

Minutes of the Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council Meeting
Held at Midmar Hall, 6th May 2026

Position	Name	Contact	Attendees	Apologies
Chairman/ Midmar C.C.	Frank Murray	07555-237903 frank.murray1@googlemail.com	✓	
Treasurer/ Midmar C.C.	Judith Stokoe	07729-561859 stokoej3@gmail.com	✓	
Midmar C.C.	Lesley Tierney	lesley.midmarcc@icloud.com	✓	
Monymusk C.C.	Sarah Flavell	gariochadvise@outlook.com		✓
Monymusk C.C.	Mark Lappin	Lappin.complete@gmail.com		✓
Monymusk C.C.	Graham Tarn-Dyson	gtd.monymusk.cc@gmail.com	✓	
Monymusk C.C.	Robin Worsman	worsmanrobin@gmail.com	✓	
Secretary/ Cluny C.C.	Ian Forbes	secretarycmmcc@gmail.com	✓	
Open Positions Cluny Subdivision = 3 Midmar Subdivision = 1		Any members of the public interested in filling these positions should contact the Community Council Secretary; note the CC constitution allows one of these positions to be filled by a resident in one of the other subdivisions if required		
Aberdeenshire	Councillors	Ward 13:		
	Cllr Ron McKail	01224-742095	-	✓
	Cllr Iris Walker	07876-475272	✓	-
	Cllr Craig Miller	07788 187521	-	-
	Cllr Fatima Joji	07787 955311	-	✓
Aberdeenshire	Councillors	Ward 14:		
	Cllr Gwyneth Petrie	07891-296064	-	-
	Cllr Lauren Knight	07787 824950	-	-
	Cllr Jeff Goodhall	07788 144320	-	-
	Cllr Robbie Withey	07388-956147	-	-

C.C. = Community Council

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/738161263007490>

Web Site – <https://cmmcommunitycouncil.org/>

Members of Public	Invited Guests
4	0

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	Meeting Agenda Item	Action
1	Welcome and apologies Meeting chaired by the CC Chairman Frank Murray. Apologies from Ward 13 Councillors Fatima Joji and Ron McKail. Apologies from Community Council Councillors Mark Lappin and Sarah Flavell. Zoom meeting active but no-one joined online; Zoom shutdown thereafter for rest of the evening.	Info.
2	Conflicts of interest None declared.	Info.
3	Adoption of minutes of previous meeting Accepted as fair reflection of meeting. Proposer Robin Worsman, seconded by Lesley Tierney.	Info.
4	Financial Position and Community Council Expenditure Treasurer updated group. Confirmed that a £100 invoice has been received and paid (after approval from all CC members) for the additional legal work incurred relating to the Hill of Fare Windfarm application. This relates to addressing the question raised by the Raeshaw case as it applies to the Hill of Fare application. Current Balance £1997.31	Info. Info.
5	Matters arising from 25th March 2026 meeting/actions update APP/2026/0348 - Erection of 2 Wind Turbines (Hub Height 50 metres) Total Height 76.5 metres) and Associated Infrastructure, Auchorrie Farm, Midmar, Aberdeenshire AB51 7NL As agreed at the last meeting, an objection statement has been written and reviewed/approved by all CC members. This has been submitted and is available for public view on the planning portal.	Info.
6	Police Scotland Update None received.	Info.
7	New Planning Requests/Planning related updates, to include, but not restricted to the following applications: NOTE - In all cases Community Council limit attention to proposals which raise issues of genuine community interest/breach planning guidelines or potential breaches in process. REMINDER - Planning Applications Interactive Map To help improve visibility of planning applications in the Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council area our website has a map that shows, and links to, all of the current live applications. This is available on the front page of our website - https://cmmcommunitycouncil.org/	

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	APP/2026/0671 - Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse, Dalherrick Cottage, Sauchen AB51 7RP No objection or further community council involvement required. APP/2026/0731 Downtaking and Reinstatement of Part of Boundary Wall, Churchyard St Mary's Parish Church, The Square, Monymusk, Aberdeenshire Work being done to repair wall due to damage incurred by neighbouring tree. No objection or further community council involvement required.	Info. Info.
8	Update on Gravitare NE Pitfichie MTB Proposal Robin Worsman updated group. Reminded CC members that the Community Council have an online meeting with Forestry Land Scotland (FLS) on the 13th May to discuss how the Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) works with relation to FLS assets. FLS have one dedicated person looking after the assessment and oversight of all the CATS schemes in Scotland. In conjunction with this meeting, Robin to liaise with FLS to arrange an onsite meeting at Pitfichie with their Area Visitor Services Manager. This is to gain a better understanding, from the FLS perspective, as to how new Mountain Bike Trails are created. All CC members invited to attend this once details clearer. Also related to the trail construction, a separate meeting will attempt to be scheduled with the Aberdeen Trails Association (ATA) to ask them how they work, what they do, and how new trails come about. They are currently involved with trail work on Pitfichie. Robin commented that on a recent walk on Pitfichie, new trail construction was observed to be underway. Tools were seen to be left on site and, in personal opinion, the trail construction technique being used showed little regard to ecological considerations. Unclear if this work is approved and what measures are being taken to safely secure the groundwater system (a number of private water supplies are sourced from the area of the active trails). Mike Wilkes (Chair, Gravitare NE in attendance at meeting) commented that this is likely to be unsanctioned restoration of an old trail that was damaged by recent clear-felling by FLS. Recognises that this kind of ad-hoc work does not help advance the case for the Gravitare proposal, and is very disappointed to hear it has taken place. Mike also commented that in advance of the Enduro MTB competition on Pitfichie on 9/10th May, FLS have approved repair work on the Macchiato trail, this work being done by ATA. Mike to help organise a CC meeting with ATA.	Info. Info. Info. Info.
9	Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event Aberdeenshire Council are proposing holding a networking event for all Aberdeenshire Community Councillors on the 26th September, but will only go ahead with this if sufficient interest is shown by deadline of 30th May.	Info.

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	Group agreed that this is a valuable opportunity, and at least one member (Secretary) will attend. Secretary to confirm with Aberdeenshire Council our support and attendance at the event.	
10	Cluny/Sauchen/Millbank Issues Ian Forbes raised issue of the planned 5-day closure by Scottish Water of the only access road to 91 houses in the new Kirkwood Homes estate in Sauchen in Mid-May. Closure required to allow repair to multiple collapsing drains along this single-track road, linked to heavy traffic along the route (including construction traffic). Many concerned residents, as neither Aberdeenshire Council or Scottish Water have communicated any workarounds as to how residents are supposed to access their homes, or explained how rubbish collection etc will be handled. Situation considered completely unacceptable and multiple ongoing discussions to find a workable solution (including involvement of senior politicians). Resolution update to be given at next meeting. GARR1707 - Cluny Meadows, Sauchen © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Aberdeenshire Council 0100020767 2019 Aberdeenshire Council Environment & Infrastructure Services Ian noted that the Roads department had informed him that various drainage problems (flooding) along the A944 to Cluny Road and Main Street Sauchen had been resolved, and had closed the cases. In reality, the photographic evidence provided showed the repair work was for a completely different location. Ian to reopen the cases, but noted that these kinds of errors do not help the public's view of council competency. At the invitation of Cosmo Linzee Gordon (Cluny Estate), members of the Community Council and the Millbank Hall Committee attended a meeting at Cluny Castle on the 29th April to discuss the future of the Millbank Community Playing Fields area (including the fields, bowling green, tennis court and car park); these are all owned by Cluny Estate.	Info. Info. Info.

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	This was a productive and open discussion with the emphasis very much on understanding how the site could become an even more important asset to the local community. A number of ideas have been put forward, and exploratory investigations on these has started, in particular the feasibility of upgrading the existing grass pitch to an all-weather (astro) pitch. Progress update to be given at next CC meeting.	
11	Midmar Issues. Noted that there is local demand for the setting up of an after-school club, position to allow this to take place to be advertised. Lesley Tierney discussed the issue of primary school roll projections for local schools, and in particular Midmar. Midmar now down to a one class. Would like to get from Aberdeenshire Council a better understanding as to how the numbers are generated – danger of small schools like Midmar being mothballed based on erroneous projections. Member of public in attendance raised issue of Aberdeenshire Council not cutting back whin and broom growth at the side of roads – now infrequently done. This is leading to safety issues due to the dense growth now limiting visibility, especially on some of the narrower and more windy backroads in the area. Concern to be relayed to councillors.	Info. Info. Info.
12	Monymusk Issues Noted that there is also demand in Monymusk for an after-school club, feasibility of this being investigated locally. Some reports of anti-social behaviour, position to be monitored. Speeding along the main road through Monymusk still being observed, especially near the school.	Info. Info. Info.
13	Any Other Competent Business (AOCB) Ian noted that the agenda papers for the 12th May 2026 meeting of the Garioch Area Committee contains an admission that Aberdeenshire Council's road maintenance policy is that of "managed decline". Considering the essential and critical nature of the road network, this is unsustainable. 3.17 The current level of funding for roads maintenance remains well below steady state levels and we continue to witness the managed decline of the road network. Whilst funding will allow the resumption of planned preventative maintenance (suspended last year), the percentage of the network receiving a new or enhanced road surface is still low. One consequence of continued constrained preventative maintenance is that the need for reactive maintenance to address road safety defects will again increase. This balance between reactive maintenance and preventative maintenance, that sees us focusing on the former, goes against the accepted asset management principle that "prevention is better than cure". 3.18 For first time, a live interactive map has been produced and is available	Info.
	Next meeting date – 7:00pm, Wednesday June 17th 2026, Monymusk Hall	

Chairperson –



Date -

17 June 2026