

Wanlockhead Community Council

Sunday 12th April 26 at the Wanlockhead Community Centre, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Meeting Agenda

Contact: secretary.wanlockhead.cc@gmail.com

7Present Members: Jon Evans (JE) Chair, Karen Morrison (KM) Secretary, Steven Morrison (SM) Treasurer, Robert McCafferty (RM), Gordon Wishart (GW), Bert Auld (BA).

Present non-members: Four members of the public were in attendance.

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| 1. | Welcome & Apologies. JE Welcomed members and public present. |
| 2. | Resignation & Recruitment It was noted that John Nellist resigned as a member of Wanlockhead Community Council on 2 March 2026. KM expressed thanks to John for his contribution and service to the Community Council. Casual Vacancy Election (CVE) It was noted that Wanlockhead Community Council currently has five vacancies, including co-opted positions. Following discussion, and with the consent of the Chair (JE), it was proposed by KM and seconded by SM that a Casual Vacancy Election (CVE) be requested to fill the vacant positions, in accordance with the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. The proposal was agreed unanimously. It was resolved that Dumfries and Galloway Council be formally notified and requested to make arrangements to hold a CVE at the earliest opportunity. It was further agreed that the Secretary would submit a copy of this minute to the Council and act as the main point of contact for the election process. The Community Council requested that the election be arranged as soon as practicable to safeguard the future operation of Wanlockhead Community Council. It was noted that current co-opted members may choose to stand for election as part of this process. |
| 3. | Adoption of Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 nd February 2026 were approved as a true record, proposed by BA and seconded by RM. |
| 4. | Matters Arising KM reported concerns regarding road markings, blocked drains, and cracks in the road surface to Dumfries and Galloway Council. BA confirmed that these issues had previously been reported to the Council, although not through the CCES system. |

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| <p>4. Cont.</p> | <p>War Memorial - RM reported that the War Memorial project is ongoing. A potential local contractor has been approached, and a quotation is waited for the proposed works. These include cleaning and tidying of the memorial base, painting of the base and railings, and inspection and repair of the surrounding wall and structure, as required.</p> <p>Action: RM to follow up with the contractor to progress the project.</p> <p>Festive Lights - It was noted that no resident feedback or comments had been received following the update recorded in the minutes of 22 February.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that Wanlockhead Community Council (WCC) will adopt responsibility for the Christmas lights. It was recognised that external funding will be required to support this. It was also noted that the Twentysilling Hill Community Benefit Fund may be a potential source of funding to support and enhance community spirit during the festive period.</p> <p>Members noted that there are three new metal streetlights within the centre of the village which could be utilised for additional festive lighting. It was agreed that further investigation is required into costings and available options for expanding the provision. John Wilson, electrical contractor, who previously facilitated the switching on of the lights along the B797 in Wanlockhead, was identified as a suitable contact to provide further information.</p> <p>Action: KM to progress enquiries regarding costs, options, and report back on progress.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>It was noted that correspondence received since the previous meeting on 22 February 2026 had been circulated to members for their attention.</p> <p>JE highlighted a lack of correspondence namely police reports from Police Scotland, noting that monthly Microsoft Teams meeting invitations had not been received. KM advised that the community policing team had been made aware of the updated contact email for Wanlockhead Community Council. Members noted that several crimes have been reported within the village, with crime reference numbers issued. It was further noted that additional incidents have occurred within the Wanlockhead area of which the Community Council had not been previously aware.</p> <p>Action: KM to contact the community policing team to remind them that the Community Council wishes to receive regular reports.</p> |

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| 6. | Treasurer Report. Account 1- £7,586.49 Account 2 – £4,245.69 Account 3 – £16,571.19 |
| 7. | Public Forum It was reported by a member of the public present that a possible travelling community was camping in the Mennock on 12 April 2026. A large bonfire was observed, and ATV vehicles were seen being driven recklessly. KM advised that the appropriate course of action in the first instance would be to contact Police Scotland. Members of the public present noted that the Community Centre Open Day, held on 11 April 2026, had been successful and was viewed as a positive event for the village. |
| 8. | Funding Applications Twentyshilling Hill Community Benefit Fund Applicant: Wanlock Visions CIC – £2,285.00 RM declared a conflict of interest and left the room. KM advised that the additional information requested by members had been provided by Wanlockhead Visions and circulated in advance of the meeting. Purpose: Purchase of recyclable benches, outdoor leaflet holders, and an A1 information board. Outcome: Approved. RM rejoined the meeting. Clyde Microgrants Applicant: Southern Upland Past – £293.00 Purpose: Purchase of a printer and annual ink subscription, laminator pouches, storage boxes, and acid-free poly pockets. Outcome: Approved. Action: KM to arrange payment to the successful applicants. |

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| <p>8. Cont.</p> | <p>Ballot Boxes Application (WCC – 22 February 2026)</p> <p>It was agreed to rescind and decline the previous funding application, as it was considered to relate to a wind farm–associated project.</p> <p>Members agreed instead to utilise discretionary grant funding to purchase ballot equipment. Discussion covered survey wording, print quantities, distribution arrangements, and voting locations. It was agreed that the ballot boxes would remain the property of the Community Council but would be available for use by local groups.</p> <p>Proposed arrangements for the upcoming BayWa.r. e consultation event on 28 April 26 were considered. It was agreed that ballot papers would be distributed from 27 April 26 and the survey would run until the afternoon of 3 May 26.</p> <p>Members discussed options for hosting ballot boxes, including the Community Centre, the Wanlockhead Inn, and the Museum Trust, as well as the possibility of single venue. Consideration was also given to aligning dates with the second public consultation, survey content, and ensuring residents had accessible opportunities to express their views. Local venues, including Wanlockhead Community Centre, the Museum Trust, and Wanlockhead Inn, may be approached to host ballot boxes. The Sharing Shed will provide a 24-hour secure drop-off option. Arrangements will be made for a suitable counting venue and an independent adjudicator. Counting is scheduled for Sunday 3 May, with results to be formally recorded.</p> <p>It was agreed that the ballot would use simple “Yes/No” wording. Members also discussed seeking advice from Dumfries and Galloway Council and Moffat Community Council to ensure best practice.</p> <p>Actions: RM to purchase ballot boxes. KM and RM to seek advice from Dumfries and Galloway Council and Moffat Community Council.</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Mennock Pass (B797)</p> <p>An email was received from SM, in his capacity as a resident, raising concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of the B797 Mennock Pass. Responses had been received from Oliver Mundell MSP and Dumfries and Galloway Council Roads Department. Members noted that local ward councillors Andrew Wood, Tony Berretti, and Jim Dempster should also be contacted regarding these concerns.</p> <p>It was highlighted that due to financial constraints, significant repairs may be challenging. Concern was expressed that the Mennock Pass is likely to be used as a diversion route during upcoming works on the A76 through Sanquhar, including repairs to the Toll Booth, which will result in road closures for several weeks.</p> |

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| <p>9. Cont.</p> | <p>JE advised that, during summer 2025, correspondence had been sent jointly with the Chair of Sanquhar Community Council to the Chief Executive of Dumfries & Galloway Council, supported by photographic evidence and a report on the condition of the road; however, no substantive response had been received. SEPA has also been contacted regarding the traffic light issues, and it was noted that D&G Council have responsibility for maintaining watercourses. JE further advised that correspondence had been submitted to the Herald newspaper in his capacity as Chair of the Wanlockhead Museum Trust, although no response has yet been received. It was noted that the Kirkconnel, Kelloholm & Sanquhar (KK&S) newspaper has recently featured an article marking the four-year anniversary of the traffic lights.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Duke of Buccleuch, who has previously expressed concern, may be approached for support. Fiona Daubney, Ward Manager, was also identified as a potential contact.</p> <p>JE will contact the Chair of Sanquhar Community Council to explore further joint action. Members noted that local businesses are beginning to be adversely affected. It was agreed that continued representation and pressure should be maintained with relevant authorities.</p> <p>Action: KM to contact Fiona Daubney ward manager for support.</p> |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>Wanlockhead Community Centre</p> <p>It was noted that the review is ongoing, and discussion took place regarding the current situation.</p> <p>The Community Centre has provided feedback indicating concerns around restricted funding and difficulties in securing funding through their annual monitoring return. It was noted that the ongoing situation is causing issues within the community. GW expressed strong concerns regarding the review. It was agreed that the current situation is not in the best interests of the community.</p> <p>Action: KM and RM to contact Foundation Scotland.</p> |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>Local Place Plan / Community Action Plan. Nick Wright Planning</p> <p>Place Plan has been submitted to D&G Council on 25.03.2025 and will be discussed with the Nithsdale Area Committee with a hopeful approval on 13.05.2026. Thanks was given to Nick Wright Nick Wright Planning for his work on building the plan for the community and to the community organisations and individuals for supporting the plan.</p> <p>The full and final copy of the plan can be found on https://wanlockhead.cc</p> |

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| 12. | <p>Wind Projects</p> <p>BayWa.r.e -Glensalloch Wind Projects. www.glensalloch.co.uk</p> <p>It was noted that BayWa r.e. – Glensalloch will hold its next community event on 28 April 2026 at Wanlockhead Community Centre. Residents are encouraged to attend and engage with the information provided.</p> <p>Renewco, Ravengill Energy Park Ravengill Energy Park Renewco Power</p> <p>It was further noted that representatives from Renewco – Ravengill Energy Park continue to attend the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings, as well as Community Council meetings relating to the project.</p> <p>Action: KM and RM to continue attending CLG meetings as required</p> |
| 13. | <p>Resilience Update</p> <p>RM reported that discussions had taken place with Moffat Mountain Rescue regarding their communications systems, including Starlink technology. This was prompted by recent storm events during which Wanlockhead experienced a loss of communications, highlighting potential risks in the event of an emergency during periods of severe weather.</p> <p>It was noted that any potential purchase of equipment would require further consideration, including costings, storage arrangements, and key access/register procedures. Members agreed that we proceed to obtain costings and options for consideration by the Community Council.</p> <p>Action: RM to obtain costings and report back when information is available.</p> |
| 14. | <p>Planning.</p> <p>Nothing for Wanlockhead Boundary.</p> |
| 15. | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>GW advised that research has been undertaken into the provision of a blood/trauma kit as an addition to the community defibrillator cabinet. It was noted that Wanlockhead Community Council intends to submit a Community Windfarm Fund application to support the purchase of this equipment. Residents will be invited to provide comments on the proposal. It is intended that the kit will be stored within the defibrillator cabinet located outside the Museum of Lead Mining.</p> <p>SM suggested that the Lowther’s Railway Society Ltd be contacted regarding water runoff at Townhead Cottages and the NATS Radar Station garage which is</p> |

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| 15. Cont. | <p>contributing to road deterioration and creating hazardous icy conditions during frost.</p> <p>RM declared a conflict of interest in relation to the railway and advised that any correspondence should be issued formally.</p> <p>It was noted that the following individuals currently hold keys for the Sharing Shed: JE, KM, RM, and BA.</p> <p>A point of conduct was noted in relation to comments made regarding the Community Centre and personal opinions expressed during discussions.</p> <p>GW offered an apology regarding the Sharing Shed not being opened on two occasions when they were scheduled to do so.</p> <p>Action: KM to contact the railway association regarding water issues at Townhead Cottages and to submit a Community Windfarm Fund application to support the purchase of the trauma kit.</p> |
| 16. | <p>Date of Next Meeting. 31st May 2026 AGM followed by a short ordinary meeting.</p> |