

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 January 2026

Members present	Elizabeth Jones, Fiona Rennie, Andrew Donaldson, Calum Mclean, Hilary McGregor, Heidi Bryce, Emily Semple
Apologies	Tasha Houchin, Michael Bowdidge, Matt McCammon (Police Scotland), Jessie Malcom (NHS) Cllr Gerry McGarvey
In attendance	Graeme Fraser (KCFC), 28 members of the public,
How to contact us	Go to www.killlearncc.org.uk and click on the contact button.

CC1606 - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER'25

The December minutes could not be approved due to several issues raised.

Please refer to the Unadopted December Minutes, where all agreed-upon changes have been marked up and noted for reference. Liz apologised to Mr Knox for his perception that her remarks influenced the meeting against him, that was not intended, but it was felt important that the remarks remain in the minutes.

Following the review and agreement of the proposed changes there were a number of comments from community members in attendance:

- Mr David Young outlined that Liz made it clear during the December meeting that the views presented by Mr Graeme Knox were his own and not those of the Community Council and given the content of the presentation that was essential
- Mr David Young also commented that the minutes were accurate and it is not for someone outwith the Community Council to determine how these are written
- Mr Frank Deas asked that KCC seek Stephen Bly's opinion on how to manage a vexatious community member
- Mr Nigel Kelly said that it felt like KCC were disputing Mr Graeme Knox's facts but he felt that Mr Knox was on the right lines, it was just the way in which he presented his case. Liz confirmed that KCC's concern is around Mr Knox's request for KCC to accept and agree with him that Stirling Council have broken the law - but KCC don't feel there is any factual evidence of this
- KCC have a meeting scheduled with Sharon Marklow to discuss the concerns around Two Oaks - the intention is to understand more about the position of Stirling Council and their processes and how to work together more effectively
- KCC are working closely with Stirling Council to get answers but it is not their position to try to change the planning process; only to pass on the information to them if members and the community as a whole have concerns.

The last amendment was that SPEN should be referred to as SSEN - this change is also reflected.

CC11607 - MATTERS ARISING

- Sewage Issue - there has been ongoing discussion with Scottish Water and there has been an improvement at the top end of the field but it looks like there has been another "eruption" lower down the 'pipe' at the site near that is known as McGowan's Mill House. The manhole covers have not been properly reinstated and the waste is flowing into the burn.

Action: This is a Scottish Water issue and is being followed up through Scottish Water, KCC has alerted Stirling Council to the ongoing issues and will continue to follow up.

- EV charging units in the Health Centre Car Park - As the feeder pillar providing power to the chargers was badly damaged by the collision, the cable was damaged. This requires SSE to attend and reinstate the grid connection. The installer has chased SSE but no date has been shared.
- Blackwood's Beech House - No further response from Cllrs Gerry McGarvey and Rosemary Fraser. Residents have not had any further communications either. It was noted that there have been surveyors to the site.
Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up and see if there is any further update.
- Killearn Nursery - It was brought to KCC's attention at the November meeting that places at Killearn Nursery have been cut causing issues with fully funded places, pushing families to use private childcare providers who do not offer the same / equitable flexible offering in terms of days / timings.

Fiona Geddes was at the meeting and explained that Stirling Council's advice within their response was that the 30 hours is applicable within the Stirling area - therefore if spaces were not available in Killearn parents should look at neighbouring villages.

KCC member Heidi suggested asking Stirling Council what places are available in the local rural area, highlighting that places in the area might be longer distances from Killearn .

Further discussions were had around one private nursery in the village offering a top up charge to funded hours to ensure all children had the same opportunities which raised concerns over inclusivity and equitable access to childcare.

KCC have recommended accepting the offer to meet with Stirling Council and discuss further, especially with the new budget consultation now open. <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/budget/big-conversation/>

Action: KCC to follow up

- Youth Member - KCC are still looking to fill this position and are in discussion with Balfron High School where an advert has been posted out to pupils

CC1608 - POLICE MATTERS

Fiona read out the following items from the police report:

A warm welcome to PC Darren Gibson who joins the Forth & Endrick ward community Policing Team. He comes with 11 years' response policing experience having spent most of his service within the Callander / Stirling area.

Crime

- An Attempted Extortion has been recorded after a member of the public was contacted by an unknown person over social media asking for nude images of themselves. The victim thereafter sent an image of themselves (Neck down), once received, the suspect threatened to send the image to their friends and family on social media if they didn't pay £200. The victim refused to pay and contacted the Police. The victim was given suitable safeguarding advice.
- A crime under the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act has been recorded after an adult made contact via mobile phone with an older child and attempted to engage in a sexual conversation. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the suspect and the older child has been provided safeguarding advice.

- A crime under the communications act has been recorded after a resident received a threatening message. Enquiries are ongoing.

Fraud

- A fraud is currently being investigated after a local business was made aware that a fraudulent website had been set up purporting to be their business. The business has received several queries asking where their orders are, their orders appear to have been made, along with payment to the fraudulent website.

The full police report will be available on KCC website www.killlearncc.org.uk

CC1609 – KCFC UPDATE

Graeme Fraser had no updates to share on behalf of KCFC.

CC1610– PLANNING AND LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Liz, Fiona and Tasha will be meeting with Sharon Marklow in the coming weeks - a date and time have still to be agreed.

Planning Applications

- 5/00524/FUL - Killlearn Co-Op
Installation of external refrigeration plant, including enlargement of existing enclosure and erection of new security fencing.
- 25/00645/FUL - 4 Oak Place
Garage conversion and alteration of roof
- 25/00683/FUL - 74 Main Street
Demolition of sun room and erection of single story extension
- 25/00697/FUL - Baikal, The Square Killlearn
Extension including raised patio and addition of dormer windows

2 Approved

- 2500597/FUL - Carbeth Lodge
3 story side extension, raised patio and garage extension
- 2500559/FUL - 5 Main Street
Roof work including maintenance re slating

Other/Closed

There was an enquiry raised to the alleged running of a business from a residential address at Crosshead Road - this has now been closed.

CC1611 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Calum shared the following updates with reference to local road activities:

Road Closures/Changes

- Branziert Road North – closed 19th to 28th January
- B818, Fintry to Denny road – closed 09:30 to 15:30 on Monday 9th Feb
- Hillhead Brae, Balfron - Introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' on Hillhead Brae, Balfron, to prevent parking on the grounds of road safety

Street lighting

- Crosshead Road/Graham Road - No progress as yet, KCC have followed up with SC

Grit bin near Co-op

- KCC have picked this up, and will hopefully have a further update for the next meeting. It has been noted that there is no grit bin at this location nor anywhere the full length of Main Straight.

Blanewater Bridge Repair

- KCC are awaiting an update on the repair to the bridge after a car hit the wall a few months ago

Gully Cleaning on the A809 (Stockiemuir Road)

- KCC were asked to help in sorting blocked drains on the Stockiemuir Road. SC completed the gully cleaning work in December

Speeding

- A member of the public raised concerns over speeding in the village and asked if there was any update on road furniture or speed limitations, especially at Branziert Road.

A point was raised about other neighbouring villages all having various elements in place, but Killlearn still doesn't.

Various points were made about what could be done to slow traffic ie. flashing signs, speed cameras, road furniture.

There are plans to push the 40mph zone out from the Tennis Court but no update as of yet. Calum outlined that there are also plans afoot to install more signage but clarification required on when this will happen and what.

Action: KCC (Calum) to follow up

CC1612 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona reported on the following correspondence:

- New glass recycling bin deliveries - The delivery of new household glass recycling bins across Stirling was completed on Friday 19 December 2025.

From 6 January, glass collections will move to every eight weeks. Check your collection dates using our postcode finder.

For glass collections, use the separate postcode finder for the new 8-week service. Please note: the glass schedule printed on the paper calendars issued in February is no longer valid.

www.stirling.gov.uk/glasscollections

- Double yellow lines at top of Station Rd - Stirling Council will revisit this and will arrange for a consultation on this proposal to be sent out. This will be added to the team's work plan as staff resources permit.
- Trees for Goals - Killlearn Football Club have recently formed a partnership with a group called "Trees for Goals", who will donate a tree to be planted for every goal that Killlearn FC score next season.

The trees will be planted next Autumn in a place decided by the local community council. They are seeking permission from all the local community councils first before they proceed with the idea.

KCC are interested in the concept and have gone back with a number of questions to see if this is feasible.

- Stirling tops TimeOut list as best place to visit in Britain - Stirling has been bestowed with yet another accolade as TimeOut Magazine has named the area as the best place to visit in the UK for 2026. Editors and writers from TimeOut compiled 14 places throughout the UK that are worth a visit for people looking to plan a staycation this year with Stirling beating them all out to be top pick.
- Co-Op refurbishment plan - From Tuesday, January 13th, it will be open for 4 weeks till the 3rd of February with a limited range. (All the must haves will be available including bread, bananas, and wine!)

After those 4 weeks (From the 4th February), the Co-Op will close for 3 weeks for the heavy lifting, new floors, ceilings, and all the "behind the scenes" electrics.

The Grand reopening is scheduled for Thursday the 26th of February.

- Survey launched on proposals to bridge next year's budget gap - Residents are being urged to have their say on proposals to help address Stirling Council's estimated £12.25 million budget shortfall next year (2026-27). The consultation continues the council's Big Conversation with its communities about how it negotiates the ongoing and unprecedented financial challenge impacting local government in Scotland.

Despite bridging a similar shortfall last year through an 8.8% increase in council tax and a range of savings totalling £7.7 million (mainly efficiencies), the council and other local authorities across Scotland must make further difficult decisions this year to balance their budgets.

Residents can help inform this process by taking part in the survey on the Engage Stirling website:

<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/big-conversation-26-27>

Paper copies available in libraries shortly. The closing date is Sunday 1 February.

- Newly appointed Stirling Council CEO, Brian Roberts - Would like to introduce himself and attend one of the upcoming KCC meetings. Brian would like the opportunity to engage directly and openly with the community council, to hear first-hand about the challenges and concerns facing Killearn as well as where we see opportunities for improvement that we are keen to progress.

This has been confirmed for Wednesday 15th April

- Balfron Household Waste Recycling Centre - information sessions on the upgrading to the Centre are being scheduled on the dates below from 4pm-7pm.

The purpose of these sessions is to provide residents with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft design proposals and to share feedback and suggestions.

- 28th Jan Balfron
- 4th Feb Buchlyvie
- 9th Feb Kippen (session finishes at 6.30 pm)
- 11th -Feb Blanefield
- 16th Feb Drymen

→ 18th Feb Fintry
These works are likely to take place in 2027.

CC1613 – QUESTION TIME

- Peter Bowness provided an update on 41 Station Road. There has been no response from Cllr Paul Henke; however, Cllr McGarvey has since confirmed he will look into the matter. This relates to enforcement concerns regarding a construction exclusion zone intended to protect trees, which has not been adhered to.

CC1614 – COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

No councillor in attendance.

CC1615 – TREASURER’S REPORT

Andrew Donaldson presented the following report:

Income: £540

Donation for Christmas lights from Killearn Beer Festival (£450) & Killearn Courier (£90)

Outgoings: £972.10

Administrative expenses, Hall Hire, & payment of Christmas Lights

Current balance: £1,127.31

CC1616 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Innovate Gymnastics - Charis Christie approached Emily Semple looking for KCC support. Innovate Gymnastics has been holding classes at Balfron High School for the past 15 years, teaching 400 children from 2 to 16 years of age. PFI had the contract which has now come to an end, Stirling Council are now taking on this contract.

Since that has happened, no contact has been made. Charis has been told that she is not able to make bookings from August 2026. Which has caused uncertainty for her and the other small businesses that run from there as well as local families.

This is an essential local community hub for our area, providing a number of offerings (holiday camps, after school care, health and wellbeing sessions etc) and all of the coaches are local.

Action: KCC will reach out to Stirling Council to find out more information.

- New fence - Buchanan Views and Drumtian Road
A member of the community asked if there had been an update on the right of way.

Action: KCC to chase.

CC1617 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting will be on Wed. **18th February 2026 at 8.00 pm**

This meeting ended at 21:05.