Date:	Monday 19 th May 2025	
Time:	19:30 – 21:00	
Attendance:	Brian McFall (Secretary) Alex Buist (Chairman) Karen McFall (Treasurer) Jim Crawford (Member) Iona Gilchrist (Member) Agnes Raynold (Member) Neill Simpson (Member) PC Adam Mitchell (Police) Councillor Colette McDiarmid Ian Fulton Mary Fulton Graham Carter David Stevenson Morag Campbell Barbara Jarvie David Chesney Mary Weiss	
Apologies:	Rachel McKenzie (Minutes)	

(Link to previous meeting minutes to be added once available)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies from RM.

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Adoption of minutes confirmed by AR and seconded by IG with all in agreement.

3. Matters arising from these minutes

Birdston Coup – to be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Police Report (PC Adam Mitchell)

The police are undertaking community days of action which traditionally involved 2 PC's per area however dedicated days of actions are being targeted where issues are arising, this will involve a full team for a couple of days.

3 such actions have been carried out in other areas based on reports to police of issues.

E-bikes being the main problem currently.

MOC has been quiet of late with no worrisome issues being reported.

NS asked if there is a problem in the village as reported on TV news programmes of a link to gangland figures. The police do know of one person with some ties to the larger problem and dedicated patrols are made on a regular basis to ensure everything is ok. PC Mitchell did note that should anyone have worries about anything they are seeing the matter should be reported as soon as possible.

JC asked what the legal position is with regards to e-bikes and e-scooters.

PC Mitchell noted that e-bikes are a bit of a grey area and should have a maximum speed of 15.5 mph, over this speed it is regarded as a moped and will require full insurance etc, reports should be made if they are speeding or causing a nuisance.

E-scooters however are illegal for use in the public environment and can only legally be used on private land.

Campus cops are working through the regions schools to educate the kids on the use and dangers of them, if used in public they can be confiscated by the police. Calls regarding this kind of nuisance will be responded to by the police.

IG noted that there has been a recent escalation of youths drinking in the usual haunts in the village, under the railway bridges, the woods behind Hazel Bank and the Derrywood area. The biggest issue is the litter and broken glass which is being left behind and the danger to kids and animals, particularly dogs being exercised. If reported the police will respond as soon as possible.

No major crimes reported.

5. Birdston Coup

The chairperson of BRG provided an update.

The AGM was held recently.

One third of the trustees must step down every year and be replaced by a fresh face, as such NS is no longer a trustee.

Murray Simpson of SEPA carried out a presentation at the AGM and informed those present that SEPA are frequently testing the area and are finding no higher levels of toxicity than before with asbestos being the primary culprit. It is unknown how close to the surface the asbestos is, although it should have been buried a long time ago.

SEPA will be instructing the owners to cap the site and will actively supervise and inspect the materials on site which are to be removed and the materials that will be used to cap the site. SEPA noted that they do not feel there are any really dangerous or unsafe areas on the site.

Core Footpath at the site – EDC have altered the line of the core footpath and it is no longer on the EDC web site. Post Meeting Check – the original core path is still shown on other web sites which indicate Scotland's core paths.

The Scottish Environment Rights Centre have provided legal advice stating the EDC have not fulfilled their duties.

BRG are no further forward with he wording for the proposed petition to be raised with regards to this matter.

It was reported that a nearby privately owned woodland has been offered to BRG on a fixed price, the owners are keen to sell it off and BRG will have first offer on it. AB noted that he understood that they were after £65K. NS stated that there was potential of 95% of the cost being available form Scottish Woodland but there were lots of process stages to go through.

6. Newsletter (Neill Simpson)

NS provided an update as follows.

Dates were not met for publication and issue for various reasons.

The final version was sent to Vicky on the 8th May, however she has been unable to deal with it currently, it should be noted that she is doing this voluntarily, it appears to be too long and requires further editing and some stories are now out of date and events have passed by.

NS has asked the printer for two quote, 16 pages and 20 pages. It will be published as soon as possible.

7. Chairmans Report

AB noted that he has a public liability insurance quote of £169.13 which provides cover up to 10million pounds in relation to the CC / Village taking over control of Skeds garden from the council. This was voted on and approved.

The allotments redesign has still to be submitted to the planning department, no further information is available at this time.

BM noted that a sub committee will be required to be formed to oversee Skeds Garden until such time as the allotments are up and running and the main allotment committee will then oversee the garden also. This needs to be undertaken soon.

AB met with EDC roads officers regarding many issues of pavements around the village with the pavement from Milton to Lennoxtown being the primary focus at this time. The official stated that it is not a pavement, it is a verge and EDC are not responsible for it. The general consensus in the meeting was that it has kerb lines, is tarmacked and has been so for as long as most can remember but EDC just want to wash their hands of as many problems as possible by just saying it's not theirs.

AB noted that there is no resurfacing planned for Antermony Road in the near future.

BM noted that EDC are proposing along with every other council that the speed limit withing villages and towns be reduced to 20mph. this is currently a consultation but not yet a consultation at the local population stage.

It was agreed that we should organise a poll online to see what the reaction to this will be.

11. Treasurers Report

KM is making progress and will be meeting the previous treasurer in the near future for a formal handover.

12. AOCB

Item 1 – Grass cutting in the village – a member of the public raised the point that it appears the grass cutting regime has yet again been reduced.

Item 2 – Members of the public raised the issue that flower beds and planters are being ignored by the council, the CC confirmed that it is our understanding that all flower beads will be left to turn wild henceforth.

Item 3 – Some streets have had issues with Bin Collections not being carried out. It may have been an issue with car parking blocking access for the collection vehicles.

Item 4 – Councillor Ferretti informed the meeting that the number of wardens is currently 15 and will be rising to 20, there is currently an advert for the positions. This was noted in relation to the illegal parking on pavements about to be enforced by EDC. BM noted that these wardens do not only deal with parking but have many other roles.

Item 5 – A member of the public asked if the CC were commenting on the current SEPA consultation. It was suggested it would be a waste of time as they tend to do whatever they feel like anyway. To be considered.

Item 6 – A member of the public stated that the meeting minutes should be available within 14 days of the meeting and should be issued to everyone present. The CC do not do this and are operating in the manner that has been done for many years. This will be looked into and discussed at the next meeting.

Item 7 – A member of the public said that he could not find information on the CC web site, the site is currently being updated and most of the information discussed is actually on the current web site.

Item 8 – A member of the public noted that Torrance CC have bags for sale to raise money and asked that we consider this.

Item 9 – a suggestion was made that we should possibly try to organise a village market perhaps once a month, this would take considerable effort and volunteers.

BM noted that the next meeting will be the AGM.

Meeting Close

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th July 2025, 19:30 – 21:00

