



Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

**Minute of Meeting – Tuesday 11th November 2025
held at 7pm, Falkland Village Hall
(public invited to attend)**

Welcome from Chair: Rod Crawford

Present: Rod Crawford, David Anderson, Tara O’Leary, Lindsey Shaw, Doug Young, Stuart Knowles, Chris Egan, Lauren Ballantine

Minutes – Lauren Ballantine

Councillors: Cllr MacDiarmid

Police: nil

Residents: 8

Apologies for absence: Roz Esslemont, Jack Reekie

AGM Agenda Item	AGM Discussion	Action
A Chair’s Report	<p>A central theme for the last financial year and throughout 2025 has been working in partnership with organisations, societies, clubs and businesses in Falkland and Newton.</p> <p>Building on the generous grant award from the War memorial Trust has enabled four editions of the Falkland Community Newsletter to be delivered to every household in Falkland and Newton of Falkland. The partnership here has been working in tandem with Falkland Community Development Trust to allow Falkland’s Societies and Clubs to showcase their activities. Another example of partnership, this time with a local business, was the provision of a defibrillator in the village at the Lomond Pharmacy. We had over £1000 ring fenced for the provision of defibrillators in the village. We have now used up all but £180 of that by helping set up the Chemist defibrillator with Raymond contributing £500 towards it also.</p> <p>It does mean that we still have £180 ring fenced for defibrillator provision. The Chairs of the Community Council and the Development Trust have met and agreed to back a further request to provide a defibrillator for the Back Dykes Terrace/ Cameron Drive area. In the first instance this will involve an application in the name of the Development Trust and the Community Council to the Falkland War Memorial Trust. There is likely to be a shortfall after any award and I propose the Community Council can agree to augment their contribution to provide the necessary funds in conjunction with the Development Trust. This is another example of the benefits of working together. This will bring defibrillator cover across one of the biggest population areas not yet directly served.</p> <p>Again working in partnership with business we seem to have finally cracked the problem of upgrading the noticeboards at Fayre Earth and in the car park. With the generous backing of Saltire Rare Malts we are now seeking conservation planning permission and the new noticeboards should be up and running by the beginning of the new year. Ross Moonlight has also agreed to move our Community Council notice board to the Fayre Earth site. Working in conjunction with our local Councillor, David Macdiarmid we now</p>	

Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

Minute of Meeting 11th November 2025

	<p>have Fife Council agreement to upgrade the signage as you enter and leave the village along with improvements to the current misleading signage at South Street.</p> <p>Again the motif of working together is highlighted in the potential upgrade to the Falkland Xmas offer. As is shown in our accounts we spent around £500 as a Community Council in the last financial year on Xmas lights, storage boxes and replacement parts as well as upgrading provision at Brunton Green. Community Councillors are actively participating in the Falkland Winter Festival planning group, which aims to bring a big upgrade in the provision of Xmas activity, including the festival for the village. This will in turn bring a welcome boost for local businesses at a quiet time of year for them.</p> <p>The Council took the decision to keep the lights burning at Brunton Green and the Fountain throughout the year to keep some cheer when times were hard and gloomy.</p> <p>Although our funds are limited when the proposed Wendy House proved not possible we donated £450 to Falkland Primary in order to provide much needed equipment for the School nursery.</p> <p>One continuing area of interest has been play provision for older children in the village. The development of the Back Dykes Terrace site in conjunction with Whisky International has proved a non starter. Negotiations with Fife Council in this area have been frustrating. However a new subgroup of the Community Council has been set up to inject fresh life into this issue and hopefully get some movement over the next year.</p> <p>The Council itself now has a full compliment of Councillors from Falkland with a 50/50 gender split after a long period when this wasn't the case. Also after many years of non representation Newton of Falkland finally has a representative in new Councillor, Chris Eagan.</p> <p>We need to redouble our efforts over the next year and continue to work in partnership with all those who have Falkland at heart.</p>	
<p>B</p> <p>Treasurer's Report & Approval of Council Financial Statements</p>	<p>The FFC accounts were presented by the treasurer.</p> <p>Copies were circulated to all attendees.</p> <p>Application to FC for a CC grant require audited accounts.</p> <p>CC members agree in principle. Will be sent to be audited and then onto FC.</p>	All Agreed
<p>C</p> <p>Confirmation and/or Election of Office Bearers</p>	<p>Chair - RC - LS nominated, DA seconded</p> <p>Vice Chair- RE - RC nominated, DA seconded</p> <p>Secretary - TO asked to step down - CE Volunteered to take on - TO nominated, LS seconded</p> <p>Treasurer - DA - RC nominated, DY seconded</p>	
<p>D</p> <p>Short review of the years' work & looking ahead to plan for 2026</p>	<p>RC invited other Cllrs to talk about work they had felt was important.</p> <p>TO - Community Newsletter - future issues will be promoting advertisement revenue to keep producing and seeking younger people's input.</p> <p>CC meeting in December will be to build a solid plan for next year and the future. Co-operation with other groups. Really push forward for a new playground.</p> <p>CE taking on Facebook page and website - hoping to be posting updates on a regular basis, and the CC minutes from each meeting.</p>	

Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

Minute of Meeting 11th November 2025

E Any Other AGM Business	Resident expressed thanks for the newsletter. Chair brought CC AGM to an end.	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	Minute from Tuesday 9 th October meeting for accuracy and approval.	Agreed. Approved.
5 Community Police report	Circulated to CC members. 19 Calls - 3 recorded crimes. Calls consisted of road traffic matters, concern for person, crime of dishonesty, assisting members of the public.	Noted.
6 Falkland Flood Action Group	FFAG – Brash screen, Fife Council legal department drawing a legal contract with Stewardship Trust. FC will fund and install – Stewardship Trust will maintain. Flood Bus – booked for 6 th December during the Christmas festival. Blockage of drains, gulleys – tour of the village with JS, JB and DMCD – feature in the newsletter. Money available for flooding grants – up to £5000 via FC.	
7 Correspondence	All correspondence has been circulated to CC members. i) Consultation re membership split in Community Council -Full membership for Falkland, 1 out of 2 in Newton. New consultation will give flexibility to increase Falkland members if no members of Newton are forthcoming. ii) Open Space consultation – parks etc around Fife. Comments by 24 th November. CC could submit the need for the playpark. iii) Fife council funding sources update. iv) Data Protection Registration. Jim Brown will be standing down and CE will take over as named data protection person' This has a £52 yearly fee to be paid.	RC
8 Matters arising (since the last meeting not otherwise on the agenda)	Falklands Future – Church building. John Smith and Keith Rennie gave a rundown of what has happened so far and the next steps. Many meetings have been held; some well attended, others not so. Looking for the support of the community to keep the Church in community use. JS had a visit to St Monans to have a look at what they've done, for ideas and advice. Target audience will be the local community, and tourists. It will need money and volunteers to keep going and be a success. The questionnaire which was sent out in the newsletter was returned to Fife Voluntary Action group – 38 paper copies returned out of 1200. 18 responses to QR code, which is not great. The open day was reasonably well attended. Canvassing community is key. It needs a solid business plan, as if it's not	

Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

Minute of Meeting 11th November 2025

	<p>profitable, it's not viable.</p> <p>The Legal Entity will be Falkland Futures. Working with FVA, have given the constitution to look over. Important to define 'What is Falkland'</p> <p>Hoping to register in December and first steps will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opening a bank account, which is an important starting point. - Voting a board to operate, members to build momentum. <p>These steps are only the structure. The constitution can be changed. The members are from the Falkland community. (Associated from out with – if they offer a unique set of beneficial skills)</p> <p>Not only the purchase price to think about.</p> <p>Phase 1 includes – a structural survey, topological survey, feasibility, business plans. Grants are available. Church is still not on the market, but the community needs to be ready to move when it goes up.</p>	
9 Residents Issues	<p>Alex Simpson made meeting aware that the main hall car park will be closed over 6/7th December. Licenses are in place with FC. Sports clubs have been asked if their car parks can be opened to the public.</p> <p>Signage will be put up.</p> <p>Development trust supporting CPR training in the hall on the 19th of November.</p>	Noted
10 Planning, Listed Building, and Conservation Issues	None	Noted
11 Falkland's Future	<p>i) Local Development Plan. Planning needed for Decembers meeting re 'CC Working Plan' – model development plan to be shared.</p> <p>ii) SK met with Freuchie CC to talk about a cycling/footway path to the A914, possibility of extending to include from Falkland along the Freuchie Mill Road. They also let him know that permission to put signals in at the crossroads to the garden centre has been granted.</p>	SK report next month
12 Other Community Council Issues	<p>i) Defibrillator at Cameron Drive – CC and Falkland Development Trust have put in a funding application to the War Memorial Trust. RC keen for CC to make up the shortfall in conjunction with the development Trust. This was agreed in principle by the Committee.</p> <p>ii) Community Newsletter – Next issue getting ready to be sent out for hopefully February. Big push for advertising spaces, or sponsorship.</p> <p>iii) Village Noticeboards – Saltire Fine Malts, sponsoring and permissions from conservation areas are moving ahead. Expectation is they should be in place at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>iv) Christmas lights/winter festival update. Successful ghost tours. Wreath making on the 26th of November has sold out. Important to note that WMT grant has gone to new lights for Christmas trees, the bulk of the money raised this year will go to the £1600 FC invoice for adding the electrical sockets to the lampposts.</p>	All Agreed

Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

Minute of Meeting 11th November 2025

	<p>Looking for volunteers to put up the village lights on the 30th (lunch will be provided) and volunteers for the weekend of the festival. If anyone would like to help, please get in touch via - Falklandstalls25@gmail.com.</p> <p>v) Newton of Falkland phone box – Newton Hall committee have agreed to move it to outside the Newton Hall. Awaiting to hear from planning permission.</p> <p>vi) Playpark subgroup – LS and RE held a meeting with Keith Rennie. The first and biggest issue to be decided is the location.</p> <p>vii) Digital Fife – CE hoping to move from current website to Digital Fife offering. No timescale for now.</p>	
13 Elected Members Issues	<p>i) Handrail at 61 Back Dykes Terrace – has been reinstated.</p> <p>ii) Handrail between Cameron Drive and Old Back Dykes has been put on.</p> <p>iii) Traffic calming on The Pleasance. Scheme classifier tubes, which read length, weight, speed. This will be done in conjunction with Freuchie.</p> <p>iv) School bus shelter – roof is being replaced.</p> <p>v) Balnblae bridge – JS to supply the wood, Robbie Blythe will repair.</p> <p>vi) Ross Walker invited to next walkaround of the village.</p> <p>vii) High Street West – sink in the road, has been reported.</p> <p>viii) Scottish Power – looking to rehouse substation from The Reading Room to Balnblae.</p> <p>ix) Old Back Dykes – asking when the road will be repaired.</p> <p>x) Will contact Kirsty Freeman regarding Gabion funding.</p> <p>xi) North Sea Gas – Performing December 13th as a fundraiser. Looking for raffle prizes and monetary donations.</p> <p>xii) New signs for entering the village, FC have asked for a tagline – suggestions welcome.</p>	
A.O.C.B		

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7pm, Falkland Community Hall