

Approved Minutes

Balmullo Community Council – Monday 10th November 2025

Committee present: Colin Finlay (CF) *Convener*, Andrew Donald (AD), Mike Fearon (MF), Cllr Louise Kennedy Dalby (LKD), Sheryl Morris (SM), Sue Smith (SS) Cllr Jonny Tepp (JT)

Public present: 11

Apologies: Cllr Alan Knox

Minutes: Mike Fearon

Summary of Action Points	ACTION
Speed survey on Clay Road	JT/LKD

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Corrections
There were no errors or omissions

- b. Actions arising

	ACTION	OUTCOME
Raise Clay Road safety concerns linked to new development with FC	JT/LKD	Complete
Raise developer communication issues with the developer/FC planning team	JT/LKD	Complete
Confirm responsibility of the burn with Greenbelt and report flooding risk to SEPA	LKD/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

2. Councillors Reports

- a. JY provided a detailed report (appendix 1).
- b. Newport light switch on is scheduled for Monday 17th November
- c. Guardbridge light switch on is scheduled for Saturday 22nd November

3. Treasurers Report

- a. Update pending

4. Incoming Correspondence

- a. SS provided details of the current planning applications within the community including (25/02782/FULL)
- b. SS has circulated all incoming correspondence with committee members including.
 - Newsletters
 - Police report (appendix 2)

5. Updates

- a. Save Lucklawhill – the group are seeking clarity on the current closing date, and a note was made that restoration must be completed within 12 months of mineral extraction ceasing. The group and CC thanked the Councillors for their support and questions asked during the ROMP meeting. It was felt that the expectations put on quarry liaison group is greater than initially believed and defined roles and responsibilities will need to be created. The group have reported that communication from Breedon has been poor, primarily linked to last minute meeting notices and lack of minutes being shared. The extension application is not validated to date and the current ecology survey expired in August 2025 which will have to be renewed before the next planning application.
- b. Local Development – developers contacted to invite them to the next Community Council meeting. They have confirmed they will attend on Monday 8th December.
- c. Local Development – vehicle movement and speed still highlighted as a concern on Clay Road [**ACTION**].
- d. Planting – review in progress.

6. AOB

- a. CF and LKD attended remembrance service events.
- b. Query on CC funding (12p per electoral register) usage – used for hall hire, planting and supporting local groups with any ad-hoc requests.

7. Date of next meeting – Monday 8th December

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

Matters Arising

The following matters arising from the last report

1. Clay Road – We have corresponded with transportation and residents over requests for a one-way system to be considered. Transportation do not support the request and have provided some reasoning along the lines that this could exacerbate any speeding problems.
2. Balmullo Quarry – The extension was granted with some tweaks to existing conditions but not material changes as this was not the purpose of this planning application. We were able to ask a number of questions in the meeting and after the meeting we also sought answers to a number of questions raised with us by the Save Lucklaw Hill Campaign Group – we thought it might be helpful to share that information so have included this in Appendix 1
3. Mud on Road – WE regularly receive complaints about mud on the road. You can report this online using the road fault form OR by phoning the urgent / out of hours number 03451 55 00 99.
4. Signs – We have asked transportation services to tell us more about how the backlog of signage issues is being addressed and about any potential to set up a project to clean and maintain signs including cutting back overhanging vegetation around signs – and what the staff or budget issues are here that appear to be preventing a better service.
5. Pavement parking – 193 Parking Charge Notices PCNs have been issued across Fife since 1 September. We have made a number of suggestions for further exemptions to be considered at a workshop held in Cupar on 20th August but we have heard nothing further.
6. Parking Fines – The current situation is that only Fife Council parking attendants can issue parking fines and this must be based on evidence collected by them in person and they cannot do so based on photographic evidence submitted by any third party. This is written into legislation we are told.
7. Fife Visitor Levy Engagement Consultation – Fife Council is consulting on the possible introduction of a visitor levy. A series of roadshows are being held including one at the Larick Centre on 8th December 12-4pm.
8. Leuchars Tayport Tentsmuir Active Travel – the group working on this has now approached the Tayport Community Trust with a view to becoming as a subgroup on the trust as an umbrella organisation. More community information sharing and campaigning is now in progress. The biggest challenges will be to understand and overcome objections to the route and to build a large and engaged community of support.
9. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is inviting people across Scotland to help shape the future of some of the nation's most important historic places and collections through a new public consultation. [Help shape the future of Scotland's historic sites and collections in state care | HistEnvScot](#)
10. Toy Drive - The Toy Drive was set up in 2013 with the support of the local Children & Families Team in order to distribute gifts to families in need at Christmas. There are various local collection points for gifts that can be made up to 30th November. There are various locations where donations can be made – but no Balmullo location was on the list that was circulated.

11. The Scottish landfill Tax currently funds organisations like Fife Environment Trust. As SLT is coming to an end the fund will not be able to disburse new money in future leaving a significant gap. Between 2015-2025 Tayport has benefited from £120k in grants from FET (£255 k across the whole of Tay Bridgehead) supporting projects to the value of around £190k (£561k is the Tay Bridgehead Total). Tayport appears to have done particularly well out of the FET during this period and it is not yet clear where a similar replacement fund will be found.
12. Xmas Lights – In many parts of NEF local groups organise community lights – and there have been a number of difficulties to do with storage, putting up and taking down of these with the costs of the main company involved, Blachere, having increased significantly over recent years. There are also difficulties with new lampposts being unable to accept the lights.

Briefing Updates

The following news items may be of interest:

ECO4 Scheme Failures

In a Westminster Hall debate Wendy Chamberlain shared the experience of Jackie and her husband, a retired couple from North East Fife whose home was left in a state of disrepair following shoddy retrofit work under the ECO4 scheme. After filling out an online quiz on the Energy Advice Helpline website, Jackie and her husband found themselves pushed into a pipeline of works with little information, no clear contract, and no project management.

MATERNITY CARE FAILINGS

Willie Rennie questioned the health secretary over shocking failings in maternity services which were revealed in a BBC Disclosure programme and by recent Health Improvement Scotland inspections.

The health secretary announced a task force but Willie asked him to consider a national investigation if that is recommended.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Willie questioned the interim Principal of the University of Dundee, Nigel Seaton, at the education committee.

In response to questions, the Principal said that he believes that the Scottish Government accepts his assessment that job losses beyond the 300 already understood would be required as part of the university's recovery.

Tay Bridgehead Focus Team

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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

Appendix 1 – Post ROMP decision questions from SLCAG to FC Planning Lead Professional (Minerals)

1. Please clarify the closing date for the Quarry?

I took some time in both the Report of Handling for 25/00417/EIA, and in amplification at Committee during my presentation, to explain this matter. There is no condition in the original planning permission (08/00835/EEIA) limiting the life of the quarry in terms of a closure date. The limitation on the permission relates to the red line boundary of the permission and to the amount of material within that boundary that is allowed to be extracted - i.e. up to a maximum of 150,000 tonnes per year. Quarrying within the existing red line boundary can therefore continue until the permitted mineral resource is exhausted. As I indicated at Committee, the reference to 21 years and 6 months (plus 6 months for restoration) was an indicative estimate of how long it would take for the permitted reserve to be exhausted should the quarry remove the maximum 150,000 tonnes in each year. This rate has not been achieved (and realistically wouldn't have been expected to be achieved) as the operation of the quarry is market responsive.

2. You mentioned that re-establishing the Quarry Liaison Committee was relatively straightforward and “seamless”. In fact, Cllr Tepp and I exchanged numerous emails including with Kris Bremner at Breedon, over the summer of 2024, in order to re-establish the QLC about a year ago. A summary of the history is that Kris Bremner sent a letter to the Quarry Manager for distribution to nearby residents in June 2024 but it was not delivered. He sent a second letter that was also not delivered until we chased it up. In the end, only some of the nearest residents were invited to re-establish the QLC, which they did. (I have email strings 29-30/8/24 which I can supply with Cllr Tepp’s permission). **Would you like to see this evidence?**

2. I wasn't aware that there had been any difficulty, or reticence on the part of the operator, in re-establishing the BQLC. Breedon engage in other quarry Liaison Committees readily (as evidenced by Cllr McDiarmid's comments on Clatchard Craig Quarry at Committee) and are generally always responsive to Planning Services' requests for action or information. I am content to take your word that, in this instance, there was a protracted exchange of correspondence around the matter but I consider that the fundamental point is that the BQLC was re-established with Breedon as a willing participant, without any suggestion of the need for coercion on the part of Planning Services to achieve that position.

3. You mentioned that lorries do not queue at the road end as far as you were aware. At about 7am, 4-8 lorries are often seen waiting to go up when the gates are opened at about 7.30am. This means that a lot of lorries are using the very narrow road up to the Quarry at a time when local people are walking their dogs or exercising before work, which is not a safe combination especially when it is dark. It has become more dangerous because 8-wheeler lorries are now using the tiny road frequently, which was not the case just a few years ago.

Cllr Kennedy asked why the narrow road was not adopted by the Council? Would you be able to ask your colleagues in Transport for the answer, or direct us to the correct person to contact?

3. For accuracy, Cllr Kennedy has clarified that it was Cllr Kennedy-Dalby's question. This is a matter that was at least partially covered by my Legal colleague, Mr Paterson, during Committee, where it was indicated that there were a number of factors likely to be at play in this decision, not least the land ownership position and who has rights over the road.

In response to your direct question 3, my colleagues in Transportation Services have indicated the following:

"Quarry Road, Balmullo is not an adopted road. This means that although the public have a right of passage along it, it is private in terms of the maintenance responsibility. In such cases the responsibility to maintain the road rests with the landowner(s) or the adjoining frontagers.

Our records, including correspondence from the 1980's confirm its private status. It is not listed in the street registers inherited from the former District and Regional Councils.

We have received requests to adopt this road in the past and whilst we, in principle, would have no objection this could only take place if the road is of an adoptable standard, determined by Roads & Transportation Services. This may necessitate the requirement to make changes to the road layout (e.g. provision of a turning head, passing places, and the repair and upgrade of the road construction, including installation of suitable drainage or repair of existing).

This could potentially be very expensive with the burden of cost for such upgrade being apportioned among all landowner(s) or frontagers on an equal basis and could only proceed if agreement is confirmed from the majority of the frontagers."

4. The presentation on sound was particularly interesting and the limit of 45dB for normal operations was set which roughly equates to average home noise levels. Depending on wind direction and operational activities (e.g. crushing), noise levels in the village would not be described in this way. A formal complaint regarding noise was sent to Public Protection and the complainant was sent details of a mobile phone app that he should use to record potential breaches and yet you described such mobile phone devices as unsuitable. **Residents need clarity on how to record noise level breaches, please advise.**

4. Fife Council does indeed advise complainants to use a Noise App, however the main use of the Noise App is as a screening tool to enable Environmental Services to undertake an initial assessment of complaints - if the Public Protection Team feel that there may be a genuine complaint which requires further investigation then it would look to install a calibrated noise meter. On occasion, Noise App recordings can be used as a basis for having an informal discussion with the party causing the noise, but it is highly unlikely that

such recordings would be sufficient for the taking of more formal action without other evidence. The Noise App would also be more for nuisance complaints instead of for monitoring compliance against a set noise limit. The point I was making at Committee is that such apps can only be a guide, as they are not sufficiently technically accurate, and since proper sound recording with calibrated equipment is a skilled operation, which must be undertaken by trained personnel.

5. You also mentioned allegations of working out of hours. **How should residents record such breaches given that Fife Council offices are closed before 7.30am when this has been noted? How can we send you video evidence?**

5. If residents of Balmullo have a concern that any condition attached to the existing planning permission is being breached, this can be raised with, and evidence sent to, the Council's Environmental Services' Public Protection Team, and to Planning Enforcement, using the following link:

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/services/form-pages/report-unauthorised-building-work>

In a separate question on the NHS findings on potential health impact of the quarries the Public Protection Team have advised that they are talking to their counterparts in the NHS and that the NHS team are looking into concerns and we sought reassurance that Balmullo quarry was included in this work. The intimation was that we should get a further report update back on this work by the end of the year.

October 2025

Welcome to the Tay Bridgehead monthly report from your local community officers, PC P0738 Norman Kinloch and PC P0576 Daniel Strandberg.

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 a Cop

If you are looking to arrange a day for officers to attend at a local café and set up a Coffee with a Cop appointment, please get in contact via the email provided.



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ALFRED DUNHILL LINKS CHAMPIONSHIP



The Dunhill Cup, running on the three courses, Kingsbarns, Carnoustie and the Old Course, from 2nd to 5th October. The weather could have been better, with Storm Amy hitting and play suspended on the Friday and cancelled on the Saturday, with the eventual worthy winner Bob McIntyre. The weather held out for the fireworks display on the Saturday evening which was enjoyed by all. The eventual winner being

As with other golfing events, PCs Kinloch and Strandberg were involved with assisting the security and safe running of the event. PSYV Levenmouth youth volunteers assisted at the event with the marshalling. The event was successful and concluded without criminality.



OPERATION PARAMOUNT – ROAD SAFETY

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



**A914, St Michaels
Main Street, Balmullo
Albert Street, Tayport
Main Street, Leuchars
Elizabeth Street, Tayport**

This resulted in numerous stops, checks, warnings and tickets issued in relation to speeding.



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH INITIATIVE



Community Speed Watch is a voluntary scheme driven by members of the community and is supported by Police Scotland (Fife Division). Essentially, it is a high visibility deterrent which strives to encourage motorists to reduce their speed, thus improving the safety and quality of lives of the local community.

The scheme runs during the summer months with both the Guardbridge and Largoward teams being deployed during this month.



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Although the scheme is closed for the year we are looking to recruit more volunteers for this initiative. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the community email box. A big thank you to the work undertaken so far by our current volunteers.

BODY WORN VIDEO



Body worn video (BWV) cameras are the small devices our officers wear, usually on their chest, to capture both audio and visual evidence when they attend all types of incidents or are executing any police powers. Police staff in custody suites also wear the cameras and switch them on when interacting with persons in custody. The position of the camera means that the images captured show the situation from the officer's perspective. The camera acts as an independent view.

Training for Fife Division Officers is underway, with the roll out commencing in September 2025.

How do the cameras work and what are they used for?

The camera records the footage onto an internal storage device. At the end of the officer's/ police staff member's shift, the footage is uploaded to a secure cloud so it can be used as evidence at court or in other legal proceedings, or deleted if it's not needed.

When the camera is turned on it will start capturing a rolling 30-second loop of video. This can be useful in circumstances where an incident has escalated quickly and on activation of the camera by the user, the previous 30 seconds of video has been captured. There is no audio for those 30 seconds. This 30-second loop is not saved by the camera unless the officer activates the camera to record. If the camera is not activated, each 30-second segment of recording automatically overwrites itself.

Body worn video is for use when officers are responding to an incident or executing any police powers. The camera is activated by the officer to record both audio and video footage.

Police staff in custody suites will have access to cameras and will record interactions with people in custody.

How will I know that the camera is recording me?

It is routine for the officer to inform the public when using their body worn video camera and when recording a red light will be visible on the device. You may hear a loud beep as the camera is switched on. An officer will advise as soon as is reasonably possible that the body worn video camera is recording.

The body worn cameras will not be used covertly or for surveillance purposes.

Can I ask you not to record me?

Yes. If you have a genuine reason for objecting to being recorded on body worn video, it is important you let the police officer recording you know and explain the reason to them.

The presumption will always be that the police officer will continue to record unless, having assessed your request, they deem your reason for not being recorded to outweigh the benefits of them recording the incident. The police officer has lawful powers to record incidents, and, in many cases, it will be essential that they do so to collect evidence.

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If the police officer does not agree with your objection, they will continue to record but will explain their decision to you.

Will you continue to record on the camera if there are children or people are in a vulnerable situation?

Yes. In the majority of incidents involving both adults and children in vulnerable situations, police officers will continue to record.

This recording will help to capture an accurate picture of the situation the vulnerable adult or child are in and can be essential in capturing evidence for future prosecutions or in assisting partner agencies in understanding the situation and putting appropriate support measures in place.

If the police officer does not deem it proportionate, legitimate or necessary to record someone in a vulnerable situation, they may decide not to record. This decision will always lie with the police officer and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Lord Advocate's Guidelines

Find out about Lord Advocate's Guidelines on the provision of Body Worn Video evidence to the Procurator Fiscal in criminal cases (COPFS) using the link below:

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/lord-advocate-s-guidelines-body-worn-video-bwv/html/>

CALLS RECEIVED

The Tay Bridgehead area 190 had calls.

Call breakdown is as follows -

Area 17D received 8 Calls.

1 crime recorded for abusive behaviour.

GAULDRY

5 calls to the police.

BALMERINO & KIRKTON OF BALMERINO

1 call to the police.

BOTTOMCRAIG

0 calls to the police.

KILMANY & ROADS

2 calls to the police.

Area 18A received 75 calls.

13 crimes relating to Road Traffic offences, crimes of dishonesty & public disorder.

BALMULLO

11 calls to the police.

LEUCHARS

24 calls to the Police

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GUARDBRIDGE

35 calls to the Police

ST MICHAELS & ROADS

5 call to the police.

Area 18B received 43 Calls.

9 crimes relating to Road traffic offences and crimes against property.

NEWPORT

16 calls to police.

WORMIT

12 calls to police.

Roads

15 calls to police.

Area 18C as a whole received 64 Calls.

11 crimes relating to road traffic offences, disorder, and dishonesty.

TAYPORT

37 calls to the police.

Tay Bridge & A92

12 calls to the police.

Tentmuir

14 calls to the police.

Drumoig

1 call to the police.

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