

Meeting of Trustees

Date: Tuesday 13 May 2025

Location: Memorial Hall, Milton of Buchanan 7:30pm



Present: Walter McAllister, Margaret McDonald, Maureen Saunders, Arthur Hannan, David Fraser, Louise Doherty, Sandy Fraser

1. **Welcome** John Forbes, Communities Housing Trust, was welcomed to the meeting via Zoom
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** (25/03/2025) Proposed MS, Seconded AH
3. **ATR Car Park Appeal** - the Scottish Government reporter made a site visit on 7 May. SC was represented by Drew Leslie, Head of Infrastructure and Mark Easton, Lead Solicitor. Trustees present were DF, SF, MMcD and AH also Joyce Moss, ELLCT solicitor attended. The visit was positive.

In the SC submission to the Reporter questions SC claims enforcement in Balmaha car park is *'year-round and multiple times a week during the visitor season. As this is a really busy car park, the Council commits resource multiple times each week if not multiple times a day during the good weather periods.'* Trustees all agreed this was not the experience of the community and very inaccurate. See attached 'Authority Response'

Trustees also discussed the SC valuation by the District Valuer in 2022 (attached). The ELLCT did not receive a copy despite several requests while having shared our own contemporaneous valuation. The car park in Balmaha, a single storey rural car park, at the time free to use, was compared with charging multi-storey city car parks in Glasgow and several in southern England including London. Trustees agreed these were inappropriate comparisons and the valuation the ELLCT instructed in March 2022 more appropriately compared Balmaha car park to the car park in Arrochar and two in Alexandria.

The ELLCT's response to SC's submission to the reporter will be sent by 16 May 2025 and will highlight the above concerns.

4. **Affordable Housing** - John Forbes joined for this discussion and the financial outline which he had supplied. The probable finance the ELLCT needs to find is £127k plus legal fees. Trustees felt reassured that with the funding from the SG and any additional funding the ELLCT itself can attract means there is a secure timeline and route to completion.
5. **Local Place Plan (LPP)** - the draft plan has been shared and the next step is to work towards the final document. Judith Eele has submitted a proposal and LLTNP has been approached for funding.
6. **Play Parks** The Play park in Buchanan Smith is nearing completion and the SC officer is going to inspect the site in Milton of Buchanan to assess the work needing to be done.
7. **Community Picnic** It was decided to hold the picnic on Sunday 24 August.

AOCB

1. MMcD to follow up the excessive speeding issue. LD raised the concerns of local residents about the noise and disruption caused by cars travelling at excessive speed through villages.
2. MS reported that the Hall Committee are organising an event to celebrate the Memorial Hall's 100th anniversary on Saturday 28 June.
3. MS highlighted the dangerous condition of the gates to the churchyard. MMcD to contact SC.

Next Meeting

Monday 9 June 2025 at 7pm - note the earlier time :)