

Carlops Community Council

Minutes

Thursday 26th March 2026, 8.00pm

In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present:

Committee Members: Jim Eccleston (JE), Kate Morss (KM), Guy Walters (GW), Colin Hall (CH).

Community (in person): Les Morss, Becky Gibb, Michael Pattison, Hannah Walters.

Community (via Zoom): Sara Merrilees,

In attendance: Eric Small

Apologies: Jean Hunter, Marty Lee, Georgie Jones, Christina Geiger, Gary Beaumont (Police Scotland)

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of previous meeting were read out. Michael Pattison proposed they be accepted as a true record. Les Morss seconded.

Chairman's report:

- JE commented how good it was to see the energy around the Table-Top Sale on Sat 21st March.
- JE advised there will be a Quiz Night on Sat 18th April with proceeds going to the Playpark fund.
- GW proposed a vote of thanks for the unknown person who made a wonderful job of cleaning and tidying the Book Bus Stop. Seconded by Hannah Walters

Secretary's report:

- KM reported SBC were in touch about CCC insurance Zurich. It is unclear if cover needs have changed. CCC to query whether the cost will remain the same (Action: KM)
- KM reported the published Bus 91 timetable was incorrect and has been corrected.
- JE reported Houstons 101 is now live reported on an app called "My Trip"

Treasurer's report:

- GW reported the grant from SBC has been received.
- Guy reported that current account on 29-Jan-2026 was £204.21 and is now £789.71
- GW proposed CCC donate £200 to the Carlops Playpark Fund.
- Expenses since last meeting on 29th Jan have been an £8.50 bank service charge
- Additional £140.00 due to pay for a trough cover for the well

Police report:

- JE (on behalf of Gary Beaumont) advised there was nothing to report
- JE proposed a vote of thanks for the Carlops residents who supported Mhairi Nye and when her mother fell in the middle of the A702.
- Multiple attendees reported some poor road policing during the incident where a traffic policemen came through the line of traffic, parked in the car park, sat in his car for ten minutes and then left, back though the incident claiming we were doing a better job than he could, despite those Carloprians controlling the traffic were being verbally abused whilst doing so.
- Eric Small proposed we get the incident number from Claire who called it in. Action: Jim Eccleston.

Roads:

- GW reported that initial works were due to start imminently with the removal of old signs and the installation of new posts, with new signage to follow. Works are due to be completed in June.

Planning:

- Eric Small reported there is no news on Rutherford Castle since planning permission was granted.

Projects – the Well:

- GW reported that work on the well is complete. Sack cloth will remain to until Spring to permit the lime mortar to cure.

- GW read out a letter he sent to Newhall Estate with regards the title transfer and the cost of sellers legal fees which the CCC did not have funds set aside for.
- GW asked those in attendance if they think the CCC should pay (landowner's) legal fees.
- Community were unanimous that we will not pay the seller's fees.
- Seller had promised a £1k contribution, legal fees are only £750.
- CH asked, and GW confirmed, that there is a shortfall of £1000 in the funding for Well project. There are several possibilities to close the gap including Gift Aid.
- CH advised Carlops Jazz Band have their 20th anniversary gig in May.
- CH proposed the proceeds be split between the Carlops Playpark Fund and The Well.

Project – WLCCDT

- GW reported that :
 - o WLCCDT met on Wed 25-Mar-2026
 - o Visitors from Eire attended to exchange ideas on CCDT generally.
 - o The WLCCDT have raised £1000 towards the playpark
 - o WLCCDT are looking for opportunities to create affordable housing in the area.
 - o WLCCDT are seeking external funding for WLCCDT to buy shares in Cloich Windfarm. Income from the shares would be used to reimburse the external funders and generate an income stream for the West Linton and Carlops Community. It is unlikely that personal funding will be sought.
 - o WLCCDT suggested that Carlops Community Council develop a Place Plan. Eric Small advised that SBC can assist with this process. It was agreed to pen the discussion with SBC.

AOB:

Carlops Games and Sports.

- JE proposed the village puts a Carlops Games this year. Discussion. A call for a suitable date and interested parties will go out on Carlops WhatsApp (Action: Sara Merriles)

Recycling bins:

- At the last CCC meeting KM asked why the orange clothing bin has not been removed.
- JE asked Eric Small to chase this up. **Action:** Eric Small

Alan Ramsay:

- GW reported a conversation with the owner. The owner hopes to obtain a new alcohol license within the next 3 months so they can re-open

Baddingsgill:

- KM reported an organisation called L-And are working to perform peat restoration at Baddingsgill.

New Actions:

- Add Pete Roche to the CCC email list (rochepete8@aol.com)

Ongoing Actions:

- None

Date of next meeting: 8 pm, Thursday 28th May 2026 in CVC which will be the AGM.