

Meeting of the Pittenweem Community Council

On 15th April 2026 at 7:30pm

In New Town Hall

AGENDA

Items of Business

1. Declarations of Interest

Val Morrison and Stewart Moreland declared interest in respect to their proximity to the Cruden Homes development.

2. Record members present and member apologies for absence

PCC members: Graeme MacGilchrist, Val Morrison, Stewart Moreland, Louise McEwan, Janet Dick, Simon Learoyd, Jackie Clark
FC councillors: Alycia Hayes

3. Minute of the last meeting: **18th March, 2026**

Proposed GM, approved SL.

4. Matters Arising from the last meeting

5. Other agreed items of business:

Update on information session with Cruden Homes (Graeme MacGilchrist)

An update was provided on the Cruden Homes development. Demolition work is proceeding, but further progress depends on the outcome of a planning committee decision scheduled for the 22nd April. It was agreed that a public information session would be valuable, but should take place after the planning decision. Discussion considered optimal timing to maximise attendance, balancing working hours and family commitments. The possibility of a dedicated session (rather than a standard meeting slot) was favoured.

Actions:

Monitor outcome of planning decision (22nd).

Contact Cruden Homes post-decision to arrange session.

Schedule and widely advertise public information event (timing to be confirmed).

Update on NnG fund set up and panel recruitment (Simon Learoyd)

Progress was reported on establishing the community panel for allocating energy-related funding. Two council members and two community members have agreed to participate, but at least one additional member is required. There was strong emphasis on achieving gender balance and ideally including a younger

representative. Recruitment efforts via community outreach have so far been unsuccessful for younger participants. The panel will oversee funding applications, with an aim to allocate the first tranche by July.

Actions:

Continue targeted recruitment (particularly women and younger residents).
Extend application deadline.
Promote role via Facebook and direct outreach.
Begin preparing funding application process in parallel.

Update on website set up (Jackie Clark)

The community council website has been significantly improved and consolidated, with outdated materials removed and links updated. The new site is now appearing in search results, although search engine optimisation (SEO) could be improved further. It was noted that historical information had previously been fragmented across multiple platforms, and this has now largely been resolved.

Actions:

Investigate SEO improvements to increase visibility.
Continue identifying and removing outdated or duplicate online content.
Ensure website becomes the central repository for council information.

Update on RAWs correspondence (Val Morrison)

An invitation had been sent to RAWs representatives to attend a meeting or provide a presentation. No response has yet been received, and there has been no further correspondence since the initial outreach.

Actions:

Await response from RAWs.

Debrief on Pretty Pittenweem Project walkabout (Janet Dick)

A detailed discussion took place regarding legacy funds (~£3,000–£4,000) from the now-defunct Pittenweem in Bloom group. A new 'Pretty Pittenweem' group has emerged and is seeking funding (~£500 initially). However, uncertainty remains over the exact amount of funds and whether the new group is the legitimate successor. Concerns were raised about governance, transparency, and the risk of future disputes. Options discussed included retaining funds under council administration versus transferring a lump sum to the new group. Consensus leaned toward transferring funds to the group, following their constitution and following a period after having publicly stated this intent, to welcome any queries.

Actions:

Confirm total funds via historical minutes and records.
Publicly state intention for use of funds and open a consultation period.
Require new group to constitute formally before funding allocation.

Discussion on recycling (Janet Dick)

Concerns were raised about whether recycling is properly processed or diverted to landfill. Investigation suggests that strict contamination rules mean some waste is legitimately redirected. The broader issue identified was misinformation and lack of

communication between public services and residents. A proposal was made to establish regular updates from council departments (e.g., waste, roads, planning) to improve transparency and trust.

Actions:

Identify key council contacts for service updates.
Request periodic written updates from departments.
Add relevant links and information to the website.
Encourage residents to use official reporting systems.

Discussion on East Neuk Community Emergency Planning Team (Louise McEwan)

The ENCEPT (emergency planning team) presented its role in supporting community response to emergencies such as severe weather. The group is volunteer-led and works alongside Fife Council. Issues raised included missing equipment (emergency response bag) and communication challenges during power outages. Outreach materials (leaflets, magnets) were distributed, and a future training and demonstration event was announced.

Actions:

Locate missing emergency equipment bag and update contents.
Distribute outreach materials locally.
Encourage community participation in emergency planning.

Any updates on Scottish Water postponement of works on West Shore

Delays to Scottish Water projects were discussed, reportedly linked to planning process complications. Concerns were expressed about the extended timeline (potentially to 2028) and lack of clear accountability.

Actions:

Cllr Hayes to follow up with Scottish Water and planning authorities.
Seek clearer explanation of delays and revised timelines.

Setting date for AGM

The Annual General Meeting is overdue and must be held next month. It was noted that the AGM presents an opportunity to recruit new members and strengthen the council's capacity. Current membership limits the council's ability to take on additional work.

AGM date: Wednesday 20th May, 2026, 7:30pm in New Town Hall.

Actions:

Schedule AGM for next month.
Prepare agenda and required documentation.
Actively recruit new members ahead of AGM.

Annual grant application

The annual grant application has been submitted. The process was straightforward, requiring minimal information. Expected funding is modest and based on population size.

Actions:

Await funding outcome.

Plan allocation once funds confirmed.

6. Correspondence

7. Reports

Councillor report(s)

Cllr Alycia Hayes

The councillor provided updates including pay increases for carers, rising care home costs, new care home development plans, upcoming road closures, and the status of Christmas lights. There was agreement that Christmas lights should now be switched off given lighter evenings.

Treasurer report

Balance March 2026 = £4,694.39

Debits = £359 (backpayments for hall rental)

Credits = £0

Balance April 2026 = £4,335.39

Police report

March report: 13 calls to the police. 1 crimes recorded

Planning lists

A planning application for a sauna on common good land was discussed. Concerns included lack of community consultation, unclear project details, and potential environmental impacts (notably on sand martins). There was agreement that further investigation is required before forming a formal position.

Actions:

Confirm land ownership and status.

Engage with relevant stakeholders and local groups (West Braes Project).

Consider submitting formal representation or objection.

NB: A formal objection was raised by PCC in regards to the fact that the proposal is thought to be on Common Good Land, but no representations to this fact have been made.

8. Any other Competent Business (AOCB)

Common Good Fund

A substantial discussion covered the management of common good funds, including transparency, legal complexity, and appropriate use. It was emphasised that funds belong to the community and should be accessible. There is currently no clear strategy for allocating funds, and improved communication and governance are needed.

Actions:

Develop a clear strategy for allocation and use of funds.
Improve transparency and public awareness.
Add common good information to website.
Discuss allocation process in detail at next meeting.

Other

Additional topics included the need for PCC representation on a local Shared User Path committee and ideas for future community projects (e.g., skate park). The importance of increasing participation and generating community-led initiatives was emphasised.

Actions:

Identify representative for path working group.
Encourage broader community engagement.

9. Any questions from members of the public

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Wednesday 20th May, 2026, 7:30pm in New Town Hall.