

# St Cyrus Community Council Meeting

## Minutes

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> C Location: St Cyrus Village Hall Time: 7:30pm

In attendance:

Community Council members - Peter Moir (Chair), Brian Fleming (Treasurer), Kirsty Forrester (minute taker)

Elected members – Cllr George Carr

Members of the public – Llyod, Moss, David Neil, Eric Herd.

Item	Area	Lead
1	Welcome & Minutes	
1.1	<b>Welcome by the Chair</b>	
1.2	<b>Safety brief</b>	
1.3	<b>Apologies</b> – Cllr Alison Evison, Cllr Tracey Smith	
1.4	Declarations	
1.5	Minutes of the previous meeting – proposed by Peter and 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Brian.	
1.6	All matters arising from the previous meeting on the agenda.	
2	Items for Discussion.	
2.1		
2.2	<b>Correspondence since the last meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Various updates received from Aberdeenshire Council</li><li>Platinum jubilee survey about the coastal path</li><li>Free training from planning Scotland – community led planning, place plans, renewables,</li><li>Emails about pylons sent to CC but no response as CC have not agreed a position on this.</li><li>Community Councils have contacted us about raising concerns about the lack of parity in local authority funding. Brian will share with community council members</li></ul>	
2.3	<b>Website update</b> – bill for hosting to be paid.	
2.4	<b>Grit Bins &amp; Gritting</b> – Cllr Carr advised that recent bad weather has shown the level of need and cost that Aberdeenshire Council have. The challenges around budgets have highlighted the funding gap that AC is facing. Some services are statutory and some are non-statutory – so difficult decisions have been made.	
2.5	<b>Northwater Bridge Maintenance</b> Cllr Carr had shared correspondence with the principal engineer in which she shared that following the severe storm in late 2023, Aberdeenshire Council joined with Angus Council (lead authority for the road bridge) and Railway Paths Limited (authority for the viaduct downstream) to procure a feasibility report on the scour mitigation for both bridges. The aim was to ensure compatibility of design as the bridges are in close proximity.  The preferred option given was a combination of a concrete filled mattress within the river and a filled geoweb for the riverbanks. This has the benefits of maintaining the current river bed levels, current channel widths and a more natural looking riverbank.	

	<p>As Angus Council are lead authority any major scour protection works will be managed by them with us paying half. The timing will be subject to funding availability for both authorities.</p> <p>She advised that Aberdeenshire Council hoped to do some minor scour protection works to the piers on North side.</p> <p>Peter requested a copy of the report. Cllr Carr would look to do this. Brian Fleming questioned that Angus were the lead authority? Cllr Carr was also surprised to read this and thinks this may be a result of the previous Engineer retiring, as this was previously Aberdeenshire Council. Cllr Carr will inquire about this.</p>	
2.6	<p><b>Pedestrian Crossing.</b> Design has been finalised taking into account comments from stakeholders. Should be going ahead in March.</p> <p>Cllr Carr advised that criteria was different for the A92 to residential roads.</p>	
3	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>£2800 for newsletter – funding until March 2027</p> <p>Additional funding received for the playpark.</p>	
4	<p><b>Sub- Committees</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Newsletter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful grant application as mentioned above.</li> <li>Closing date for newsletter submissions 19<sup>th</sup> January – distribution in early February</li> </ul>	
4.2	<p><b>Gala</b> no update.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>CAP</b> – updates can be seen at the end of this minute.</p>	
5	<p><b>Updates from Councillors</b></p> <p>Budgets extremely challenging. VSER, cutting off lamp posts. Getting rid of grit bins. Infrastructure services.</p>	
6	<p><b>Questions received from the Community</b></p> <p>Question about citizen of the year –</p> <p>It was felt by members of the meeting that a significant number of people in community who support the community – volunteers involved with hall and community groups, people supporting the church, people supporting the garden beds. It was agreed that this did not fall under the core purpose of the community council.</p> <p>Cllr Carr highlighted the Inspiring Aberdeenshire awards which would be an option.</p>	
	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p>	
	<p><b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 St Cyrus Village Hall at 7:30 pm</b></p>	

# CAP update reports

<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
A meeting was held on the 12 <sup>th</sup> December at St Cyrus Church to go through the recommendations of the action plan with relevant Aberdeenshire Council officers to identify how actions can be progressed with their support. In attendance:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lesley Robertson – K&amp;M Community Planning Officer (Aberdeenshire Council)</li><li>• Ross Smith – Live Life Aberdeenshire</li><li>• Greg Walsh – Sport Scotland</li><li>• Peter Moir – Chair, St Cyrus Community Council</li><li>• Kirsty Forrester – St Cyrus Community Council &amp; Community Action Plan Group</li><li>• Marion Brownlee – St Cyrus Church &amp; Community Action Plan Group</li><li>• Eve Brock – Friends of St Cyrus School &amp; Community Action Plan Group</li><li>• Many Edwards – The Parent Collective &amp; Community Action Plan Group</li></ul>	
Updates from this meeting are included throughout this report.	
1. Enhance existing parks with upgraded equipment suitable for all age groups.	
<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
<b>Fundraising for accessible equipment</b>	
<i>Grant Applications</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application to Rural Challenge fund – withdrawn</li><li>• Application to Tullo Windfarm – unsuccessful</li><li>• Application to Awards for All – submitted.</li></ul>	
Enquiries sent to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muir Energy (awaiting response)</li><li>• Cairngorms Trust (awaiting response)</li><li>• Port of Aberdeen Community Benefit (awaiting response)</li><li>• Thistle Wind Partners Community Fund (awaiting response)</li><li>• Scottish Landfill Community Fund (advised to contact in February)</li><li>• National Lottery Fairer chances fund (advised not eligible)</li><li>• Weir Charitable Trust (advised not eligible)</li></ul>	
<i>Community Donations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £851 - Just Giving (19 local people)</li><li>• £500 - St Cyrus Solos</li><li>• £100 - St Cyrus Community Council</li><li>• £2000 - Accord Group</li><li>• £284 - Spooky walk</li><li>• £458 - Ross Agri towards a charity calendar printing</li><li>• £50 – St Cyrus Nursery School – Sponsored walk</li><li>• £941 - Calendar sales</li></ul>	
<b>TOTAL raised: £5,180</b> (costs of around £1000 to be deducted – Just Giving platform costs, calendar printing, signage)	
<b>Installation of equipment by Aberdeenshire Council</b> (meeting held online 06/01/26)	
£30K was approved by area committee for a free-standing multi-play unit in St Cyrus. The job is currently on the public contracts Scotland website for contractors to bid. Submissions will be evaluated by council officers from procurement and landscape services to assess their suitability. Feedback on the park equipment from the St Cyrus Action plan community consultation and further engagement with children and parents during the St Cyrus gala fund day in August has been submitted to landscape services to inform this decision making process. The top three proposals will be posted onto the Engage Aberdeenshire platform in February with the decision based upon this public consultation. Landscape services will accept additional feedback electronically or in paper copy. Kirsy will seek to engage children via the youth club and at the school to ensure they have an opportunity to express their preferences.	
If the community wish to be involved in decisions about where the equipment should be sited, the community council should write to Kenneth Regan, Landscape Services Manager, to express desire to be involved in decisions.	

***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Ross Smith, [ross.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ross.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), to review pavilion and tennis courts with community members to seek way forward with refurbishment. Acknowledgement works need to be on a phased approach to ensure community buy in, support and not to overwhelm those actively taking processes forward.

Tennis Scotland do have some funding but may be suitable for next steps when enhanced use by community can be evidenced.

Discussion of the need for toilets and potential for a free-standing eco toilet in this area. See Greyhope Bay example, <https://www.greyhopebay.com/>. Lesley Robertson will check whether there are any accessible developer obligation pots which may support or retrofitting funding.

2. Revitalize community green spaces, such as the railway line and community garden through collaborative efforts between the local community and local authorities.

**Update** 11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)

***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Old railway line needs to be cleared to make useable. Lesley Robertson will establish whether community justice could support this. Ownership of the community garden to be established. There is potential for the community to be part of Mearns Growing Network (Tom Campbell).

3. Aberdeenshire Council should implement traffic calming measures and enforce speed zones to prioritize the safety of pedestrians and children. The installation of a pedestrian crossing along the A92 is deemed essential. .

**Update** 11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)

Update to be provided and discussed at Community Council meeting.

4. Improve street lighting on back roads and areas like Beach Road to enhance visibility and safety, which may also mitigate issues related to dog fouling.

**Update** 11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)

Improvement in street lighting has been noted prior to this meeting.

See action 10.

5. While reopening public toilets may be unfeasible, it is important to consider facilities for both residents and visitors. The village might explore the development of a community hub for all ages utilizing existing facilities.

**Update** 11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)

***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Public toilets will not be re-opened by Aberdeenshire Council. See point in action 1 on free standing toilets in park for potential project.

6. Collaborate with Aberdeenshire Council, elected representatives, and local travel forums to address the village's transport needs, ensuring bus routes connect key locations for health, employment and education.

**Update** 11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)

***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Dedicated work being done funded through Community Planning. Jenny Milne is undertaking a project to identify and implement cost effective rural travel schemes that improve people's ability to work, study, and live well in their locality. Findings shared as attachment.

Mearns Youth Forum, supported by Roisin Daly, are looking at issues for young people as part of this.

Many survey respondents said that public transport was not good but acknowledged that they did not use it themselves. Peter Moir has done extensive research and established that public transport North and South support commuting to work, training, education and recreation. Barriers exist travelling to Laurencekirk but these are not insurmountable. Peter has requested that Laurencekirk – Montrose bus stops outside the academy to support this.

7. Work collectively to improve walking and cycling paths around the village for safer commuting and recreational activities.

<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
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***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Aberdeenshire Council Active Travel team can support in any outcomes determined from this work. Verge from Lochside/Straton Farm to village no longer cut. Lesley Robertson will contact landscape services to establish if this can be cleared.

8. Promote volunteering opportunities and social initiatives to strengthen community ties and foster inclusive interactions.

<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
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9. Work with Aberdeenshire Council to support access to employability and a vibrant local economy.

<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
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***Update from meeting 12/12/25***

Survey respondents described a perceived issue with school leavers accessing next steps. CAP team would like to know if there is data to support this – are there high numbers of young people 16+ living in St Cyrus not in education, training or employment? Lesley Robertson will contact the employability team to determine what they do in this area, and what opportunities exist.

Hilary Fleming, Economic Development, can support local economy issues.

[Hilary.fleming@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hilary.fleming@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

10. Additional bins should be provided to address littering concerns.

<b>Update</b>	11/01/2026 (Kirsty Forrester)
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Primary 4/5 class leading on dog fouling. Meeting with elected ward members Feb 2026 to discuss.