

Wanlockhead Community Council

Unapproved Minutes of the meeting which was held

At 18.30 on Sunday 13th April 2025

Within the Museum of Lead mining Tearoom

Present Members: Jon Evans JE (Chair) Karen Morrison KM (Secretary) Robert McCafferty (RM) Steven Morrison SM (Treasurer) Bert Auld (BA) John Nellist (JN)

Present Non-members: Two members of the public were present.

Item	Discussion
1.	Welcome & Apologies – <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair extended a warm welcome to both committee members and members of the public in attendance.Apologies from Gordon Wishart (GW) were noted.
2.	Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – 2nd March 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed - Chair (JE)Seconded – Treasurer (SM)
3.	Proposal of New Members – <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Community Council have a vacant seat that required filling through co-option to maintain full membership and effective representation. It was proposed that John Nellist be co-opted onto the council, as he met the eligibility criteria set by Dumfries & Galloway Council and had expressed interest. Consideration was given based on his skills and commitment to the community. The co-opted member will serve until the next election with full voting rights, except on co-option matters. A copy of “D&G Amended Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils” was given to the newly Co-Opted member. Chair extended a warm welcome to John. <p>John Nellist was proposed by KM and seconded by SM</p>
4.	Police Report – <ul style="list-style-type: none">Although no formal report was presented at this meeting, the secretary received correspondence indicating that community police will no longer attend every council meeting. Instead, attendance has been rescheduled to the first Wednesday of each month commencing in May 2025. Wanlockhead Community Council (WCC) chair will join these meetings via Microsoft Teams and provide any relevant updates as necessary. This change is part of a region-wide initiative to reduce the need for community officers to attend individual council meetings. Individuals can contact the community police officer if they have any concerns. <p>Action: WCC Chair to attend meetings and feed back to members.</p>

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5.	<p>Treasurers Report -</p> <p>Account 1: 17,008.20 Account 2: 1,844.07 Account 3: 1,260.43</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service charges are now being applied to the bank accounts. A discussion took place regarding the best way to manage these fees. <p>Action: SM will explore alternative banking options and payment methods. The WCC discretionary grant may be considered to help cover these costs.</p>
6.	<p>Public Forum –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public informed the meeting that they had reached out to SEPA regarding issues at Mennock Pass (B797), specifically concerning traffic cones and lights that were blown into the nearby burn due to recent high winds. To date, they have not received a response. The discussion highlighted that Dumfries and Galloway Council inspects the road on a weekly basis and should ideally address such issues during these inspections. JE acknowledged the challenges of getting a response from SEPA and expressed appreciation to the member of the public for their continued efforts on this ongoing issue.
7.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Meeting with Leadhills Community Council (LCC): A meeting took place on March 17, 2025, between members of the Wanlockhead Community Council (WCC) and Leadhills Community Council (LCC). The key points of mutual interest were the Moffat GP surgery and the wind farm project. LCC informed us that they have campaigned regarding the GP surgery issue. WCC now has access to the 2024 questionnaire that was circulated to residents regarding this ongoing matter. Both WCC and LCC will have representatives at the upcoming Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting scheduled for April.</p> <p>Actions: JE will compile the relevant data and provide feedback to members in due course. KM will contact the Moffat GP practice to clarify how it plans to address the needs of Wanlockhead residents. WCC representatives will provide feedback following the CLG meeting.</p> <p>War Memorial: No input has been received from residents regarding the required work on the handrails and surrounding grounds.</p> <p>Action: RM will move this forward and provide feedback when more information is available.</p> <p>Defibrillator Locations: Residents have suggested several locations for potential defibrillator installations, including Townhead Cottages, Meadow foot, the Community Centre, and the Bowling Green. A discussion took place regarding these options.</p> <p>Action: KM will investigate funding options and update members when more information is available.</p>

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<p>7 Cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 221 Bus Service to the Village: A discussion took place regarding the impact of the 221 bus service, particularly the last run of the day. It was suggested that South West Transport (SWT) review the profitability of the route. It's important that this essential service remains available to the village. We will also look into identifying the councillor involved with the SWT committee. Additionally, a suggestion was made to explore the possibility of Wanlockhead operating a mini-bus service. Action: RM will take this forward and provide updates when available. Local Place Plan (LPP) & Community Action Plan (CAP): Residents with small businesses in Wanlockhead were encouraged to participate in the LPP, which is being facilitated by Nick Wright Planning and Consultants. However, no responses were received. Action: Item closed. Parking at Access Road to Mountain Lodge: JN reported that the parking situation remains unchanged. A discussion followed about potentially using the "tennis court" area at the village entrance for additional parking. JE clarified that this area is a scheduled monument site. JN suggested adding parking information and points of interest to the village entrance signs. JE noted that much of Wanlockhead is of interest to Historic Environment Scotland (HES), which is responsible for protecting and promoting Scotland's historic environment. Buccleuch Estate (BE), the landowner, was also mentioned, and an example of a ranger-type scheme was suggested for the village. It is hoped that the LPP will capture the community's views on these issues. Action: JE will take this forward, leveraging his contacts with HES and BE.
<p>8.</p>	<p>GP Surgery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed at item 7.
<p>9.</p>	<p>Sharing Shed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Sharing Shed has been up and running on a Wednesday 10am till 1pm each week for around three weeks and is being used, JE advised that this will be monitored to see if it will be viable to continue. <p>Action: JE to monitor and feedback to members.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Roads & Report It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mennock Pass (B797): The Mennock Pass has been used as a diversion route due to the closure of the Dalveen Pass, which has resulted in an increase in traffic, particularly from HGVs. A discussion took place regarding the worsening condition of the road. A WCC member shared that the WCC has been in contact with both Dumfries and Galloway Council and the local MSP, but no viable solution has been found so far. The Save the Mennock Pass social media campaign has suggested taking the issue public, and it was noted that if the road becomes

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10 Cont.	<p>impassable, the village will be cut off, creating a significant detour for residents, businesses, and visitors. Wanlockhead is part of the SW300 route, which attracts many visitors and passing traffic throughout the year, contributing to the village's income. The Mennock Pass primarily lies within the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar, and it was suggested that the Royal Burgh might work with the WCC to find a solution. The Pass is also the main route into Wanlockhead from the A76.</p> <p>Action: KM will provide JE with the contact details for the Chair of Sanquhar Community Council and will make contact with them.</p>
11.	<p>Funding Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Microgrant: No Applications Received. • Twentyshilling Hill Community Benefit Fund: No Applications Received.
12.	<p>Matters Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Place Plan (CPP) / Local Action Plan (LAP): RM previously circulated a draft version of the CPP from Nick Wright Planning via email for members to review. Members proposed the inclusion of three key points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A return date for the completed plan. 2. Clear information on where hard copies should be returned. 3. A suggestion/comment box, potentially placed at the Community Sharing Shed. <p>RM will contact Nick Wright to request these amendments and ensure the plan progresses without delay. GW has previously confirmed he is happy to collaborate with Nick Wright on promoting the plan via the website. Every resident within Wanlockhead will have the opportunity to have their views listened to and are encouraged to fill in the questionnaire when it arrives.</p> <p>Action: RM to liaise with Nick Wright, progress the plan, and provide an update once more information is available.</p>
13.	<p>Windfarm Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewco CLG: RM advised that the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting originally scheduled for March will now take place in late April 2025. Two representatives from WCC will attend. • Funding Applications – Transition to Online: A discussion was held regarding moving wind farm funding applications from paper-based forms to an online format. This shift aims to improve transparency and accountability within WCC. The Wanlockhead Community Centre representative noted that two community laptops are now available for public use. • Application Deadlines: It was agreed that all applications for the Clyde Microgrant and Twentyshilling Hill funds should be submitted at least 14 days prior to the next scheduled WCC meeting. This will allow members sufficient time to review and make decisions.

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<p>13 Cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase Requirements & Proof of Expenditure: Members reaffirmed the importance of applicants using awarded funds strictly for the items listed in their applications. This requirement is clearly stated in both the guidance notes and the application forms. Successful applicants will be required to submit proof of expenditure for all purchases. • Clyde Microgrants – Next Round: The next round of Clyde Microgrants will open for applications in June 2025. <p>Action: It was unanimously agreed that all funding applications will now be submitted online. However, hard copy forms will still be available upon request by contacting secretary@wanlockhead.cc or using the enquiry button on the website: https://wanlockhead.cc</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several items of correspondence were received by the secretary and subsequently shared with members for their information. <p>Action: KM to forward details regarding the 80th Anniversary of the VE & VJ Day Celebrations to Wanlockhead Community Centre for their reference.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Resilience Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Plan Update: KM has been working on revising the Resilience Plan following meetings with key venues in Wanlockhead. The plan is nearing completion and will be ready for sign-off. • Council & Utility Engagement: RM informed members that he has been in contact with a Resilience Officer from Dumfries & Galloway (D&G) Council to gain a better understanding of how the plan should be implemented. It was confirmed that WCC's role will be to act as a conduit for information between D&G Council and the village. <p>D&G also advised that, during the storm in January, the Wanlockhead Inn was selected by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) as the preferred venue to provide hot meals to residents. This decision was made independently of WCC.</p> <p>RM further noted that he has contacted both Vodafone and Scottish Power to raise concerns about the extended power and phone outages experienced in the village. A response is still pending.</p> <p>Residents have been informed of a planned power outage scheduled for 1st May, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.</p> <p>The Chair emphasised that WCC's responsibility is to relay information to the community as it becomes available.</p> <p>Action: KM to circulate the revised Resilience Plan to members for review, with the aim of signing it off at the May 2025 meeting. RM to provide an update on any responses received from SPEN and Vodafone.</p>

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16.	<p>Consultations & Engagements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various items have been received by our secretary. <p>Action: Invitation to online session focused on GP services in D&G – RM & KM will attend both sessions and feed back to members.</p>
17.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member of the public thanked everyone who participated in the recent village Spring Clean on Saturday, 5th April. The event was considered a success, and there was interest in organising a similar event in the future. The Chair also extended thanks to the Wanlockhead Inn for kindly providing refreshments to the volunteers — these were greatly appreciated. Chair thanked all who help in the event.• RM informed members that two large holes have been identified opposite the Beam Engine. Buccleuch Estate is aware of the issue. JE added that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is considering repairs to the Old Track, and a representative from Buccleuch Estate may visit Wanlockhead for a site inspection.• BA and SM reported that the Commonwealth Graveyard at Meadowfoot has a hazardous tree within the grounds, and the surrounding wall is in disrepair in several areas.• It was noted that adult defibrillator pads will soon need to be replaced.• A member of the public asked whether WCC meetings could be held on alternative nights. The Chair acknowledged that this suggestion has been raised previously and confirmed it will be considered again in the future. <p>Action: RM and JE to provide updates as new information becomes available. BA to contact Dumfries & Galloway Council to report the hazardous tree at the graveyard. KM to arrange for the purchase of defibrillator pads when required.</p> <p>Meeting Closed. Chair thanked members of the public for their support.</p>
18.	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting:</p> <p>AGM 4th May 25, 6.30pm - 8.00pm at the Museum of Lead Mining Tearoom.</p>

Website: <https://wanlockhead.cc/>

Contact: secretary@wanlockhead.cc