

Leadhills Community Council - Minutes of Regular Meeting 07 August 2025

Present (LCC): Steve Johnstone (SJ), Margaret Harley (MH), Bryan Turpin (BT), Nigel Davis (ND), Suzie McGraw (SMcG) and Charmaine Gittens (CG)
South Lanarshire (SLC) Councillors for Ward 3 - Clydesdale East: Alex Alison

Eight Members of the Public were also present

Meeting commenced at 19h45

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 SJ welcomed the SLC Councillor, Leadhills Community Council members and members of public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Marsh (SM), Joshua Howard (JH) and Gerard Godfrey (GG) of Leadhills Community Council and from Ian McAllan and Ralph Barker (SLC Councillors)

2.0 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting

2.1 Draft minutes were circulated to all LCC members by email on 17 June 2025 and again on 19 July 2025. No comments were received. The draft minutes issued on 17 June 2025 were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2025

3.1 Draft minutes were circulated to all LCC members by email on 18 July 2025 and again on 25 July 2025. No comments were received. The draft minutes issued on 18 July 2025 were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4.0 Questions and Answers – Questions from Residents

4.1 No questions were raised

5.0 New Members of Leadhills Community Council

5.1 Suzie McGraw ("SMcG") was appointed as an elected member of LCC during the Extraordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2025.

5.2 Charmaine Gittens ("CG") was appointed as an elected member of LCC during the Extraordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2025.

6.0 Grant Visor Scheme

6.1 ND advised that there had been no awards of local interest since the last regular meeting of LCC held on 05 June 2025.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

7.1 MH advised that that the current balance in LCC's account is £20,688.00 of which a significant amount is money received from SLC for micro-grants.

8.0 Secretary's Report

8.1 Other than the correspondence referred to elsewhere in these minutes, no formal correspondence was received or issued in the period since the last meeting - **information**

9.0 Informal Meeting with members of Wanlockhead Community Council to discuss Points of Mutual Interest

9.1 An informal meeting with representatives of Wanlockhead Community Council has been arranged for Tuesday 12 August 2025. Any LCC member wishing to participate should advise SJ – **information**

10.0 Planning Matters

10.1 SLC changed their system for issuing their weekly planning schedules without informing LCC. SJ has requested to be added to SLC's new email dispatch list and will circulate local planning application information to LCC members once he has received, or has access to, the missing schedules – **Action SJ**

11.0 Village Hall Improvement Plan

11.1 A representative of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture SCIO is scheduled to meet LCC in the coming weeks (provisionally on 08 September 2025) to discuss hall improvements - **information**

12.0 Suggestions for Projects / Improvements

12.1 SJ urged all residents and LCC members to put forward suggestions for project and improvements in Leadhills.

12.2 The following suggestions have been received and are awaiting investigation / implementation or have been completed or have been dropped:

- (a) Service / refurbish existing play equipment / apparatus in play-park – **Action SJ**
- (b) Provide improved apparatus in the play-park for younger children to enjoy. Will SLC maintain such equipment? A proposal has been submitted to SLC – **Action SJ to Follow Up**
- (d) Repair collapsed section of cemetery wall – **ND following**
- (e) Resolve concern regarding movement / slippage of William Symington Memorial – **ND following**
- (f) Reduce grass / vegetation by strimming to expose footpath from new footbridge on Ramsay Road to the Symington Memorial. ND stated that as this is an informal footpath, there was concern about possible consequences if the vegetation is strimmed by the Flower Pot Men to make the path more conspicuous / useable and someone is injured. **SJ to seek an alternative solution.**
- (g) Water jetting to clear obstruction in outlet drain from gully at junction of Bell View and Store Brae – **Completed**
- (h) Make good depressions in Menzies Place / Bell View roadway surface between end of Curfew Place and top of Store Brea – **Completed**
- (i) Make good depressions in roadway surface on low-numbered section of Lowther View (i.e. to the right from the junction with Menzies Place) – **Completed**
- (j) Clean-out the three surface water channels on Menzies Place / Bell View – **Completed**
- (k) Copy of Leadhills Conservation Area document to be provided in village hall – **Completed**
- (l) Arrange for LCC to resume emptying the (dog dirt) black wheelie bin on the corner of Horner's Place next to the red mail box - **Completed**
- (m) Clean out trap and unblock outlet - gully located at corner of Bell View and Store Brea. LCC express their thanks to Ian Arnott who volunteered to empty the trap and cleared the blocked outlet – **Completed**
- (n) Organise a skip to prevent fly tipping - **dropped**
- (o) Can the grey car that has been parked on the square for a year taking up space be moved – The owner moved this car very quickly when contacted – **Completed**
- (p) Arrange for the provision of replacement pads for the village's two AEDs (defibrillators). The PTC of Leadhills Primary School funded the purchase of new pads. LCC express their thanks to the PTC for their generosity - **Completed**

13.0 Comments Box

Three comments were received (two in the comments box plus one through SJ's letter box).

13.1 First Comment (Anonymous):

Has the Leadhills Community Development Plan been communicated to the Council & entered into the Local Place Plan?

Answer: It is assumed that the plan referred to is the **Community Action** (not Development) **Plan**. When the CAP was being prepared, the consultant offered to prepare and incorporate a Place Plan into the CAP document for relatively small incremental fee. This proposal was put to the members of LCC who declined the option to pursue it. The CAP itself has not been communicated to SLC in connection with their Local Place Plan because the CAP was not created with this purpose in mind and it is therefore not a suitable document for this purpose.
See item 17.0 below.

13.2 Second Comment (Anonymous):

It has come to my attention while walking around Leadhills:

The number of abandoned cars along by the men's shed.

Also people not having Planning Permission for the erection of 6'0" high wood fence around a garden, erection of a greenhouse this and above Lowther View, and Curfew Place erection of a shed in said garden no sign of applying for planning permission on council website. I understood Leadhills was a conservatuion area, it appears not to be. Maybe community council should check up on things and report to the council.

Overgrown garden also a problem. Shrubs & trees encroaching on roads and paths.

The speed of vehicles on these un-adopted roads; residents as well as delivery's vans.

Answer – Abandoned Cars: SJ will investigate to see what can be done – **Action SJ**

Answer – Possible Planning Breaches: Please refer to South Lanarkshire Council's Planning Enforcement Charter which is accessible online. This charter explains the protocol for dealing with cases where there has been a breach of planning control.

The descriptions provided don't allow for positive identification of the possible breaches that concern you or their exact locations. You could provide further details through another note in LCC's Comments Box for LCC to report the (possible) breaches of planning control on your behalf.

Alternatively, you could yourself report the matters directly to SLC's planning function by email or through an online form. SLC treats all reports in confidence.

Answer: Overgrown Gardens: Your comments are not specific to any locations. Maintaining shrubs and trees is the responsibility of the householders in whose gardens the plants grow. There may be cases where the shrubs and trees that encroach on roads and paths do not grow from gardens. If you will please provide more detailed information through another note in LCC's Comments Box, LCC will investigate what can be done to assist with this problem.

In the meantime, SJ will see what can be done – **Action SJ**

Answer: Speeding Vehicles on Un-adopted Roads – Many residents are concerned about this. In the past, residents have flagged down speeding vehicles and asked the drivers to reduce their speed. This had beneficial effect. Also in the past, residents have noted the registration numbers of speeding vehicle and reported their concerns to the companies who employ the speeding drivers. This too had beneficial effect.

13.3 Third Comment (Anonymous):

Note: This comment was posted through SJ's letter box on 07/08/2025. On the post-it attached to the comment it said "couldn't put in comments box as hall door locked".

Due to its length, this comment has been appended to these minutes as Attachment "A".

Answer: The suggestion from Elvanfoot and Daer was discussed at length. It was decided to invite (a) representative(s) of Elvanfoot and Daer to attend the next regular LCC meeting to be held on 02 October 2025 for discussion of their situation.

Follow-Up Contact: A representative of Elvanfoot / Daer should contact Steve Johnstone on Mob: 07538 762889 to discuss their contribution to the next regular LCC meeting on 02 October 2025.

Post Minute Note: SJ has taken advice regarding this suggestion. No moves to amalgamate any community councils can be considered until after publication of the new community council boundaries and possible redefinition of the role of community councils which should see the light of day in 2026.

14.0 Ravengill Energy Park ("REP")

14.1 LCC's response to the request for scoping opinion was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit ("ECU") by email on 11 July 2025. The ECU acknowledged receipt of LCC's response by email dated 14 July 2025.

14.2 Details of the ballot to gauge the strength of feeling in the Leadhills community about Ravengill can be found in the minutes for the Extraordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2025 – **information**

14.3 On 26 July 2025, SJ had a discussion with David Mundell MP on this subject in Leadhills Hall.

Davis Mundell has offered to support and help LCC – **information**

14.4 Refer to item 17.0 below. In the response to LDP3, LCC stated that the special nature and character of the Lowther Hills should be protected against the damage that will result from developments such as Ravengill, should they proceed – **information**

14.5 The next meeting of the Community Liaison Group will take place in Abington on 10 September 2025 - **information**

15.0 New Website for Leadhills Community Council

15.1 A renewed effort is ongoing to find the passwords / administrators for the redundant websites – **Action SJ**

15.2 An effort, led by CG and SMcG, is underway to establish a new website for LCC - **information**

AOCB

16.0 Micro Grants

Applications from the entities listed below, each for £500.00, were approved:

16.1 Leadhills Silver Band

16.2 Braw Clan

16.3 Leadhills Reading Society (Miner's Library)

16.4 Leadhills Polytunnel Group

16.5 Leadhills Angling Association

16.6 PTC of Leadhills Primary School

16.7 Leadhills Golf Club

16.8 Leadhills Akido Club

16.9 Leadhills Gala Committee

16.10 Lower and District Men's Shed

17.0 Local Development Plan 3 – (LDP3)

17.1 On 20 July 2025, LCC submitted a response to the request of SLC relating to the topic papers published by SLC. On 22 July 2025, SLC acknowledged receipt of LCC's response and stated that the response would be summarised in the evidence report to be submitted to the Scottish Government.

17.2 The content of LCC's response was wide ranging and, in brief, addressed such topics as:
a/ Opposition to the Ravengill development and the more important need to protect and promote biodiversity and to preserve the ecological qualities of the Lowther Hills considering their relevance to the sense of place of the conservation village of Leadhills.

b/ The need to relax the restriction on the use of PVC windows in cottages which are not listed buildings. This in the interests of reducing heating and maintenance costs.

c/ The need to expand and improve the sewage system to serve the entire village.

d/ The need to improve and adopt un-adopted roads and to provide and / or improve street lighting.

e/ The need to avoid major ground disturbance so as not to mobilise the heavy metal contamination present in local soils.

18.0 Talk on History of Leadhills

18.1 CG is working on arrangements to have James Brown, the eminent author and historian, give a talk in Leadhills Hall covering the following topics:

- Prehistory and History
- Landscape, Flora and Fauna and Place Names
- The Genius of the People
- A Vision of the Future

18.2 The date is provisionally in the month of October 2025. Precise date tba.

18.3 Free Admission. No collection.

18.4 Free refreshments

19.0 Mobile Post Office Service for Leadhills

19.1 SJ visited the operators in the mobile post offices in Broughton and Crawford and contacted the manager of Sanquhar Post Office for information.

19.2 A response dated 07 August 2025 was received from the Post Office – Corporate Affairs, Brand & Communications stating that it would not be sustainable to introduce a mobile service in Leadhills - **information**

20.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

20.1 The **next Regular Meeting** will be held in Leadhills Village Hall on **Thursday 02 October 2025**
– **Commencing at 19h45**

21.0 Close of Meeting

SJ thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 21h15.

Please refer to Attachment 1”A”to these minutes

Attachment “A”

to

MOM for LCC Meeting held on 07/08/2025

Crawford & Elvanfoot Community Council is currently dissolved, leaving residents in Elvanfoot and Daer without a formal channel to make their collective voice heard at SLC, as a community, about projects such as Watchman & Ravengill Energy Parks, and the recent proposals for a Windtranz depot and an enlarged Elvanfoot BESS.

Elvanfoot & Daer have too few residents to form their own Community Council.

A suggestion has been floated that, instead of re-establishing the former Crawford & Elvanfoot Community Council, residents of Elvanfoot & Daer would be better served by joining with Leadhills Community Council, on the grounds that Leadhills, Elvanfoot & Daer all face very similar issues in terms of proposed developments.

Issues which do not affect Crawford residents to anything like the same extent.

South Lanarkshire Council are planning a boundary review in the near future, which would provide the necessary opportunity for such a CC realignment to take place.

It would be helpful, at this initial stage, to know Leadhills Community Council’s reaction to this suggestion, and whether LCC would see a mutual benefit in taking this idea forward?

Background information:

Data taken from 2022 census results:

| | Households | Population | Electors age 16+ |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Crawford | 150 | 314 | 258 |
| Leadhills | 115 | 214 | 198 |
| Elvanfoot & Daer | 59 | 126 | 118 |

Hence, with this suggestion, that Elvanfoot & Daer combine with Leadhills:

| | Households | Population | Electors age 16+ |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Leadhills + E & D | 174 | 340 | 316 |
| Crawford | 150 | 314 | 258 |

Or, with the former arrangement, Elvanfoot & Daer combined with Crawford:

| | Households | Population | Electors age 16+ |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Leadhills | 115 | 214 | 198 |
| Crawford + E & D | 209 | 440 | 376 |