



DALBEATTIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dalbeattie Community Council Annual General Meeting – Draft Minutes

Monday 12th May 2025 at 7 pm

Venue - Birchvale Theatre, Maxwell St, Dalbeattie, DG5 4AG

Community Council Elected Members Present: May Donaldson (MD), Linda Ashton (LA), Edward Palmer (EP), John Thompson (JT), Robert Widdowson (RW)(left at 7.25), David Reid(DR)

Community Council Members Apologies: Aaron Gibson (AG)), Councillor Ian Blake (IB), James Carnochan (JC), Ron Smith (RS), Lyne Gibson (LG) John Neilson (JN), Councillor Davie Stitt (DS)

Regional (D&G) Council Members: Nicola Hill (NC), Thomas Young (TY)

Royal British Legion Scotland: Willie Watson (WW), Robert Kirk (RK) J

Dalbeattie Initiative: Ian Wilbur (IW) (chairperson of the Dalbeattie Initiative), Liz Wilbur(LW)

Others Present: Margaret Copp (MC), Suzanne Main (SM), John White(JW), Kate Caldlow (KC), Suzanne Main (SM) , CJ Loukrah,

Draft Minutes:

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Chair's opening remarks

3. Apologies

Please see above

4. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

The following minutes were approved:

Dalbeattie Community Council Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes

13th May 2024 at 7.30pm

Community Council Elected Members Present: Linda Ashton (LA), John Neilson JN), Aaron Gibson, Lyne Gibson (LG), Maureen Feieraband (MF)

Community Council Co-opted Members Present : David Reid (DR), Edward Palmer (EP), Ron Smith (RS), May Donaldson (MD)

Community Council Members Apologies: Robert Widdowson

Regional (D&G) Council representative: Councillor Ian Blake (IB), Kimberly Philips (KP)

Dalbeattie initiative representative: Ian Wilbur (IW) (chairman of the Dalbeattie initiative)

Others Present: Margaret Copp (MC), John White (JW), Paul Widdowson (PW), Susan Murray (SM), Liz Wilbur (LW)



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Regional (D&G) Council Apologies: *Councillor Davie Stitt (DS), Councillor Kim Lowe (KL),*

Chair **Maureen Feieraband**
Minute taker **Edward Palmer**

1. Welcome and Introductions

EP welcomed everyone to the meeting as there is no elected chairperson

2. Review the minutes of the last annual general and agree they are accurate.

No minutes were presented as EP was not in possession of any and no other sources presented any. EP said going forward he would make sure that minutes would be circulated for this meeting. So that a cycle of draft minutes and approved final minutes could be followed going forward as done for the monthly meetings. KP advised that these should be proposed and seconded and this recorded.

3. Apologies - Confirmation of quorate meeting

EP took a register and confirmed the meeting was quorate

4. Chairperson's Annual Report, followed questions and answers on anything in the report.

Robert McGoldrick sent his apologies and said there was nothing to report

5. Secretary's Annual Report , followed questions and answers on anything in the report.

EP fed back that he was only coopted a month or two back but had been taking minutes since September but the community council were struggling to hold quorate meetings because of the low number of elected members.

2023-10-09 - Non Quorate

2023-11-13 - Quorate

2023-12-11 - Quorate

2024-01-08 - Non Quorate

2024-02-12 - Non Quorate

2024-03-11 - Quorate

2024-04-08 - Non Quorate

Despite this the community council has been active in this period such as:

- Forming the Pond working Group and completing the structural survey*
- Applying for a Banking Hub*
- Applying for improvements for the Town Hall*

Although the latter two have been unsuccessful without applying there is no chance of success and it is only a matter of time before initiatives from the community council are successful.

JW made comment that in his experience this was the right strategy and persistence in applying for funding and resources will pay off.



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6. Treasurer present the Annual Accounts, followed questions and answers on anything in the accounts.

LA presented the accounts (attached) and thanks were given to Robert Murray for completing the audit

7. Appoint an auditor to check the accounts (an organisation that is not connected to the Community Council.)

It was agreed to continue with Robbert Murray a retired banker who audits the Dalbeattie Community Council annual accounts free of charge.

8. Resignation of current office bearers

EP as the only current office bearer stepped down from Secretary.

9. Election of office bearers

Maureen Feieraband was proposed as chairperson by Linda Ashton this was seconded Aaron Gibson and MF then took on chairing the rest of the meeting.

Edward Palmer was proposed as secretary by Lyne Gibson this was seconded Aaron Gibson

Linda Ashton was proposed as treasurer by Maureen Feieraband this was seconded Aaron Gibson

All three were elected as the office bearers

10. Date of next annual general meeting.

MF thanked people for attending

2025 Dalbeattie community council annual general meeting was set for 12th May 2025

MF closed the AGM and moved to the general meeting agenda

5. Chair's Report

Pond group working group

Confusion over whether the Community Council insurance will cover Dalbeattie Community Council to tender work.

Community Resilience

The Community Resilience recognition is out LA will speak to them about it

Clean-up group

Now up and running and doing a great job.

As of the 1st May no police at meetings chairs will go to a central meeting

Busy year, everyone is involved



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6. Treasurer's Report

None

7. Election of Office Bearers

Appointment of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and other relevant positions for the coming year.

Linda Chair

May Deputy Chair

Ron Treasurer

8. Confirmation of Community Council membership

ASHTON, Linda

DONALDSON, Catherine, M.

GIBSON, Aaron

GIBSON, Lynne

NEILSON, John

PALMER, Edward, Thomas

REID, David

SMITH, Ronald, Lee, Smith

THOMPSON, John

Robert Widdowson (co-opted)

Carnochan James (co-opted)

9. Priorities for next year's Community Action Plan

- Pond
- Community Engagement
- Clean Up Dalbeattie
- Resilience

10. AOB

Local Place Plan

Nicola Hill and Thomas Young were introduced to the group. They were attending from Dumfries and Galloway Council to support the process.

Survey Update (Phase 1)

EP reported that the community survey continues to receive contributions. Once the number of responses reaches statistical significance, a full data analysis will be conducted. However, even at this stage, the survey results have provided useful guidance and direction for developing the Local Place Plan.

Key focus areas have now emerged from this feedback.

EP confirmed that the project has now moved into **Phase 2**, where councillors and volunteers are actively engaging with residents to gather more detailed insights and begin shaping concrete proposals.



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Next Steps – Phase 3

EP explained that Phase 3 will likely take the form of a public drop-in event, where draft proposals will be presented to residents for additional feedback. Following this, proposals will be refined and a final vote will take place at a future Community Council meeting to decide which to include in the final Place Plan submission.

NH confirmed that we are on the right track and expressed support for the process being followed.

There was some discussion about the current proposals. EP clarified that in-depth debate and decisions about the proposals are scheduled for a later meeting.

When challenged about the resident feedback he was reporting—specifically regarding why young people have stated they do not stay in Dalbeattie, which JT questioned as being more about a lack of jobs—EP responded that, based on his conversations, housing availability was the most frequently raised issue. He emphasised that younger residents consistently cited limited rental options and affordable housing as primary reasons for leaving. EP added, *"Please do not shoot the messenger,"* emphasising that he was simply reporting on residents' views he had collected.

JC, although not present, had also consulted with residents, and his findings were read out. Unfortunately, only three members had consulted with residents, and one of these had not completed their findings in time to present back.

The following proposals have arisen so far from community engagement:

- Removing curbs in new developments to improve accessibility and inclusive design
- Integrating alleyways into larger developments to improve connectivity and walkability
- Protecting green spaces (Barrhill Woods, Rounall Woods, and Dalbeattie Town Wood) from negative development impacts
- Partially pedestrianising Dalbeattie High Street and removing curbs to support accessibility, safety, and business
- Increasing the availability of smaller rental units for younger residents, workers, and first-time renters

NH noted that there has now been an extension to the process until the end of the year.

EP asked whether a link could be made in a proposal—for example, to build a cottage hospital as part of a large development. TY responded that no, although money may come in for local amenities, it goes into a central pot and is not development-specific.



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NH also said that many councils combine the CAP (Community Action Plan) with the LPP (Local Place Plan).

EP asked whether, with the extra time, the group should embark on a **Placecheck** survey and inquired if others had found it useful. TY responded that they had, and noted that maps and defined areas would be needed in the final Place Plan.

11. Public questions on AGM topics (can be taken in writing)

Pond – needs to be water-tight, tenders in by August

The bandstand – Ruth Bert Dunn foundation will pay for it, so best to proceed if Dumfries and Galloway Council say it is OK, all agreed JT should continue with this.

There is no representation on GP practice board.

12. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Not set next meeting of 13th June at the Town Hall confirmed