



Wanlockhead Community Council

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

Ordinary Meeting

Contact: secretary.wanlockhead.cc@gmail.com

Website: <https://wanlockhead.cc>

Present Committee Members: (11 Elected Members) Chair, Robert McCafferty (RM) Secretary, Karen Morrison (KM), Treasurer, Steven Morrison (SM), Jon Evans (JE), Graham Auld (GA), Paris Dearden (PD), Lesley Johnston (LJ), Androulla Richford (AR), Lincoln Richford (LR), Margaret Williamson (MW), Gordon Wishart (GW).

Also in Attendance: 4 members of the public were present,

Guest Speaker Present: Jim Henderson, Director for the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board with Debbie Parke Senior Biologist for the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

	Agenda
	Chair's Opening Statement – Public Attendance and Participation Members of the public are warmly welcomed to attend Wanlockhead Community Council meetings. The Community Council values community input and provides an opportunity for residents to raise comments, questions and concerns through the Public Forum agenda item, or at the discretion of the Chair. To allow the meeting to run effectively and ensure all business can be considered, members of the public are asked to respect the order of the meeting and refrain from interrupting discussions outside of the Public Forum. The Chair will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute in a respectful and constructive manner.
1	Welcome and apologies for absence. Chair RM extended a warm welcome to members, guests and public in attendance. No apologise received Meeting confirmed as quorate.
2	Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting. The minutes of 31st May 26 were approved as a true record. Proposed by SM Seconded by RM



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3	Guest Speaker – Jim Henderson, Director for the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board with Debbie Parke Senior Biologist for the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust Chair welcomed Jim Henderson and Debbie to the meeting and invited Jim to give an overview of the proposed Mennoch Riparian Woodland Project before opening the floor to questions. Jim explained that, as River Director for the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board, his role involves managing and monitoring salmon and trout populations throughout the catchment. He has extensive knowledge of the local waterways around Wanlockhead and regularly monitors fish survival during the summer months. He advised that one of the biggest challenges facing Atlantic salmon in Scotland is rising water temperatures, with recent temperatures reaching 24.2°C, largely due to climate change. As salmon spend two to three years in local burns before migrating to sea, improving their freshwater habitat is essential for their survival. Jim outlined the proposed habitat restoration project for the Mennoch Water. The project aims to improve biodiversity by restricting livestock access to sections of the watercourse through the installation of metal fencing and planting native shrubs and trees, including rowan and hawthorn. Over time, the vegetation would provide shade to cool the water, leaf litter to support aquatic insects as a food source, and stronger root systems to stabilise vulnerable riverbanks. Jim advised that Buccleuch Estates had been approached and were supportive of the overall environmental objectives. Jim explained that funding for the project was already in place, and no financial contribution would be required from the community. The project is expected to commence in autumn 2027, subject to the necessary approvals and funding timetable, with planting planned for summer 2028. A ten-year maintenance programme will form part of the project. A few organisations, including RSPB, SEPA and archaeological specialists, will be involved where required. Members raised a range of questions regarding the proposals. These included the areas to be fenced, the impact on grazing, visitor access, camping, gold panning, fishing rights, and the use of metal rather than wooden fencing. Jim advised that grazing would be managed to allow habitat recovery, while public access would remain where possible through the provision of gates and stiles. Responsible gold panning would continue to be encouraged, although enforcement would remain available where licensing conditions were breached. Salmon fishing would not be permitted within the protected areas.
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3 Cont.	Concerns were also raised regarding visitor behaviour, littering and camping along the Mennoch Water. Jim acknowledged these issues and advised that greater awareness, monitoring and partnership working with Police Scotland would be important. Members suggested that the Community Council could assist by helping to raise awareness of responsible behaviour within the area. Discussion also covered wider environmental matters, including the impact of historic mining activity, flooding, local wind farm developments and future habitat restoration opportunities within the Wanlock Water catchment. Jim explained that environmental monitoring forms part of wind farm planning processes and confirmed that other areas, including around Duntercleuch, may be considered for similar habitat improvements in the future. Members asked whether the proposals could be incorporated within the Wanlockhead Local Place Plan. Jim felt that elements of the project were already reflected within parts of the plan and welcomed continued engagement with the Community Council. Following discussion, the Chair asked whether there would be value in holding a public meeting to allow residents to learn more about the project and ask questions. Jim confirmed that he would be happy to attend. A show of hands was taken, with all members present agreeing that a public meeting should be organised. The Community Council will discuss suitable dates with Jim. Action: KM to liaise with Jim to arrange a public meeting on the proposed Mennoch Riparian Woodland Project. Chair thanked Jim and Debbie for attending the meeting and for providing an informative presentation and discussion.
4	Lowther Railway Society – Water Runoff from Railway Embankment No representative from the Lowther Railway Society was in attendance despite several attempts to make contact by email. Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding water runoff from the railway embankment following a recent site visit by RM and SM. It was reported that investigation holes previously dug by the Railway Society have since been filled in, but water continues to flow onto the newly resurfaced road, carrying stones and



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4 Cont.	debris and creating a risk of damage. Concerns were also raised about water flowing near the BT cabinet and towards Hastings House and Townhead Cottages. It was noted that several roadside drains in the area, along with other village drains, appear to be blocked and require inspection. It was also agreed that Buccleuch Estates could be contacted to clarify ownership or lease arrangements for the railway land. It was further agreed that the Community Council's next correspondence to the Lowther Railway Society would include a request for a joint site meeting to discuss the ongoing issues and identify a way forward. Actions: KM to request a joint site meeting with D&G Council Roads Department. KM to include a formal request for a site meeting in the next correspondence to the Lowther Railway Society. KM to contact D&G Council regarding the inspection and possible clearing of the blocked roadside drains. KM to contact Buccleuch Estates regarding ownership or lease arrangements for the railway land.
5	Introduction of New Community Council Members Chair (RM) welcomed the newly elected members to Wanlockhead Community Council. A Community Council Handbook and the Standards of Behaviour document, provided by D&G Council, were issued to all members. New members were asked to provide their contact details to KM so they could be added to the Community Council email distribution list. Members were also asked to acknowledge that they had either received a link to, or had read, the D&G Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. RM encouraged members to familiarise themselves with the document as it provides important guidance on the role, responsibilities and governance of Community Councils. Action: KM to add new members to the email distribution list.



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6	Public Forum Concerns were raised regarding the condition of Mennock Pass, particularly during the recent hot weather, which has attracted increased numbers of campers and visitors to the area. Reports included increased littering, fires, anti-social behaviour and human waste being left in the area. Human waste had been observed within the Mennock Water during this period, raising concerns regarding environmental impact and public health. Concerns were also raised regarding irresponsible gold panning, including individuals who may not hold the required licences, as well as the use of barbecues and alcohol, which could present security concerns for nearby residents. It was noted that SEPA had been informed regarding traffic cones which had entered the nearby Mennock Water because of the current road traffic management arrangements. Concerns regarding the misuse of recycling bins within the village. Following a recent village event, a significant amount of non-recyclable waste was left in and around the glass recycling bin which is sited on Museum Trust land. Volunteers from Wanlockhead Museum Trust have been required to remove this waste before D&G Council will empty the bin, with occasions where human waste has also been present. Members and public present were reminded that the B797 Mennock Pass is out with Wanlockhead Community Council boundary and sits with the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar Community Council.
7	Matters Arising There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous 31st May 26 meeting minutes.
8	Treasurer's Report. Account 1- £3,948.73 Account 2 – £3,579.94 Account 3 – £14,273.44



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9	Funding Applications Clyde Microgrants Applicant: Wanlockhead Community Council Amount Requested: £480.00 Purpose: To continue improving and maintaining the Community Council email and website systems, following the loss of access to the previous Microsoft account and the need to move to a new platform. Outcome: Approved – 6 votes in favour, 4 abstentions, 1 member did not vote. Applicant: 1531 MCC Amount Requested: £500.00 Purpose: To support the hosting of the annual bike show within the village for the enjoyment of the wider community. Outcome: Approved – unanimous approval. Twentyshilling Hill Community Benefit Fund Applicant: Wanlockhead Community Council Amount Requested: £2,614.00 Purpose: To complete improvements and enhance the War Memorial, located within the centre of the village. Works will include painting the railings, wall and gate, laying decorative stones, adding concrete edging, and completing any necessary preparation work prior to the main works commencing. Outcome: Approved – unanimous approval. Action: KM to notify successful applicants of the funding decisions and arrange payment.
10	Correspondence Correspondence received since the previous meeting has been circulated to members for information and review.
11	Police Report Eddie Hewison provided a police report for Wanlockhead boundary via email. • One person has been charged with a communications offence.



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11 Cont.	Upper Nithsdale Policing Activity • Road traffic checks carried out across the area. • Rural crime patrols undertaken. • Retail crime patrols, with support and crime prevention advice provided to local businesses. • Early intervention and educational engagement with primary and academy pupils. • Joint housing visits completed, providing support and advice where required. Summer Drink and Drug Drive Campaign Members noted that throughout the summer months, Road Policing Officers, supported by Community Police Officers, will be carrying out increased patrols and both planned and unplanned road checks as part of the Summer Drink and Drug Drive Campaign. The campaign aims to improve road safety through education, prevention and, where necessary, enforcement. Residents are reminded that there is no safe limit for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The local campaign also supports Operation Spotlight, a UK-wide initiative led by the National Police Chiefs' Council during July, focusing on reducing collisions associated with the Fatal 5 risk factors: Drink and drug driving, Speeding , Using a handheld mobile phone while driving, Careless driving , Failing to wear a seatbelt.
12.	Any Other Business GP Surgery – Medipoint Machine / Staffing Concerns were raised regarding the Medipoint machine located at the Leadhills GP surgery being out of order. RM asked whether GW could assist in obtaining further information and an update on the situation. It was also noted that, due to nursing staff sickness and a lack of cover for the hybrid surgery in Leadhills, residents of both Wanlockhead and Leadhills are currently experiencing reduced access to healthcare provision unless they can travel to the Moffat surgery. Action: GW agreed to assist where possible to help maintain continuity of service and will contact Moffat Surgery to request an update regarding the Medipoint machine and current staffing arrangements.



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12 Cont.	Bus Service – Lanark to Wanlockhead Your Local Bus Services Kilwinning, Ayrshire Shuttle Buses Members discussed the bus service from Lanark to Wanlockhead. It was noted that the Shuttle Buses service now operates this route. Action: BA agreed to investigate this further and provide an update to the Community Council. Remembrance Day Service RM asked members and members of the public present whether anyone would be willing to take forward the organisation of the annual Remembrance Day Service. This would include applying for funding towards hospitality, advertising and general event organisation. Lindsay Warren kindly volunteered to take this forward and will liaise with KM regarding relevant information. Wanlockhead Local Place Plan Wanlockhead Community Council Members discussed progressing the Local Place Plan and working with the groups identified within the plan to help move projects forward. It was noted that the plan has now been adopted by Dumfries and Galloway Council. Action: KM to add as an agenda item for the next meeting on 11 August to discuss how best to progress and develop the plan. Community Council Meeting Frequency Members discussed the possibility of moving Community Council meetings to a four-weekly cycle, this was agreed. Action: KM to book the venue for future meetings going forward. Glass Recycling Bin Concerns regarding the glass recycling bin currently located on Wanlockhead Museum Trust (WMT) land were raised. It was noted that the bin was moved to this location approximately three years ago following complaints regarding its previous location at the Community Centre. Volunteers from the WMT are regularly required to remove non-recyclable waste, including occasions where human waste has been present. The Museum Trust would now like the bin relocated ASAP. Discussion took place on whether an alternative location within the village could be identified and agreed that support should be sought from D&G Council. It was noted that the bin is well used by residents for glass recycling, and following the recent Wildfire event held within the village around 16 black bin bags of waste were removed from in and around the area of the recycling bin.
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12 Cont.	Action: KM to contact D&G Council regarding assistance with identifying a suitable alternative location for the glass recycling bin. Community Shed Members were advised that the Sharing Shed project which saw a selection of food and winter fuel has now finished. There will be no further Wednesday opening sessions at present. This may be revisited if the need for the facility is required. Action: KM to advertise that the Sharing Shed is currently closed. Community Notice Board It was noted that the notice board at Wanlockhead Museum Trust is being used to display Community Council minutes and information, ensuring residents who do use social media can access updates. Funding may be sought in the future to facilitate further notice boards within the village. Trauma Kits / Defibrillator Update Members were advised that the TraumaFix kits have now been distributed to the four agreed locations. GW also confirmed that the defibrillator circuit details had been updated and that he will seek to order new adult and child defibrillator pads to ensure there is a constant supply. Future Meeting Dates A query was raised regarding meetings being held on a Sunday. It was explained that this arrangement was chosen to accommodate the availability of all members at the time. Members agreed this may be reviewed in the future if an alternative day would better suit.
13.	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 11th August 2026. RM thanked members and residents present for their attendance. This ordinary meeting of Wanlockhead Community Council was closed at 21:01.