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North Kincardine Rural Community Council

Minutes for the NKRCC meeting held on 18th May 2026 at Lairhillock School, Netherley.
Subject to approval.

Community Councillors

Henry Irvine-Fortescue, Chair
Graham Norrie, Vice Chair and Correspondence Secretary
Rod Farquhar, Planning Officer
Bob McKinney, Treasurer
Peter Townsley
Dave Johnstone
Susan Astell

Richard Sharpe, Co-opted Member

Elected Members

Cllr Catherine Victor

Members of the Public

There were 15 MOP in attendance.

Apologies

Cllr Mel Sullivan

1. Welcome

Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting with a reminder that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of more accurate Minutes. He also welcomed Richard Sharp NKRCC new co-opted member, Kincardine and Mearns Community Police Officer PC David Charnley and two representatives from Cerulean Winds.

2. Police Report.

This is available online with our local area comprising Portlethen and the surrounding area, including Durris and Drumoak.

We were delighted to welcome back PC David Charnley. He informed us that the monthly Police Report will in future come out quarterly but it will focus on more relevant local issues, with the first of these being available in June.

- Cold Calls: The village of Drumoak has been designated a cold call free zone. Stickers are available and residents can put them on their door to deter unwelcome cold callers.
- Graham reported drivers on the Causey Mount Road stopping for a spot of recreation and leaving a lot of litter. PC Charnley advised that MOP should not approach these individuals but should take and pass on the registration numbers of vehicles if owners were causing a nuisance.
- Maryculter Wood has had a problem with young people on electrified bikes and quad bikes entering the woods and causing damage. The previous week two quad bikers entered the

wood at 10.30pm and proceeded to drive recklessly around the newly created wetland area, causing damage and tearing up the newly planted areas.

- Oil thefts. It was mentioned that the lids on domestic oil tanks are rather easy to breach even when locked. PC Charnley reminded us that nevertheless locks should be fastened so that in the event of a theft the insurance company would pay out. Steps could also be taken to improve security such as CCTV protection.
- Graham commented that he had not seen a Police Scotland newsletter for a while, which used to give details of crime statistics etc. PC Charnley said he would look into it.
- The problem of illegal electric scooters and bikes was raised. PC Charnley said that several had been confiscated in Portlethen but that identification of riders was difficult due to the fast speeds and identical appearance of riders. Information from the general public was welcome.
- Farmers are at risk of having GPS equipment stolen from tractors.
- Graham will publish the reports online as usual.

3. Minutes

The minutes for the previous meeting were accepted and were proposed by Graham and seconded by Dave.

4. Presentation

Henry introduced Gayle and Colin from Cerulean Winds to talk about the Aspen Floating Offshore Windfarm, a project which is situated about 80 km off Peterhead. Its initial ambition is to electrify the surrounding oil and gas platforms by 2030. The excess power would then be sent ashore to connect with the National Grid. This would require an offshore substation to be built which would then be connected to a landfall substation, estimated to require an area of about 10 hectares. Power would then be sent by underground cables to the proposed substation at Hurley (Fetteresso Forest), to join the National Grid.

There will be a series of meetings and events with Aberdeenshire Planning Department, landowners and community members to discuss the best site to build the proposed onshore infrastructure.

Cerulean Winds has located three possible sites, one of which is north of Newtonhill.

Drop in events have been organized for Wednesday 27th May, 12-7pm at Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill and Thursday 28th May, 12-7pm at the Station Hotel, Stonehaven, with a follow-up on 13th and 14th July. Further information is available at community@ceruleanwinds.com

5. Matters Arising

Schools

There has been widespread dismay at the permanent closure of Banchory Devenick School.

Website, Media and Broadband

Nothing new to report.

Roads

Aberdeenshire Council will publish the list of roads to be prioritized for repair work and top dressing.

Community and Individual Resilience

Nothing new to report.

6. Planning

The full planning listing is available online.

Applications Validated

- Jockston House, Ardoe: Erection of 985 sq.m solar array. 5 objections re glare and visual impact.
- Hollybank House, Durris : Alterations and extension to an agricultural building, including installation of a green treatment plant
- Springfield Steading Netherley: Retrospective permission for 2 agricultural buildings
- Geddes Sq. Chapelton: Permission for change of house type
- Elm Cottage, Banchory Devenick: Application to make alterations to the door of a Category B listed house. Planning Dept require a heritage significance statement.
- Upper Muirsky, Netherley : Replacenment planning permission for erection of dwelling house, with new treatment plant and soakaway

Applications Decided

- Sardishan, Maryculter: Retrospective application for an agricultural storage building
- Glenhaven, Banchory Devenick: Retrospective planning permission for erection of polytunnel and 1.8m fencing and gates. Rod expressed some surprise at this decision which seemed contrary to usual procedure. It did not go to the Area Committee Meeting despite 25 objections being raised. Rod will contact the Planning Department for clarification of the subject and our understanding of the situation.

Local Development Plan

Nothing new to report. The call for sites (developers) and ideas (public) were submitted in March and decisions should be available in the Autumn. NKRCC will issue an invitation to a member of the planning department for our edification.

7. Finance.

The account stands at £634.35 following a further charge of £4.25 from Bank of Scotland.

There are no outstanding sums to be deducted from the account.

A request for digital banking was refused by the Royal Bank of Scotland with no reason given.

Our Community Council Grant is now based on strict rules regarding what it can be spent on. It was felt that an appropriate use of the grant would be to reabsorb the South Deeside View back into NKRCC in order that it can continue to provide the local community with much needed information. Because SDV would then be covered by the NKRCC constitution it would be able to apply for grants to help with printing costs.

Bob proposed that the three editors of SDV become associate members of NKRCC and this was unanimously agreed.

Bob also noted that in some community councils the secretary and treasurer receive a small honorarium payment and felt this might be another avenue to explore.

8. Correspondence & Licensing Application

Nothing new to report

9. AOCB

Ed Thorogood, Chair of Maryculter Woodland Trust, came to tonight's meeting to ask about bin provision. When the local community took over the care of Maryculter Woods ten years ago, Ed asked Aberdeenshire Council if they would provide a bin. This was duly supplied and was emptied every week. Suddenly without any warning the bin stopped being emptied. The bin is now overflowing and is forming a nasty health hazard in the bellmouth parking area. In addition dog walkers are now dumping used poo bags in the wood where they remain until collected up by volunteers; last weekend over 100 bags were retrieved from the woods. Cllr Victor asked Ed to send her an e-mail and she would find out what was happening.

Rod suggested that Environmental Health might be able to help with the immediate problem of the overflowing bin.

On a happier note Ed reported that the new wetland area was full of tadpoles.

There will be a plant sale at Cookney Hall on Friday 5th June at 10-12am to raise funds for South Deeside View. Coffee and cakes will be provided at a cost of £3. Any plant donations will be very welcome.

Bob received some information regarding the care of war memorials, with Aberdeenshire Council taking the advice of the War Memorials Trust on board. There are only three reasons considered acceptable for cleaning war memorials.

1. A residue causing chemical damage to the surface
2. A build up of dirt making it impossible to see any repairs that might be required
3. Dirt that makes it impossible to read the names

Because war memorials are historical monuments they should not be pristine and the very act of cleaning them can cause damage.

Bob is concerned for the wellbeing of the plaques at Banchory Devenick and intends to check them out in the near future.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 15th June 2026 at Lairhillock School.

1. Annual General Meeting
2. Ordinary Meeting