

TILlicOUNTRY, COALSNAUGHTON & DEVONSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING ON TUESDAY, 8th APRIL 2025 AT THE BEN CLEUCH CENTRE, TILlicOUNTRY.

Welcome and apologies: Ewart McAuslane (EMcA) chaired tonight's meeting and welcomed those present.

Community Councillors present: Ewart McAuslane (EMcA), Alex Robertson (AR), Helen Saunders (HS), Melanie White (MW), Ian Millar (IM), Willie Lamb (WL).

Others in attendance: Councillor Fiona Law (FL),

Apologies: Robert McClelland, Gillian McAuslane, Helen McAuslane.

Police Report: We did not hear from P. C. James Miller so EMcA read through the Police Report.

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th March 2025: EMcA: The Christmas Light has been collected so we wait to hear if it can be repaired or whether it should be replaced. If it is to be replaced EMcA proposed that we get a slightly smaller 2 metre one which would be a good replacement. There were no objections. However FL pointed out that we would need the Council's approval regarding its location on the lamppost where it has previously been located. EMcA will check and report back. EMcA proposed the acceptance of the Minutes and AR seconded.

Matters arising not on agenda: EMcA wrote to Chris Hargove as, due to cutbacks, there is not enough money to get services back to the proper standard and will be chasing him again for more clarification. FL will again chase Kevin Wells on the situation at Moss Road. There is a charge order on the property so if it is sold the Council should get some money back. Devonside rubbish site situation is being upgraded to Sherriff's Court.

Updates from elected members: EMcA advised that the Bank were closing the Over 60s account that day so there remains just one account. MW will become an additional signatory. FL gave a detailed breakdown on how the Council works including remuneration, very lengthy reports they have to read and various boards they have to go on and meetings to attend. She also reported that new lights for the end of town on the road between Tillicoultry and Alva have been ordered and should be ready in four weeks. EMcA pointed out that there are four Councillors assigned to our Community Council, i.e. Donald Balsillie, Martha Benny, William Keogh and Fiona Law. Donald Balsillie has attended a couple of meetings, Fiona Law never misses a meeting, but the other two have never attended a meeting. EMcA suggested that HS drafts a letter to all four inviting them to attend a meeting.

Bus related ASB: What's happening about the buses not stopping at Murray Square? There is a meeting on Thursday, 17th April from 1:30 to 3:30 at Sauchie Community Hall. We should also write to Graham Leslie at McGill's bus company and invite him to attend our meeting in May.

Gala: IM and EMcA will be attending the SAG Group Meeting on 9th April to make sure all Gala related matters are safe. Stewards are urgently needed for the parade and it is proposed we approach the local football teams for help.

Treasurer's Report/EDF microgrants (EMcA): No microgrant applications have been received this month; there is one left. The Council grant has been increased from £500 per annum (which it has been for a very long time) to £1,000.

AOCB: An application has been submitted for a house to be built on land south east of Harviestoun Steading, Bards Way, Tillicoultry, i.e. in the grounds of the former Harviestoun Hotel. A similar, previous application was rejected. EMcA will be reporting back.

Damian Sherwood-Johnson of the newly formed TCD Community Development Trust joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Damian gave a detailed account of how such a Trust might benefit our area as those have done in neighbouring areas. There will be six Trustees on the Board. The Trust is taking over the running of the Ben Cleuch Centre from April (the building is considered to be in good condition) and the next three months are quite crucial. Meantime, the Council has been very supportive and paying all the bills. OYCI is already a tenant and there are plans to encourage other groups to take up space to help with the Centre's sustainability including reopening the library, renting out spaces/offices to small businesses, hosting of events etc.

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 13th May 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at the Ben Cleuch Centre.

