

BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th November, 2025
Barrhill Memorial Hall, Barrhill at 7.00pm.

No	Item	Action
	<p>Sederunt: Barrhill Community Council: R. Andrew Clegg (AC) (Treasurer), John Heath (JH), Pearl McGibbon (PMcG), Martin Rennie (MR), Jean Shaw (JS), Celia Strain (CS) (Secretary & Minute Taker), Johnnie Thomson (JT) (Chair).</p> <p>In Attendance: Lee Kirkwood (LK) (SAC Link Officer), Liam Cantwell (LC) (SPEN), Ian Murray (IM) & friend (Harbour Ayrshire), 5 Members of the public.</p>	
1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p>	
	<p>Jamie Burgess (JB) (Vice-Chair), Robert Houstin (RH), Kenneth McLaren (KMcl), Alec Clark (ACK) (SAC Councillor).</p>	
2	<p>Police Report</p>	
	<p>PC Andrew Thorne (AT) had forwarded the report for the relevant period since the previous meeting. He informed that various Divisional activities in relation to Road Policing, supported by Special Constables and Road Policing colleagues, had been held in the last months across South Ayrshire. He believed the Special Constables attended Barrhill as part of the action plan, and will speak to those officers involved when they are next in the office to get an update. (No CC members were aware this had occurred.)</p> <p>He informed that the 2 Suspect Persons in the report related to vans and should these reports arise again, encouraged details to be forwarded to the police for further enquiry. AT also highlighted that Sergeant Martin Prendergast had come into post for the Carrick Section in recent weeks. AT hopes to attend the CC meeting early in the New Year and will attempt to find an opportunity for a speed check between now and then. In the meantime, he can be contacted as necessary.</p> <p>Period from 29th October– 26th November: 17 incidents were raised, but no crime reports created. Details as follows: Notification of Planned Shoots: 12; Bail Information Call: 1; Suspect Persons: 2; Assist Members of the Public:1; and Road Traffic Matters:1.</p>	
3	<p>Speakers:SPEN: Community Benefit Funding Ian Murray, Harbour Ayrshire</p>	
	<p>Community Benefit Funding: JT introduced Liam Cantwell, SPEN'S Transmissions Community Benefits Manager, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on this subject. He began by explaining what SPEN is –Scottish Power Energy Networks, managing the grid across southern and Central Scotland, responsible for supplying electricity and distribution. It is one of the 3 arms of Scottish Power, the others being SP Renewables and Scottish Power (Retail). The purpose of Community Benefit Funding was discussed, being the result of new Government guidance together with the link to specific transmissions projects, in this case the OHL from Stranoch and Chirmorie Windfarms to the Mark Hill Sub-station. The amounts of funding depend on the type and scale of electricity transmission infrastructure installed, with a new model of funding, aligned with UK Government Guidance to reflect the impact on host communities, which is guided by government principles ‘to ensure consistency, fairness, and alignment with local needs’. It is designed ‘to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits tailored to local aspirations and needs’.</p> <p>Funding Metrics: The amount per km for OHLs is £200,000, whereas for substations the amount is £530,000. Delivery, support and impact: The criteria for these, the different streams with Fund Themes and Priorities, and the Engagement Approach Overview were then explained. LC then went into further details of the Projects Overview relating specifically to the 3 projects affecting Barrhill: Mark Hill Sub-station Extension, Chirmorie Windfarm OHL and Stranoch Windfarm OHL/Sub-station. Finally, he explained who is eligible to apply for a grant, before welcoming questions.</p> <p>The possibility of collaboration with New Luce was queried, and JT will approach them to discuss, LC clarified that only new OHLs are involved in the funding and also that Foundation Scotland will not administer this fund. Funding proportions were also discussed, along with the eligibility or not of projects. SAC’s statutory responsibilities are not eligible. JT then thanked LC for an informative talk. The PowerPoint presentation will be forwarded.</p>	

	<p>Harbour Ayrshire: Ian Murray, a Recovery Practitioner with the local organisation Harbour Ayrshire, then introduced himself. He covers the Girvan and South Carrick area, the group having commenced in August, giving support to individuals and families affected by substance abuse, in order to aid recovery and give information and community connection. There is a growing demand for recovery groups in rural areas – recent funding has been received from Kilgallioch Windfarm Benefit Fund and Carrick Futures and one to one support is given.</p> <p>IM explained that the organisation is looking to set up a regular drop-in service in the Barrhill area for people who are struggling with addiction or in recovery, whereby ‘individuals can access support, advice, and peer connection without the need for a formal appointment’.</p> <p>A stigma is still attached to alcohol/drug addiction and recovery from this. Harbour Ayrshire hopes to create an environment where there is more understanding and individuals do not feel isolated. IM hopes to link with communities, and create drop-in services to meet their needs.</p> <p>CC members informed IM of the Friday Coffee mornings, which are attended monthly by Social Services, as a possible venue. CS to send contact details for the Memorial Hall. JT then thanked IM, who remained for the rest of the CC meeting.</p>	CS
4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Wednesday 29th October 2025	
	The minutes were approved: proposed by PMcG, seconded by JS.	
5	Matters Arising from the Minutes Incl. Mark Hill Sub-Station Extension	
	<p>Item 2: Police Report: Knowe Road accident at the bad bend at Lochton Mill: ACk had reported this matter to ARA – no information yet regarding ‘SLOW’ signs.</p> <p>Item 4: Matters Arising: The following matters, referred to ACk at the previous meeting, are still ongoing. New Luce Hill Road/Knowe Road: Broken edges near the ‘feeding station’; Data Traffic Survey: Results still awaited (this was under AL’s initials); Duisk Bridge: Fresh damage to parapet; 20mph Speed Activated sign across from 69/71 Main Street: Still no word of the new contract for signage parts; Martyrs’ Tomb Footpath bridge: No further information from Rachel Shipley since her email of 24th September.</p> <p>Whiteminwhill Energy Park Request for Scoping Opinion: No points had been submitted to the Secretary by the resident present at the previous meeting, as requested. Noted</p> <p>Item 11: Small Grants Applications: Short Mat Bowls: The group replied to the CC’s request to reconsider timings, informing that its members could not agree to this. Noted</p> <p>Item 13: AOB: Dog Fouling: ACk had reported this to Environmental Health, but to date, no extra signs had been erected and the problem appeared to be worse.</p> <p>‘Welcome to Barrhill’ Biosphere signage in Gaelic: LK will again raise this with ARA. It was noted that MR had previously contacted ARA about this.</p> <p>Mark Hill Sub-Station Extension: Update received from Colin Wylie that there would be a slight increase in wagon movements going to the Markhill Substation for the next two weeks (from 10th November) – between 25 and 30 per day.</p> <p>JS informed that lights at night had been observed there and AC commented that the access gates had unusually been closed at times lately. <i>Other matters covered by agenda.</i></p>	CS/ ACK CS/ ACK SAC CS/ ACK LK/ ACK
6	Treasurer’s Report	
	<p>AC circulated his report. CC funds in the bank remain at £19,863.14, including the Carrick Futures annual £5K funding for Small Grants. SPEN’s Biodiversity CVP Fund, for MR’s Red Squirrel project, is still included as before. The CF balance is now at £12,588.97 following last month’s grants awards. Overall bank balance is £32,452.11.</p> <p><i>AC was thanked for his report.</i></p>	
7	Updates	
	<p>a) BCIC: JT informed that the annual Winter Fuel payments had commenced at the Community Energy Grants and Greener Homes event in the Memorial Hall on 15th November. It had been a successful event, with both SPR employees and contractors present to advise on the project. To date 60 payments had been made and 50 forms for the Greener Homes project handed out, with 30 properties signed for at present.</p> <p>b) BDT: AC called on the BDT Chair, Patrick Buck (PB), who was present, to give the update. After the previous prospective tenants for the Crosswater pub had held back due to ill-health, a further advert had brought in another candidate from North Ayrshire, with</p>	

	<p>links to the pub trade. If all goes well, an opening in January/February is possible. The outbuilding at the Crosswater will be the next project to receive attention. PB was thanked for the update.</p> <p>c) Carrick Futures: In JB's absence, there was no update, although AC informed a meeting is scheduled for next week.</p> <p>d) South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Locality Planning Partnership (SAHSCP LPP): CS had attended the meeting on 12th November. Main items as follows: Presentation on 'The Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey' programme, which has been running for a year now, with funding provided for 3 years to support those aged 16 and over; Locality Plan Refresh: Data from Girvan and South Carrick locality profile was discussed – what affects people's health and well-being and how to access health care – plan would be linked to Audrey's Gatt's Community-led Action Plan and Amy Duthie (Partnership Engagement Officer) will engage with communities re-surveys - she hopes to visit local groups; PB Funding Mentors – 7 mentors have been appointed for 14 recipients' groups; Girvan Hospital Review – now ready to go out; MSK Community Appointment Day – will hopefully take place in February/March; Connect - hope to have a space in Girvan soon and in every village once a month; Updates: Stinchar Connections – application to OSCR has been registered and Jen Williams now appointed as the new Development Officer.</p> <p>e) Kilgallioch Community Benefit Fund: MR informed he had attended the next meeting to be held after the AGM, when accounts and funding applicants were discussed. To date the new director, Gillian Young, had still been unable to attend due to hold-ups with Foundation Scotland's paperwork. An update with membership numbers had been necessary, with KMCL resigning to enable GY to become a member, and thence a director. It is anticipated that a former BCIC director will also cease membership.</p> <p>f) Kilgallioch & Arecleoch Extensions Community Benefit: No further developments.</p> <p>g) Barrhill Events Group: PMcG informed of forthcoming events, including the Christmas Fayre this coming Saturday, which has 18 stalls booked; Carols round the tree etc.</p>	
8	Action Plan/Place Planning	
	CS had contacted Dean's line manager and all letters had now been delivered, with the CC grateful to Dean and the BDT for the village delivery. Audrey (AG) had created posts which she and PMcG had put on Facebook. These had elicited a better response than the letter drop. AG had informed there are now 81 online responses. No further survey forms were in the box, which Lee will now return to Ayr. The work will now proceed on the CAP.	
9	Planning Applications	
	Planning Applications since the last CC meeting and October Decisions List: JS informed none relevant to Barrhill.	
10	Knockodhar Windfarm Additional Information Consultation Feedback on Whiteminwhill Energy Park Public Consultation (25th November)	
	<p>Knockodhar Windfarm: Barrhill CC is a consultee on this and the public consultation will take place in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 8th December. The documentation had been delivered and is on display in the small meeting room. The main item affecting Barrhill appears to be the transport route. JT suggested that the matter should be discussed after members had attended the consultation on the 8th December. Ongoing</p> <p>Feedback on Whiteminwhill Energy Park Public Consultation: This event (JT had declared an interest in this) had taken place the previous day, which most members had attended. Photomontages on display had caused some consternation and CC members would be submitting their own views to Voltalia. It was stressed that representations to the Scottish Government's ECU cannot be made until a planning application has actually been submitted by Voltalia. This is anticipated to be next summer. Noted</p>	ALL
11	Small Grant Applications	
	Barrhill Parent Council: The application was for funding towards the cost of hiring the hall for 5 hours for rehearsals for the Annual Christmas Show, the event itself and also for the hire of lighting and sound equipment, for which a quote of £475 plus VAT had been received. The amount sought was £500, but the applicant, who was present, explained that the final amount will not be confirmed until the engineer has visited the hall. Providing that invoices are received showing the final amount, the grant was approved in full.	CS/AC

12	Correspondence	
	<p><i>Most items previously circulated:</i> SAHSCP: Usual emails including: After School Club Volunteers required; Childminder Recruitment Programme; Warmer Homes Scotland; Tec Talks at SAC Library; i.Drive Road Safety Event; Girvan After School Open Day; Girvan Disability Team leaflets; Tech Demo site visits to Girvan Community Hospital; Unpaid Carers' Gateway survey on support events; and Sport & Physical Activity Teams Annual Review. <i>Further details available on request.</i></p> <p>Non-SAHSCP items as follows: SAC: Destination South Ayrshire: Funding information; SPEN: Reminder of the Invitation to the First Community Benefits funding programme launch in Edinburgh 27th November; EDF Stranoch Windfarm - turbine delivery updates; SPR: Notification of restoration of Bargrennan Bridge; Community Councillors: Petition for new powers for CCs to match English Parish Councils; ECU: Confirmation of decisions on 3 South Ayrshire windfarms; SAC: LDP4: papers for consultation; Scottish Community Development Company: Community conversations; Foundation Scotland bulletin; Stinchar Valley Transport: Meeting minutes received and information on the newly appointed Development Officer; Trust in Government Conversations participation information; SAC: 2nd Phase Consultation: Response to the CC's comments received with an explanation of the points queried. <i>(Details on any item available on request)</i></p>	
13	AOB Council Members/Members of the Public Incl. SAC Councillor's Report	
	<p>Squirrel boxes: MR informed there had been a delay in supplying these. He had informed SPR, whose Biodiversity's CVP fund had provided the grant, who were not concerned.</p> <p>Stinchar Valley Gardening Club: PMcG informed that while this group meet at Pinwherry the majority of the membership is actually from Barrhill, with 8 attending recently. Noted.</p> <p>Ardgay CC: Concern was expressed by JT regarding a recent court case, which had been brought to his attention, with possible repercussions for Community Councillors unless covered by insurance. JT passed the matter on to LK to make enquiries and CS will contact ACk to ascertain SAC's opinion.</p> <p>Christmas Lights: AG had reported on the possibility of SAC supplying Christmas lights in future and enquired if the CC would be interested. The onus on providing funds for annual installation and then removal would rest with the CC. It was agreed to look into this and CS to make enquiries of AG re-anticipated costs.</p> <p>Kilgallioch Windfarm Extension: JS reported that the newly installed turbines had been fitted with red night lights, which are a lot brighter than expected – in a dark sky park.</p> <p><i>Meeting closed at 9.05pm.</i></p>	<p>LK/CS/ ACK</p> <p>CS</p>
14	Date & Time of Next Meeting	
	<p><u>Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.</u> <u>NB. There is no meeting in December.</u></p>	