WANLOCKHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting Agenda
Sunday 1st November 2026 • 6.30 pm–8.00 pm
Wanlockhead Community Centre

Chair's Welcome and Meeting Protocol.
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and remind members and members of the public of the meeting protocol, including respectful participation. Questions and comments from the public will be taken during the Public Forum agenda item unless invited to speak earlier.

Present Committee Members: Chair, Robert McCafferty (RM) Secretary, Karen Morrison (KM), Treasurer, Steven Morrison (SM), Paris Dearden (PD), Lesley Johnston (LJ), Lincoln Richford (LR), Androulla Richford (AR), Gordon Wishart (GA), Graham Auld (GA).

1	**Welcome and apologies for absence.** Apologise from Margaret Williamson and Jon Evans. Apologise also received from Wanlockhead Community Centre Chair. Meeting was confirmed as quorate.
2	**Declarations of Interest.** No members declared an interest in any of the agenda items.
3	**Adoption of Minutes from – 4th October 2026.** The minutes of 4th October 26 were approved as a true record. Proposed by - BA Seconded by - LJ
4	**Matters Arising.** Village Rubbish: Discussion took place regarding the increasing amount of rubbish being left around the village, particularly in the Bay Mine area, where camping has been taking place. Concerns were raised about the impact this is having on the area. Community Shed – Winter Fuel Project: The annual winter fuel scheme is now underway, with wood and kindling available free of charge to Wanlockhead residents. There has been a good uptake so far. This is organised by Wanlockhead Community Council and made possible through funding from a Clyde Wind Farm / SSE Microgrant. The Community Shed is open every Wednesday between 11am and 12 noon for residents to collect supplies.
5	**Police Report** Members received the Community Police Report, which advised that one person had been charged with a road traffic offence in Wanlockhead. Police highlighted an increase in rural crime across the wider Galloway area, particularly involving quad bikes, vehicle thefts, farm machinery, trailers and tools. Members were also asked to remain vigilant regarding suspicious drone activity and to report any concerns to Police Scotland. Upper Nithsdale policing activities include road and speed checks, rural and retail crime patrols, engagement with local schools, and support with housing visits and meetings.

5 Cont.	Members also raised concerns about an incident involving a resident whose vehicle tyres had been slashed, confirming that the police had been involved. Members and the community are reminded to report suspicious activity by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency. **Additional Police Update**: Following the meeting, a further update was received through the monthly Police Scotland Teams meeting. Police advised that Operation Comment would be commencing to cover the festive period, with a particular focus on drink-driving. Residents are also asked to remain vigilant regarding heating oil thefts across the area.
6	**Correspondence** Various items of correspondence had been received and circulated to members for information and consideration, including: GP Medipoint Update. GW provided an update on the GP Medipoint machine which received water damage that stopped it working. The supplier and the practice are negotiating a repair or replacement. The GP surgery is frustrated by the situation and apologised to those affected. Discussion took place regarding delays in receiving prescriptions, with some residents reportedly waiting almost two weeks. Residents were encouraged to register for repeat prescriptions and use the online Patient Services facility to order medication. It was clarified that controlled drugs cannot be left at the shop in Leadhills and must be collected in person. Postal Deliveries. Discussion took place regarding missing mail and delays in receiving letters, with some correspondence arriving considerably later than expected. Glass Recycling Facilities. Following DGC's removal of the village glass recycling bin, discussion took place about the loss of this facility, which leaves the village without a local option for glass recycling. Members acknowledged that, under the circumstances, its removal was unavoidable. Additional Bins – Mountain Lodge. LJ confirmed that two additional bins had now been delivered to Mountain Lodge residents. **Actions:** GW to contact the GP surgery regarding the Medipoint machine and prescription concerns and report back to members.

7	**Treasurer's Report.** SM presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. The current account balances were noted as follows: **Account 1:** £ 6,246.20 **Account 2:** £ 1,663.04 **Account 3:** £ 7,076.44 Funding remains available through the Clyde SSE Microgrant Scheme and the Twentyshilling Community Benefit Fund. Both funds are available to support local community projects and charitable purposes. Application forms and further information are available on the Wanlockhead Community Council website at https://wanlockhead.cc/grant for community funding. Foundation Scotland funding is available for community projects, with the next Clyde Community Fund deadline on 18 January 2027. Further information on funding available, eligibility and applications can be found on the Foundation Scotland website Apply for funding| Foundation Scotland DGC Discretionary Grants**.** KM reported on the new DGC online funding portal, which she had been asked to trial. The portal appeared to work well, and positive feedback had been provided to DGC. Community Council Running Costs. Discussion took place regarding increasing running costs and the need to identify additional funding to support the Community Council's annual expenditure. The discretionary grant funding available is insufficient to cover all costs, including ongoing hall hire. It was noted that additional support would need to be sought from available Community Benefit Funds. Proposed Funding Applications and Community Consultation It was noted that, going forward, the community should be made aware of the Community Council's intention to submit any proposed funding applications in advance. This would allow residents an opportunity to comment, provide feedback or raise any relevant considerations regarding the proposed projects. A further funding application is expected to be brought forward for consideration soon.

8	**Funding Applications.** **Clyde SSSE Microgrants** **Applicant:** Lorraine McCormack on behalf of Leadhills Miners Library **Amount Requested:** £ 150 **Purpose:** To pay for the hire of Wanlockhead Community Centre to facilitate the annual Christmas Fayre in December 2026 **Outcome:** Declined, Application incomplete. The application was declined, with 0 votes in favour, 0 abstentions and 9 votes against. **Action:** KM to contact the applicant to advise them of the outcome **Twentyshilling Hill Community Benefit Fund** **Applicant:** Wanlockhead Community Council **Amount Requested:** £ 3,767.00 **Purpose:** To support the cost of these years annual Christmas light switch on, extra motifs **Outcome:** Approved, Application complete and supporting documents received. The application was approved, with 8 votes in favour, 0 abstentions and 1 vote against. **Action:** KM to arrange payment.
9	**Public Forum.** No members of the public were present, and no matters were raised
10	**Consultations / Planning & Engagements.** Fifth Periodic Review of the Scheme of Establishment – Local Government Reform. RM and KM will attend an online meeting regarding the proposed Government reforms. Discussion took place about the potential implications for Wanlockhead, particularly given its ML12 postcode and the possibility that the village could move from Dumfries and Galloway to South Lanarkshire. Discussion included the potential impact on local services, road maintenance, winter gritting and snowplough provision, and whether a change in local authority could bring improvements to the village's roads. Members recognised that any changes could have implications for Wanlockhead in the longer term. **Action:** RM and KM to attend the online meeting and report back to the Community Council.

11	**Roads, Drainage & Infrastructure** **DGC Correspondence.** Various emails from Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) were discussed in relation to ongoing road and drainage issues within the village. **Lowther Railway / B797 Drainage Issues**. A site meeting took place with Martin Hollingworth, a volunteer from the Lowther Railway Society, during which the route was walked as far as the county boundary to inspect the drainage problems. Water was found running onto the B797, including around the BT cabinet, causing concerns about the effectiveness of the existing drains. Dye testing was carried out to establish the source of the water, with results indicating that it was coming from railway land. It was noted that the railway's planning extension includes drainage requirements and that water should not be discharged from railway land onto the B797. The ongoing flow of water appears to be contributing to the blocked drains. The railway's directors have not yet contacted Wanlockhead Community Council. **Hastings House Area.** Discussion took place regarding the blocked drains at the corner of Hastings House, which may be a result of the increased water flow. Concern was expressed that the water is now affecting the recently completed road repairs. Members felt that the situation required urgent attention to prevent further damage and, more importantly, to avoid a potential accident. It was agreed that further correspondence should be sent to the railway directors outlining the ongoing concerns. Members also agreed that the Planning Department should be contacted to establish what action could be taken in relation to the drainage requirements within the railway's planning permission. The Roads Department should also be informed that the water is now compromising the newly repaired section of road at Hastings House. **DGC Roads Reporting and Maintenance.** Discussion took place regarding the difficulties experienced when reporting road and drainage defects through DGC's Customer Contact Enquiry Service (CCES). Members noted that numerous potholes had been reported through FixMyStreet and subsequently actioned for potential repair. However, reports of blocked drains had been assessed as Category 4 defects, deemed not to meet the required criteria and closed. Members expressed concern about the implications of this, particularly where standing and running water is affecting Church Street and other areas of the village. The potential impact on winter gritting and road safety was discussed, especially the risk of water freezing and creating hazardous conditions. **Gritter Bins.** Members noted that several grit bins were not full and that some had damaged or broken lids.

11 Cont.	**Road Sweeping and Gully Cleaning.** The road sweeper had attended the village on the 22ndOctober and had partially swept the roads; however, the gully drains had not been cleaned. Members discussed the expected maintenance schedule, understood to be approximately every 8–10 weeks. **Drainage Monitoring.** Members discussed the importance of gathering photographic evidence of the ongoing drainage problems. Residents and members should take photographs of full or blocked drains and, where possible, drain covers affected by ice. This evidence may help support future correspondence and requests for action from DGC. **Mennock Pass.** Discussion took place around the increased flow of water at Mennock Pass and the need to report this to the relevant department. Concerns were raised about the potential implications during the winter months, particularly if the water continues to accumulate or flow across the road. **Action**: KM and RM to work together to follow up on the outstanding road and drainage issues, including contacting Buccleuch Estate, the Lowther Railway directors, DGC Planning and Roads Departments, the Ward Manager and Ward Councillors. This will also include following up on grit bins, road sweeping and gully cleaning, and gathering photographic evidence to support ongoing reports and concerns.
12	**Resilience** **Storm Boelo** KM had kept members informed of all correspondence received from DGVOST during the recent storm. The Resilience Team did not need to activate its arrangements on this occasion, as the village retained its electricity supply and generally came through the storm well. **CareZone and GoodSAM.** Members were encouraged to read through the information circulated on CareZone and GoodSAM. These items will be revisited at a future meeting. **Resilience Training.** Three Members had recently attended a training event hosted by the DGC Resilience Team at Johnstonebridge found it very helpful. It was felt that further training opportunities would be beneficial for the Wanlockhead Resilience Team. Discussion also took place regarding additional first aid training, with members expressing an interest in gaining further skills. The DGC Resilience Team may be able to assist with organising suitable training. CPR Training will hopefully be provided by St Johns Scotland as part of the additional community defibrillators planned for the village.

12 Cont.	**Action:** KM to contact the DGC Resilience Team to establish what additional resilience and first aid training opportunities and support may be available. **Power to the Community Shed.** Discussion took place regarding the provision of electricity to the Community Shed, including the possibility of installing a power supply This was identified as a potential project for future funding consideration, with Foundation Scotland being one possible source of support.
13	**Renewco, Ravengill:** Ravengill Energy Park | Renewco Power **BayWa r.e. Glensalloch Wind Project:** Glensalloch Wind Farm No further correspondence or updates have been received from either party. Work is continuing the Community Council's objection to the Glensalloch Wind Farm proposal.
14	**Any Other Competent Business.** **Rubbish Bins.** Discussion took place regarding rubbish bins mainly the blue, paper/cardboard and red, plastic being blown over during periods of high winds, resulting in litter being scattered around the village. It was suggested that a Facebook reminder be posted encouraging residents to secure their bins properly to help prevent this. **Wanlockhead Development Group.** Discussion took place regarding progress with establishing a new community development group, currently using the working name Wanlockhead Development Group. Two meetings have now taken place, with limited interest from the wider community and no responses received from residents following the initial invitation. It was noted that the group is intended to provide an opportunity to take forward projects and apply for funding that may fall outside the remit or eligibility of the Community Council. Five local groups identified within the Local Place Plan were initially invited to participate as a starting point. However, it was recognised that this approach may have unintentionally discouraged other residents from becoming involved. It was clarified that those currently attending are doing so as individual villagers rather than as representatives of their respective organisations. Members discussed the need to encourage wider community involvement and agreed that residents should be invited again to take part. A third meeting will be arranged before Christmas, with residents encouraged to come forward and get involved. Please use secretary.wanlockhead.cc@gmail.com or secretary@wanlockhead.cc for information. It was also noted that Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway would be contacted for advice and support in helping the group develop a way forward and establish a suitable structure.

14 Cont.	**Community Newsletter.** PD expressed an interest in taking forward the idea of producing a quarterly village newsletter. Members welcomed and encouraged the suggestion. **Community Council Meeting Dates.** Discussion took place regarding future meeting dates, as the Community Centre needs to be booked in advance. Members were asked whether they would prefer to leave January free, given the Christmas and New Year period when many local organisations and services may be operating on reduced hours or a skeleton service. Members felt this would be worth considering, with meetings then taking place every four weeks thereafter. Discussion also took place regarding the limited attendance of the three local Ward Councillors at Community Council meetings, with only one having attended to date. It was suggested that the current meeting day may not be convenient and that changing it could encourage better attendance and representation in Wanlockhead. One member reported having spoken with a local councillor who suggested that the current meeting day does not at times suit their availability. It was agreed that the meeting arrangements, including the preferred meeting day and future dates, would be discussed further at the next meeting, following which the Community Centre would be booked accordingly.
15	**Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting.** 6th December 2026, Wanlockhead Community Centre 6.30pm Chair thanked all for taking the time to attend and closed the meeting at 20.12