



Dalbeattie Community Council Meeting

Monday 13th April 2026 at 7 pm – Birch Tree Hotel

Minutes

Community Council Elected Members Present :

Linda Ashton (LA) Chair, May Donaldson (MD) Vice Chair,,
Edward Palmer (EP), John Neilson. (JN), David Reid, Robert
Widderson (RW, James Carnochan (JC), David Reid (DR)

Regional (D&G) Council representative:

Councillor Kim Lowe (KL), Councillor Ian Blake (IB),

Others Present:

Margaret Copp (MC), John White (JW), J Thompson (JT), C)
RBLS - Robert Kirk (RK), James Dingwall (JD), Willie Watson
(WW)
DCI – Ian Wilbur (IW)

1. **Welcome and Introduction from the Chair**
2. **Apologies:** Ron Smith (RS) Treasurer Davie Stitt
3. **Approval of the Minutes** - Approved
4. **Matters Arising** – None not on the agenda
5. **Actions from the Previous Minutes** – None not covered
6. Membership such as co-option of new members.
7. **Police Report** - None received
8. **Treasurer's Report** – Will be sent after the meeting
9. Councillor Kim Lowe reported on the following:
 - **Bus Service:** Kim reported that SWestrans are seeking alternative operators for the 501 bus service, as McCalls Coaches will terminate their contract in August due to the route being commercially unviable, even with subsidy. SWestrans are exploring options to package the full route to make it more attractive to potential operators, although there is concern that re-procurement may be challenging.

A query was raised regarding why the bus service drops off but does not pick up at certain points. Kim will look into this and report back. Especially as to why the 501 will drop off but not pick up at the station.

- **Church Crescent Bridge:** The delay has been caused by a design change relating to how the bridge will join the road. Kim will find out the revised timescale for completion. The old bridge will be scrapped.
- **Inclusive Play Park:** Six inclusive play parks are being constructed at the same time to reduce overall cost. The new park will be fully accessible. The time frame for completion is currently uncertain.

10. Lead Role Reports / Working Party Report/ Sub Group Reports

Pond Group - The price for the works has increased, but the Council has agreed to cover the £1,300 difference. Work should begin soon. A question was raised about whether a detailed plan has been shared; this has still not been provided, but it was noted that everything will be sealed, which should give the pond a long lifespan. A query was raised about who paid for the Moffat works; Linda will enquire.

Resilience Group - None at present. IB noted that Colvend has a model plan and would likely be willing to speak about it. EP asked whether the RBL might wish to be involved, and the response was positive. EP will contact Colvend Community Council to request a speaker and, if agreeable, arrange a public meeting at the Birchvale. The Legion confirmed they would like to take part.

Clean Up Dalbeattie Group RW has carried out some work, though activity has been quieter recently. Now that the weather has improved, there is a substantial list to work through, including clearing trees and branches from the burn.

Community Engagement Articles are needed for the next newsletter. Topics so far include illegal car parking. Other suggestions were the toilets and Church Crescent bridge, though both have been covered recently. EP asked for article content to be sent to him; if enough material is received, he will put a newsletter together next weekend.

Place Plan The Place Plan has now been approved. It is understood that it will be incorporated into the planning process and must be considered as part of planning decisions.

11. Community Organisation Reports

Dalbeattie Initiative

IW provided an update on the Rocks and Wheels project on behalf of the Dalbeattie Community Initiative. There has been a small delay, but handover is now expected on 8 May.

IW noted that it is hoped Rocks and Wheels will, in time, generate a revenue stream for the Initiative and support wider community activity. However, there are significant operational costs involved in getting the facility running. As an example, the electricity service charges alone are around £1,000 per month. The next step will be to raise funds to cover these ongoing costs and ensure the facility can operate sustainably once open.

IW also highlighted that Rocks and Wheels will host a UCI Pump Track World Championship Qualifier on 14 June. This will be the first major competitive event at the new facility and is expected to bring visitors into the town. Further details will be confirmed by the organisers.

12. Planning Applications that need Community Council comment.

None needed

13. Dalbeattie Scouts

No update

14. Other Projects

20mph Implementation will be for 18 months and unlikely to withdrawn.

Safe Guarding – Ron leading on that and nothing fed in

15. Dumfries and Galloway Councillor feedback

IB reported that council tax has increased by 8%.

IB will also look into whether there is any income received from the fun fair.

16. Public Feedback

- RB: Concern about drivers jumping the traffic lights. LA will raise this with the police.
- DR: Suggested that the gates should be shut and the pedestrian gate removed.
- Margaret Copp had requested support for maintaining the flower beds in the park. As there are no volunteers, the beds may be grassed over.
- WW: Has donated a bottle of whisky for fundraising.
- RK: Raised the issue of illegal parking. Police advised they cannot enforce it because the signs and road markings are too worn. IB noted that a review of yellow lines is underway as part of decriminalisation, which is delaying repainting.
- Titanic Sign: Needs repainting.
- Bench at Moyle's Hill: Requires repair. EP will speak to the Dalbeattie Forest Community Partnership to see whether parts can be sourced and whether a working group could carry out the repairs.
- DR Raised concerns about the gates at the cemetery, asking that the main gates be closed. DR also questioned whether the pedestrian entrance is necessary.

Public feedback made during the meeting whilst other topics were been discussed:

- Vaccination Centre (JT) - It was noted that the theatre has now been approved as the vaccination centre. A temporary vaccination point had previously been set up in the car park, but it was never advertised. Although capacity was available for around 1,000 vaccinations, only six were carried out, as people were directed to Castle Douglas instead. The Community Council was asked to take this on, but no decision was made as the meeting was brought back to the topic that was being discussed at the time.
- Public Toilets - A question was raised about why the public toilets are not open. This has been discussed previously. No one locally is willing to take on the role of opening and closing them. The paid post has been advertised, but no applications have been received. As a result, the toilets are opened by staff who live some distance away, and travel time is included in their working hours, which limits opening times.

17. Date of Next Meeting ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11TH MAY 2026 and next community Council meeting on 8th June 2026