

Meeting of the Pittenweem Community Council
On 19th November 2025 at 7pm
In New Town Hall

AGENDA

Items of Business

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Record members present and member apologies for absence

Stewart Moreland, Graeme MacGilchrist, Val Morrison, Cllr Sean Dillon, Cllr Alycia Hayes, 2 members of the public.

3. Minute of the last meeting: **15th October**

Proposed by GM, seconded by SM

4. Matters Arising from the last meeting

None

5. Other agreed items of business:

- Office bearer positions

GM notes that with the resignation of the last chair, we need to elect a new Chairperson as the first point of business. GM and VM had spoken about this. Though not feeling qualified for the position, VM expressed that she wouldn't want to see the CC disband if a Chair was not found and agreed to step into the position on an interim basis until the AGM. Other members of the CC assured VM that they would help with the actual running of the monthly meetings.

GM proposed VM as Chair, SM seconded, the motion was passed.

- PCC email and website (Graeme MacGilchrist)

GM, noting that the PCC email has been deactivated, suggested that it was the right time to get an official PCC internet domain, e.g. pittenweemcc.scot, with associated email addresses. CC members agreed this was a good idea.

For discussion at a later date – a CC website at the relevant domain. CC members again in favour of this and noted that it would raise the profile of the CC and offer an obvious landing place for the CC minutes etc.

Action: GM to set up domain and email addresses.

- Increasing membership (Graeme MacGilchrist)

GM noted that we are currently under the threshold for continuing the CC unless new members can be found before the next AGM. It was agreed that bringing in new members was a key priority. GM noted that he had been in contact with various local community groups (e.g. the library, west braes, primary school) to look for members who already represent different factions of the community. This effort will be continued. It was also noted that we should seek members with a range of skills (e.g. in finance, planning, public policy) that would be of broad utility within the council.

A member of the public in attendance, Janet Dick, expressed interest in joining the community council. Janet has been member of previous community councils and expressed interest in helping the CC develop from its current position. An open vote was held amongst the sitting members and passed unanimously.

GM noted that another member of the public, Simon Learoyd, has expressed interest in joining, and will attend the December meeting.

Action:

Janet to follow up with FC about officially registering as a member of the CC.
All CC members to continue having conversations with residents.

- Further discussion of Crudens development and access (Graeme MacGilchrist)

GM recounted communication he had had with John Handley, who has been interfacing with the CC about the Crudens development. The following summary was sent to CC members prior to the meeting:

JH and GM chatted on the phone. The most important thing to note is that demolition works (which JH had suggested could start within 2 weeks of our last meeting) have been delayed pending further discussions on drainage and gas mains with Fife Council. This affords a bit of breathing space for PCC to be clear about the issues concerning access. JH confirmed to GM that, contrary to the way that some of the discussion was conducted in the last meeting, PCC is not in a position to block any of the developments or make any decisions with respect to access — these are decisions that are made directly between Crudens and Fife Council. JH's intentions are to keep PCC well informed on the process, which was the main purpose of his visit, and to ensure financial benefits are secured for the community wherever they are available. To the best of GM's understanding, the role of PCC in this situation should be to ensure, wherever possible, that the residents' views are being seriously considered by the developers and FC, and that they are appropriately informed of, and compensated for, inconveniences that they suffer.

SM noted that he and Duncan Lucas had enquired of the residents on Milton Road about their thoughts on the access considerations. SM noted a range of perspectives from positive, ambivalent, to negative.

CC recognised that their main role will be to continue communication with JH, to be kept aware of what Crudens are planning, ensuring that risk assessments are carried out and that local residents are kept informed, and ultimately that the community is compensated for any disruption.

Action: GM to remain in communication with JH and inform the CC of any developments.

- Community Benefit Fund funding arrangements (Graeme MacGilchrist)

GM noted two features of the situation with the NnG community benefit fund. In the first, GM is receiving regular reminders about submitting details of the direct allocation of funds from the benefit fund. Though it was discussed at the last CC meeting, no progress has been made on this. The second feature was the GM had been contacted by the CCs of Crail and Kilrenny and Anstruther enquiring whether PCC had or would reconsider their decision about how to administer the community benefit money. An alternative option to the direct allocation would be to contribute to a community development officer. This option was favoured by Crail CC and KACC, but they are seeking involvement from other CCs to make the investment worthwhile. A vote on this issue was previously passed, and members of the CC expressed reluctance to change this decision. GM noted that, given the small size of the CC, recent decisions have been made without an obvious assertion of community support. It was generally agreed that this might inform how to move forward with a decision such as this.

Action: GM to follow up with Foundation Scotland to get clarity on the timelines for moving forward with this decision. If there is an imminent cut off then the CC will proceed with their previous decision. If there is a longer lead time, the CC will consider holding a further vote on this when there is a greater number of sitting members.

- Update on PCC online communications and social media (Louise McEwan)

LM not in attendance, so no update. It was reinforced that a social media presence may be valuable in attracting new members.

- Update on Christmas Tree and decorations (Val Morrison)

VM reporting that LM spoke to FC planning department. They noted that it was too late to apply for planning to locate the tree on FC land. It was expressed that this was a shame, and that it would be good to see if an arrangement can be made.

VM also noted uncertainties about lighting, installation, and decorating meant that there may simply not be enough time to organise a tree this year. It was agreed that we should be better prepared next year. SM pointed out that he used to install Christmas Trees for FC and would be happy to do this for the town.

If FC land is not available, alternatives were discussed. These could include smaller trees in pots along the high street, or a larger tree on the Church Hall grounds. It was decided that the small trees on the high street should be pursued irrespective of what happens with the larger trees.

SM noted that, in future years, a tree installed at the top of Abbey Wall Road could be a good location, which was broadly agreed by the CC.

Action:

AH to follow up with FC imminently to see if any late agreement can be made.
SD to enquire with the Church Hall council about whether they would be happy to have a tree on their land.

Pending outcomes of these discussions, VM will move forward with request for tree from Balcaskie. VM requests that a decision be made within the next week.
Janet Dick to investigate installing smaller trees with battery powered lights.

- Local place plan update (Stewart Moreland)

SM confirmed that the current LPP has been taken up by FC.

6. Correspondence

Member of the public (Neil) said that he had been in communication with the former chair about a possible Blue Plaque for a former Pittenweem resident who passed away last year. Neil shared his correspondence with GM, who will follow up with other members and this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: GM to follow up with Neil and other CC members.

Communication from a member of the public was received about new air traffic routes that are under consultation. Five Pittenweem residents attended a public presentation of the plans yesterday. The consultation ends in January. AH noted that the new plans would have as many as 36 planes flying at approximately 6000 feet up.

Action: PCC members to investigate and follow up at the next meeting.

7. Reports

- Councillors report(s)

Cllr Sean Dillon

See Appendix below

Cllr Alycia Hayes

AH noted that there was an upcoming review of council housing allocation policy. AH expressed concern over the current policy, which (for legal reasons) applies no discretion about who is placed in what areas. AH notes that this has led to difficult situations, highlighting as an example a circumstance in which a council housed

individual involved in drugs was placed on a quiet street almost entirely occupied by elderly people. This created a difficult situation, including two overdoses taking place on the property. AH, while recognising the challenges for FC in trying to house people, is pressing for greater discretion to be used in deciding who is housed where.

- Treasurer report
 - o Status of bank account

A bank account is still not in place, but GM intends to apply for a Virgin Money account imminently. GM noted that FC had recommended some accounts that would be suitable for community groups and this was one such option.

Action: GM to initiate bank account registration as soon as possible.

- Police report

26 calls and 1 crime reported.

- Planning lists

Nothing noted.

8. Any other Competent Business (AOCB)

SM received a request from a member of the public to address the question of putting signs at the entrance and exit of the car park for the Hub.

Action: Sean Dillon will follow up with this at FC.

SM again raised the problem of loose paving slabs in several locations in the village, expressing concerns that someone will trip and injure themselves. AH and SD expressed regret that nothing had been done despite requests.

Action: AH to follow up again with FC.

9. Any questions from members of the public

None

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Wednesday 17th December, 2025, at 7pm in NTH

Appendix – Cllr Sean Dillon Councillor report

Station Court Park Access:

- Earlier in the month, I was made aware that a space between the fences at the new development at Station Court was boarded up by Kingdom Housing Association. Since then, I have been in discussion with residents and Kingdom to improve access between the park and the new development without impeding on the privacy of existing houses. I will update the community council on any further developments.

Pavement Parking Ban:

- At the end of last month, councillors received a briefing from officers following the implementation of the pavement parking ban in September. The Transportation Service recognises that further streets will have to be considered for exemptions and have a portal on their website where individual members of the public can make suggestions. This can be found at <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/parking-and-car-parks/pavement-parking-ban/potential-exempted-streets>.

Council Housing Policy:

- Fife Council are currently updating the housing allocation policy and are looking for views. If you are a council tenant or are thinking about applying for council housing in Fife, your views are important to help the council make sure our policies are fair, effective and meet the needs of our communities. This survey will gather views on current application, assessment and allocations policies and what could be changed, as well as an opportunity to say what improvements you would like to see in future.
- The consultation can be found at <https://haveyoursay.fife.gov.uk/housing/fife-council-housing-allocations-policy-survey>

Fife Visitor Levy Consultation

- Fife Council has agreed to investigate the possibility of introducing a visitor levy for Fife and we're now consulting with communities, businesses, residents and visitors. The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 allows local councils to charge a percentage rate on accommodation within the scheme's area, with flexibility over when and where it applies. Funds raised must be used for purposes that develop, support and sustain facilities and services for or used by visitors to Fife.
- The consultation can be completed online at www.fife.gov.uk/visitorlevy or there is an in-person drop-in on the 27th of November between 10:00 & 16:00 at Crail Town Hall.