

APPROVED Minutes Carron Valley & District Community Council
Wednesday 13 May 2025 meeting at 7.30pm, via ZOOM

In attendance

Peter Hayward, Chair, PH

Margaret Porter, MP

David Petch, DP

Jen Preston, JP, Elected rep

Dorothy Breckenridge, Sec.,

James Gormley, JG

Maureen Berry, MB

Helen Bang, minute clerk, HB

1 Introductions and welcome

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies – police.

1.3 Declarations of interest for items on agenda - none.

1.4 Items raised by members of the public for inclusion -

1.5 Resident James Gormley may join the meeting.

2 Community Police report

2.1 Police were unable to attend this meeting. Report attached as Appendix I.
The report covers areas other than Carron Valley & District. It is good to see that PC Goldie met with Warden Helen Rowntree.

3 Minutes of previous meeting held on 8 April 2025

3.1 Proposed PH, seconded DB. **ACTION HB** to send to DB for Stirling Council and put on CC area of VRG website.

4 Matters arising from the April meeting:

Actions

2.2 Concerns about 'boy racers'. To be reported to the police. closed

2.3 CC enquiry regarding inadequacy of police report and non-attendance closed

3.1 Approved minutes of March meeting send to DB and website. closed

6.3 Community Hall - ownership (rates, insurance issues) closed

10.10 Positive decision on additional funding for hall advise RF at VRG closed

11.1 Insurance situation regarding volunteers at wood fuel days closed

12.2 Road issues - lower speed limit on multi-use roads
ongoing

Follow up on above

2.2 Concerns were expressed that community police may be covering an even wider area so future reports may include details from areas well beyond Carron Valley & District. JP had not received any specific information regarding this. **ACTION JP**

6.3 At the Board it was discussed that ownership might have to be VRG as it owns the community woodland on which the hall sits. It also has the appropriate governance etc. Everything VRG does is on behalf of the community. This should be clearly stated, i.e. that assets are held by VRG on behalf of the community. **ACTION MP** to check Articles of Association.

10.10 Additional interim funding had been agreed for the solar panels and the battery but funding for this has now come in. Would the CC agree to extend interim cover for the cost of fitting out the kitchen? We have a grant application submitted, but a decision has been delayed and we'd like to do the work during the build. We would be able to repay this if the grant is awarded.

Decision agreed. ACTION MP inform Hall Management Group.

- 12.12 Road issues - this is still being pursued as other areas have lower speed limits. Road markings have not been reinstated at crossroads at Carronbridge House and North Third. **ACTION JP.**

PH to send JP emails from Roads Department.

- 11.1 Insurances - VRG holds up to £5 million insurance per claim for volunteers at wood fuel days. We create a risk assessment for each event. Responsibility could be shared more widely amongst people on the day.

Is anyone at risk walking in the woodland, do we require an 'enter at your own risk' notice at the entrance, this is being discussed. Signs are required near deep water as it is a risk. There is a responsibility if infrastructure has been put in.

PH welcomed resident JG to the meeting.

5 Chair's report (PH)

- 5.1 MB is doing the local place plan. PH looked up Thornhill's Local Place Plan. It is 38 pages long. Much of what VRG does already is included in this plan and this should be acknowledged.

6 Secretary's report (DB)

- 6.1 Admin grant - DB is liaising with MH. In the past we have contributed to the cost of the quarterly newsletter. Do we wish to do this again next year? Other costs include minute clerk and photocopying etc.
- 6.2 Community Newsletter has been circulated.

7 Treasurer's report (MH)

- 7.1 MH was unable to attend. Report attached as Appendix II

8 Stirling Councillor report (JP)

- 8.1 Full council met recently - IJB - how the Council gets social care delivered. This is done through working with NHS and Clackmannanshire Council. Costs are going up every year - ageing population, increased costs of meds, staff, etc. Clackmannanshire have not been able to put in enough money so there are some issues here. Stirling Council has put some extra funds in but this is still an ongoing situation.

- 8.2 SNP councillors agreed to go onto public planning and safety panels. This is good news.

- 8.3 Concerns raised about storm damage to phone lines and users around North Third. The resilience team have spoken to BT and the MEX team. MB wondered if it was more a situation with the power being out as mobile phones then don't work for long. In Argyll where the MEX system was down the carers did an additional round of visits to check on clients.

- 8.4 Local place plan - due an update on Thursday 15 May.

9 Local Place Plan (MB)

- 9.1 A short questionnaire was circulated prior to the meeting. MB met with two council employees who shared several plans from other areas. Some have employed an external person to do a plan. It is important that ours reflects the views of residents in the area. MB needs to add a check list - if we have ticked all these boxes our plan will be adopted by the Council. One area of concern was that we hadn't done a questionnaire to everyone in the area.

It is to go with the May newsletter. It will be emailed to residents who only receive an electronic newsletter. **ACTION HB**

It needs a date adding - please return before end of June 2025. There was a discussion regarding how people could return the questionnaire, but it was agreed that an SAE was best to avoid confusion. **ACTION MB** to prepare SAE and print off questionnaire as HB is on compassionate leave.

DP - what about other residents at a household? They will be encouraged to respond.

10 Valley Renewables Group report (MP)

10.1 The Board met on 6 May

10.2 Treasurer - funding streams have arrived, unrestricted funds. £36K and £5K £29K restricted fund Foundation Scotland. Kingsburn fund due at the end of May. Foundation Scotland are always late delivering the money by the agreed date. It is not clear why this is the case, Rob Ferguson is trying to get an answer.

10.3 Payment £65K for community hall. We don't know how much the costs will be offset by income. Rates cannot be known until the building is listed.

10.4 Spending by Management Group has already begun. We have allocated £12.5K to the group as costs will start prior to VRG financial year. Need some money to spend before 1 July. We need this to be agreed by the CC. This will be approximately £5K
Decision: agreed. ACTION MP advise Hall Management Group.

10.5 External and internal works - to be decided by the Management Group.

10.6 Subgroup, communications fairly quiet.

Woodland group - processor broke down, it has been repaired, waiting for a part to repair the hydraulic system. last event 10 May went well. Someone has offered to paint the container but we may use windblown timber to clad the container.

10.7 Community Hall is fixed price but other works £36K - we are over this already and looking for ways to save money.

10.8 More for fees and expenses than budgeted for owing to relocation of car park. Architect - personnel has changed and we are being charged more than initially. Site meeting on 14 May.

10.9 Energy efficiency - John Speake has been in touch with the surveyors. 18 have been completed, 3 may be pushed into next financial year owing to difficulty in scheduling. Smart meters are not all being used most effectively. Shirley Paterson can organise help for people with Smartmeters through Octopus.Ofgem. Scheme starts next week.

10.10 Hall Management Group meeting at Kippen to find out how they do things.

10.11 An online booking system is to be set up. On road signs to say where the hall is located.

10.12 External funding is being sought. We were successful with the CSET application for £8K for solar panels and battery.

- 10.13 Grants - changes are being made to the schemes. The schemes are reopening in August. See Appendix III for details.
- 10.14 Tom Robb Memorial Run awarded £500 but this will be the last year VRG is providing funding.
- 10.15 Hall providing a warm space in the event of community emergencies - could the costs come out of the restricted fund in case we do not get outside funding? Costs - connecting a generator.

There was a query as to whether Stirling Council would provide help in an emergency situation. JP suggested contacting Stephen Bly. **ACTION DB**

11 Woodland Group report (DB)

- 11.1 Covered earlier in meeting. See item 10.6

12 Roads report (PH)

- 12.1 Cycling event on 31 August on C10. Will the road be repaired by then? There are serious potholes causing damage to cars.

13 Planning report (MB)

- 13.1 Nothing to report.

14 AOB

- 14.1 Maureen Berry is stepping down after the June meeting.
- 14.2 Forestry open day - promote on Facebook and website.
- 14.3 Litterpick organised by Ranger Helen Rowntree was very successful.

15 Date of next CC meeting Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

16 ACTIONS

- 3.1 Draft May minutes to DB. Approved April minutes to DB for Stirling Council. HB
- 4.2.2 Police - covering a wider area? JP
- 4.6.3 Community Hall ownership, check Articles of Association MP
- 4.10 **Decision** - interim funding for kitchen build agreed MP
- 4.12 Roads - markings required at crossroads Carronbridge House and North Third JP
- 9.1 Local Place plan print questionnaire and SAEs to go with newsletter MB
- 10.4 **Decision** - Upfront funding agreed for initial hall expenses MP
- 10.15 Contact Stirling Council re warm space funding DB

Name of Community Council	12/05/2025 – Carron Valley Community Council
	Our priorities in the Carron Valley area continue to be Anti-Social Behaviour, Drug misuse/Drug dealing, Road Safety and Community Engagement and Reassurance.
Crime reports	Crime Reports for the Carron Valley area between 06/04/2025 – 12/05/2025
	Detected: 3
	Vandalism Culpable and Reckless Threatening and Abusive Behaviour
	All 3 were from the same incident and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
	Undetected: 2
	Vandalism Theft by shoplifting
	Lines of enquiry exist for both incidents and the reports remain open.
	Total Crime Reports: 5
	999/101 CALLS
	There were 16 calls made to Police for the Carron Valley area over the stated period. The calls relate to incidents including reports of road traffic matters, vandalism, missing person, assist member of the public, disturbance, fires, theft, bikes, suspicious persons and abandoned 999 calls.

Other Incidents of note/relevant Community Council information

On 26/04/2025 Polcie witness Goldie met with FLS & Scottish Water Ranger Helen Rountree at North Third for the 1st of the joint patrols. Inclement weather meant low footfall, but it was useful to discuss recent issues – trail bikes etc.

Future patrols are planned at North Third and Carron Valley.

Feedback from meeting

Please e-mail any feedback/questions to PCs Goldie at: StirlingWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Appendix II

**Carron Valley & District Community Council
Accounts for Period to 17th May 2025**

1st May 2024 to 30th April 2025

Item	Date		cheque	Income	Expenditure	Total	Balance
Opening Balance		01/05/2024					£1,058.47
Secretariat;	03/05/2024	May Minutes	206		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,008.47
Secretariat;	10/06/2024	June AGM	208		-£10.00	-£10.00	£998.47
Secretariat;	10/06/2024	June Minutes	207		-£50.00	-£50.00	£948.47
Secretariat;	18/09/2024	Sept Minutes	209		-£50.00	-£50.00	£898.47
Secretariat;	02/10/2024	Oct Minutes	210		-£50.00	-£50.00	£848.47
Stirling Council Admin Grant Top Up	12/11/2024	Top-Up Grant	DC	£518.32		£518.32	£1,366.79
Secretariat;	07/11/2024	Nov minutes	211		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,316.79
Secretariat;	06/12/2024	Dec minutes	212		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,266.79
Secretariat;	12/02/2025	February '25 minutes	213		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,216.79
Secretariat;	12/03/2025	March 25 minutes	214		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,166.79
Secretariat;	23/04/2025	April 25 minutes	215		-£50.00	-£50.00	£1,116.79
End Balance				£518.32	-£460.00	£58.32	£1,116.79

Morag Holdsworth; Treasurer
15/05/2025

Latest bank statement
01/05/2025

Appendix III

VRG Grants changes 2025/26

E Bikes.

Max £500 Budget for 4 Bikes Wording as before.

New Venture Fund

Remove for 2025/26

Student Bursary Grant

Max £500. Budget funds up to 8 students

Community Grant Scheme

Leave as is. Funded by Restricted Fund.

Children and Young Peoples Grant

Maximum £250 per child up to age 26.

Warm up Cost Down Grant

Maximum £200.

Get The Valley Growing

Max £500 large items. £250 small items.

Energy Efficiency Grant

Max £2000. Priority to households who missed out 2024/25