

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting of Mid Atholl, Strathtay & Grandtully Community Council

23rd February 2026 at 19:00 held on Zoom

1. **Welcome:** Chairman commented on this Zoom meeting being an experiment to see if more people are able to join the meetings. Notetaker and recording confirmed as on for ease of minute taking.
2. **Attendance/Apologies:** Graham Huggins, Chairman (GH), John Grant, Vice Chairman (JG), Michella Samy, Treasurer (MS); David Mear, Community Councillor; **P&KC:** Councillor John Duff (Cllr.D) and 15 members of the public. **Apologies:** Penny Kennedy, Community Councillor.
3. **Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 24th November 2025:** Proposed: JG / Seconded: MS
4. **Matters Arising:** Nothing to report not already covered.
5. **Secretaries Report:**
 - a. Water quality (GW) [SEPA: Water Management Issues open consultation survey 3/3/26]:
A member of the public raised concern regarding water quality of the River Tay in relation to the concern mostly arising from information from water companies in England re river quality. He has been in discussions with SEPA and Mr E McKenzie-William from Scottish Water and will arrange for a delegate to speak at a community council meeting in the near future about the situation. JD confirmed that it would be useful for Scottish Water to come and talk to us.
 - b. Diesel spill at Killin: JD reported that on Thursday 19th February around 1/2pm he was made aware that there was diesel in the River Dochart by Killin and flowing into Loch Tay and that authorities were trying to hunt down the source of the diesel. Stirling Council had been alerted as well as Perth & Kinross Council, the police and SEPA. They couldn't trace the source prior to darkness falling. Despite SEPA being alerted, they chose not to come out until the following day around midday. By Friday 20th February, it was apparent that the source was from a stream close to the Lix Toll Garage. In the vicinity, 15,000 litres of diesel had ruptured and found its way into the field, the soil and into the stream and river. The concern was the unknown quantity of diesel already in the water. Due to the situation, the conditions and extent of the damage could not be identified. There was talk of booms in the water, but thankfully the vast majority of diesel appears to be in the ground and a comparatively smaller amount in the water. The measures put in place were to dig trenches to contain the pollutants before it hit the stream and suck up as much as possible before it travelled any further. As the vast majority is in the ground, it will take some considerable time to clean up but hopefully no more will be allowed to make its way into the water. SEPA will investigate the impact on the river system, the loch and the circumstances surrounding who is responsible. The main focus right now is containment, then recovery of contamination and pollutants and then to establish exactly how this leak occurred. A member of the public asked if there is a requirement for petrol stations to have a bund around a tank. JD confirmed there probably was, but this is within Stirling council area and he was unable to say. A full debrief will take place in due course.
 - c. Paddle Scotland - Host of the European and U23 River Racing Event: David Campbell (DC) spoke to provide an update to the local community and hopefully allay any concerns regarding this event. DC is a volunteer organiser separate from but working for Paddle Scotland. His involvement comes from family members both coaching at the event and going for selection. The event is a straight line river race event from 12th to 15th August 2026. There are 2 formats for the race: (i) Classic (15mins) on 12th/13th getting onto the water from Aberfeldy and racing to the Tully and (ii) Sprint (1-1.5 mins) on the 14th/15th. It is expected that there will be around 300 competitors and coaches,

possibly around 100 parents spectating. Most will be staying in self-catering accommodation. We are also expecting around 60 volunteers who will be staying on the campsite.

Some competitors will arrive around a week before/some over Easter to assess the river. There will be a few minibuses in and around the village. The major concern is the impact on traffic. The event is in discussion with Shona Calder and David Nairn regarding the use of their fields for parking and for the paddlers to get back to the campsite. This discussion is ongoing. The competitors and coaches will be made aware that they are not to walk through the village, particularly with their boats and they will aim to control that situation, with stewards, as much as possible. Paddle Scotland would also like to extend the 20mph limit east of the village to slow the traffic before coming into the village. Awaiting a response from PKC. DC did mention that Saturday may have more spectators, however it has not been set up as a spectator event, but it's difficult at this stage to know how many people will attend, it may well be that the weather is great and that for whatever reason, outwith the event control, that it sparks the imagination of the wider local community attracting additional spectators.. There will be 3 main get togethers in the village (i) the opening ceremony in the park and campsite on Tuesday the 11th August; (ii) medal giving at the campsite on each of the four days of competition; (iii) a short closing ceremony in the park/campsite on the final day of the event, Saturday 15th August.

A member of the public had 2 questions. Q1 - is this a one-off event? DC replied that the Paddle Europe Wild Water Championships at Grandtully is a one-off event, but may come back after several years once it has worked its way around Europe. However, next year is the World Slalom Masters in August 2027. This will be a smaller event than the Wild Water event with number likely to be slightly more than the usual slalom events, however the event organiser for this event will provide an update on the 2027 event early in the new year. Q2 - Paddle Scotland supported the Pitcastle Estate planning application and would they be willing to withdraw their support? DC confirmed that he does not have a position on the planning application as far as Paddle Scotland is concerned, but will look into it, however JD did confirm that Stewart Pitt had put in a letter of support, however it was his own personal submission and not on behalf of Paddle Scotland. A local member has offered to volunteer for the event in August.

6. **Chairman's Statement:** Nothing to report not already covered

7. **Business:**

- a. **Treasurer's report:** Opening balance was £1,418.86; Closing balance £1,358.86 with a spend of £60 for printing. Proposed. DM / JG - seconded
- b. **Micro Grants:** Nothing to report
- c. **Planning Matters:**
 - i. Pitcastle Estate: JD confirmed that the period for public consultation has now passed (19th February). There were a lot of objections and a smaller amount of comments in support. These will all now be reviewed by the planning officer before they arrive at a position which may be to either recommend acceptance or rejection of the application. This could take a number of weeks before a decision is made. If it is a rejection, the applicant could decide to continue the application to the Planning Committee for consideration, withdraw the application completely or amend it and re-submit it at a later date. If acceptance is recommended, it will go to a meeting of the planning committee. Both the applicant and objectors will have the opportunity to provide a deputation to the committee and answer committee members questions. Planning officers will

then present their report, answer any questions members have before withdrawing to consider their position. If the Planning Committee rejects the application, the applicant can request that the Local Review Body reviews the decision. JD also advised anyone who still wishes, can submit a comment, which the planning officer will consider, but it will not be shown on the public portal.

- ii. Atholl Monument Logierait: Nothing to report at this stage.

d. **Resilience Planning:**

- i. Resilience Agenda: Chairman reported that flooding incidents are the main points on the agenda and we are waiting on initiative from PKC to start kicking it off. Works on the ground above St Cedds took place by Atholl Estate along with Algo to draw the pooling water above the fields away from gathering in the fields and into nearby watercourses. Another aspect is future prevention. JD had a discussion with the flood team and resilience team and a funding application has been submitted to the council for equipment including a pump, floodlights, battery packs, etc. It needs to be stored somewhere and a shed at the 'turning circle' has been suggested for future use. If anything should happen there will be equipment in place. A member of the public mentioned that there had been pre-excitation prior to the flood and it had happened in the development period, which could be the reason why the flooding occurred. It would be better to try and prevent that in future by creating a proper flood group. JD mentioned that Algo had cleared the site at the back of the houses which could have contributed to the speed of the water coming down. Hopefully, the ditches will stop that happening in the future but need to be maintained. The road drains have had a CCTV survey to identify collapses and these will be attended to at the earliest opportunity.
- ii. Speed limits in Logierait: to be discussed at the next meeting
- iii. Flooding update: as above at d(i).

8. **Any Other Business:**

- a. **Proposed hospitality charge (JD)**: discussion to take place in the next couple of months.
- b. **Etape Update (JD)**: nothing to report at the moment.
- c. **Logierait roundabout tidy-up (PK)**: nothing to report
- d. **LDP3 - Pitcastle Estate**: A public member reported that there is a resident group in place who are likely to contribute to the LDP3 process to find out where we are with the process to help protect the conservation of the village. They wanted to know what links they can have with the CC with that regard and whether a sub group could be formed. It was agreed that an initial meeting between the resident group and the CC will be arranged in the near future and MS will speak to Stuart Smith (previous Chairman) with regard to the previous LDP process. Having the CCs previous knowledge would be useful. It is important that the community's views are properly presented. JD confirmed the timeline as follows:
 - **March-June 2026**: Exploration of specific policy and place-based ideas, including Local Place Plan content, with communities and developer/landowner contacts.
 - **May-June 2026**: Online consultation on the draft Spatial Strategy, site options, approaches to local policy, settlement boundaries, and submission of additional ideas.
 - **End of April**: Elected Member engagement on draft spatial strategy, site options and settlement boundaries.
 - **June 2026**: Place-based discussions in key growth areas to review preferred and alternative options.
 - **December 2026**: Finalisation of the Proposed Plan for Council consideration.
 - **Early 2027**: Statutory three-month consultation period on the Proposed Plan.

This is a 10 year process and there is an interactive map for LDP3, which can be found [HERE](#), that allows you to go in and zoom into the map to see where the boundaries are and if anyone has proposed any alterations. PKC are reviewing their conservation areas, which is also a long process and JD is not sure where Strathtay conservation area sits on the programme. Consultation events with locals will be held if there are any changes to conservation area.

- e. Wildwater Racing Event: Junior and Under 23 European Championships in Grandtully, 10th to 16th August 2026 (DM) - see 5c above.
 - f. A public member raised the Griffin Forest Long Term Forestry Plan and if the CC had received a response from the Scottish Forestry regarding the difficulty in submitting responses and not understanding the email. The CC was not given an opportunity to respond within the timeframe. Nothing has been received as yet but the CC will follow it up.
9. **Next Bi-Monthly Meeting on Monday 25th May 2026, Ballinluig/Virtual.**
10. **Dates of Future quarterly meetings: all meetings will be Mondays at 19:00:**
- a. 25th May 2026 (Ballinluig/Virtual)
 - b. 31st August 2026 (Grandtully/Virtual)
 - c. 30th November 2026 (Virtual)

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Please send any comments by email to: mid.atholl@gmail.com	WEBSITE 	Please visit our website: Mid Atholl Community Council – midathollcc.org.uk
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