24hrs weekends and public holidays

Homeless Emergencies:

24 Hours: 0800 028 6231

National Emergency Contacts:

Fire, Police, Ambulance emergencies 999

Police Scotland (Non-Emergency) 101

NHS 24 111

Scottish Water Emergencies 0800 0788 788

Scottish Power Emergencies 0800 027 0072

Power Cuts 105

Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) 0800 111 9999

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) 03000996699

DELEGATED PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS CONSULTATION

To:	Michael Enston Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby (Ward 17) Councillor Allan Knox (Ward 17) Councillor Jonny Tepp (Ward 17)
From:	Jaimie-Leigh Ellis, Property Services – Estates Team, Bankhead Central, Glenrothes
Date:	28/05/2025

In accordance with the current Fife Council List of Officer Powers (12 December 2024), the Executive Director/the local members require(s) to be consulted where the Council is looking to acquire property by sale. The List of Officer Powers can be viewed at: [List of Officer Powers](#)

Details of the property transaction are outlined below:-

1. TRANSACTION TYPE	Acquisition.
2. ADDRESS OF PROPERTY	Balmullo Playing Field, Dunedin Park, Balmullo, St Andrews, KY16 0AS.
3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (including area if appropriate)	Playing field adjacent to Balmullo Primary School. Area extends to 1.52Ha or thereby.

	Land is currently maintained by Grounds Maintenance.
4. HOLDING SERVICE	Communities.
5. BACKGROUND	Balmullo Playing Field Trust are winding up and looking to give the playing field back to Fife Council for a nominal fee. Communities have agreed they will take responsibility of the land with Grounds Maintenance continuing to maintain it.
6. PROPOSED USE	Public greenspace.
7. SERVICE COMMENTS	Both Communities and Grounds Maintenance have agreed to this acquisition.
8. RECOMMENDATION	Recommendation is to approve the acquisition.
9. ENCLOSURES	Site plan: E25BA001
10. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	N/A.

Please let me know if you have any comments. If I do not hear from you by 12pm on 11th June 2025, it will be assumed that you do not have any comments, and I will proceed to seek approval under the List of Officer Powers.

NB. Please note that the information contained in this document is for consultation purposes only and is commercially confidential at this time. It should not be shared with parties outwith the Council.

May 2025

Welcome to the Tay Bridgehead monthly report from your local community officers, PC 0738 Norman Kinloch and PC 0719 Lewis Ballantyne.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Below is the local contact email address for your local community team.

This is **NOT** for reporting a crime but if you feel you require to contact your local community officer then our email address is the best way to do so.

If you do not have access to the internet, then you can call 101 and the call handler can send an email on your behalf.

Email us at: TayBridgeHeadCPT@scotland.police.uk



Please Note, this email address is NOT for reporting a crime or ongoing incidents and due to our shift pattern, is not monitored 24/7

Coffee with Cop

PC's Kinloch and Ballantyne attended at Balmullo Community Centre from 1100 hours - 1200 on 07/05/2025.

The officer's will be attending at the Larick centre at 1000 hours, 19/06/2025 to speak with any members of the public who wish to drop by for a chat.



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OPERATION PARAMOUNT – ROAD SAFETY



PC's Kinloch and Ballantyne have carried out Unipar enforcement deployments in the following areas in the month of May;

Albert Street, Tayport
Cupar Road, Newport on Tay (Newport Primary School)
A91, Edenside, Guardbridge

This resulted in numerous stops, checks, warnings and tickets issued in relation to speeding, no MOT, use of electronic device and insurance.

POLICE SCOTLAND COMMENCES NATIONAL ROLL OUT OF BODY WORN VIDEO CAMERAS

The national rollout of body worn video (BWV) is one of the Chief Constables Commitments and is also a key change project to improve policing in Scotland. The roll out started in Tayside in March 2025 and is expected to be complete by Spring 2026. Police Scotland has agreed a national contract with Motorola Solutions UK limited to implement BWV for officers and staff across Scotland over the next three years. BWV can help to de-escalate incidents, improve public trust in policing and reduce complaints, support officer and staff safety, and bring wider benefits to the criminal justice system.



What is body worn video?

BWV refers to small, lightweight recording devices which are attached to an officer's uniform, usually on the chest and will be visible to people you interact with. The cameras are robust enough for frontline policing and have been approved for use in the UK by the Home Office. The wearing of BWV will be mandatory for all uniformed frontline police officers and police staff. BWV will not be used covertly or for surveillance purposes.

What do the public think about BWV?

It is important that we understand the impact that BWV may have on our officers and communities.

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In 2021 we conducted one of the largest surveys that Police Scotland has undertaken in relation to the police use of BWV. Around 9,000 responses were received.

The results found that:

- **There is widespread and strong support for the use of BWV.**
A large majority (90%) of respondents felt that BWV should be worn “often” or “always”.
- **BWV has the potential to increase trust and confidence in Police Scotland.**
78% of respondents reported that BWV would increase their trust in Police Scotland, and the same number reported that it would increase their confidence in Police Scotland.
- **BWV will increase feelings of safety.**
72% of respondents reported that BWV would make them feel “much safer”.

What are the benefits of BWV?

BWV brings about many benefits to workforce as well as to the public and victims of crime.

Some of the benefits include:

- Improved level of public trust
- Improved operational effectiveness
- Supports officer safety and wellbeing
- Improve evidence in criminal/non-criminal investigations
- Improve partner relationship

CALLS RECEIVED (UP TO 30/05/2025)

The Tay Bridgehead area 225 had calls.

Call breakdown is as follows -

Area 17D received 7 Calls.

1 dishonesty

GAULDRY

4 calls to the police.

BALMERINO

2 calls to the police.

BOTTOMCRAIG

0 calls to the police.

KILMANY & ROADS

1 call to the police.

Area 18A received 107 calls.

7 Crimes against person, 9 Road Traffic offences, 1 disorder offence.

BALMULLO

11 calls to the police.

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LEUCHARS

45 calls to the Police

GUARDBRIDGE

48 calls to the Police

ST MICHAELS & ROADS

3 calls to the police.

Area 18B received 46 Calls.

1 Road traffic offences, 4 dishonesties, 2 Crimes against person.

NEWPORT

19 calls to police.

WORMIT

15 calls to police.

Roads & Drumoig

12 calls to police.

Area 18C as a whole received 65 Calls.

5 RT offences, 5 Crimes against person, 2 disorder offences, 3 dishonesties.

TAYPORT

58 calls to the police.

Tay Bridge & A92

5 calls to the police.

Tentsmuir & Surrounding

2 calls to the police.

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