

Monthly Meeting & AGM



**Tuesday 30th April 2025,
18:30 - 20:00, Fallin Church Hall**

Discussion Topics

- Community garden update
- Community garden soft launch/ GrubHub event
- Christmas Lights
- Merging community group meetings
- Strathcarron update
- Polmaise Bowling Club update
- DTAS - The Future of Churches
- AOB

Attendees (23) - Listed below in Table 1

Apologies - Chris Burns

1. Community garden update

Membership

We have over 30 members (just need to check off paperwork etc completed). Volunteers have been working hard to get the garden ready for the open day. New members have joined, some experienced and some willing to learn with little or no growing experience. The bed layout has been finalised and 23 beds are now complete. A push within the village will be done to get more people signed up both during and after the open day. Two official garden planning meetings have happened both with a great turnout. We will continue these as required.

Development

Polytunnels – a local joiner has offered to build these for us. He is to provide Nikki with a list of what he needs. Raised beds – more timber is arriving on Sat 3 rd May, 930am approx. (need someone there to let them in). This has timber for some indoor & outdoor beds, the wood for the IBC guttering and the compost bays. Justice have been told it will be ready for them to build.

Café cabin – Dorian has sourced us a 3 rd cabin which will be our café (hopefully). Just waiting on delivery information.

Tarmacking – this was due to happen on Sun 27th April, but didn't go ahead. James is hoping to get it done ahead of Sat but if not we are looking to get sheeting to create a safer path into the clubhouse.

Garden vehicle gate has now been fixed and needs to be unlocked to open.

Networking

Fallin Primary School – want to arrange an all pupil visit, Nikki has been in talks with the best way to approach this and when. Marie Brennan advised it is now unlikely to happen this school year, but still wants to find a way to get all children up to the garden at least once. Nikki is hosting a garden club group for Fab Fridays at FPS, restarting 9/5).

Wallace High – pupils coming out to do 2 hands-on volunteer sessions, to help boost their CVs for employability (Wed 30/4 & Wed 7/5). They will help tidy up ahead of our open day.

KSB Climate Literacy training has now completed and final assessment is underway.

Pride event held on Sat 26/4. Low turnout but lovely group watching the movie Pride together.

The Conservation Volunteers hosted den building sessions during the Easter holidays. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side and turn out was low. We plan to arrange other sessions in the summer.

Nikki met with Big Noise, with a view to performing at a summer event in the garden. They carry out a lot of sessions in FPS and are keen to collaborate and use our garden space where possible too, although Marie advised they need indoor space as a weather-back up.

The Observer has been informed of our open day. Hoping their photographer Colin will come along.

2. Community garden soft launch/Grub Hub event

Takes place this Saturday at the garden, 1:30 - 3:30 & everyone's welcome. We're hosting a GrubHub-style gathering, with burgers, hotdogs, light refreshments & more. It's a chance for folk to:

- Explore what's growing in the garden,
- Preview our plans for 2025 & beyond,
- Sign up for a raised garden bed,
- Learn about volunteer opportunities,
- Meet the team and connect with the community.

Please wear sensible footwear (the garden is an active site with uneven ground and potential trip hazards). Parking is available at Fallin Miners Welfare and access to the garden is best via the main street. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

3. Christmas lights

Liaison with the Christmas lights company and the council for getting them installed each year has previously sat with Neil. Since he has stood down, Michelle agreed to take ownership of this and will call on any of the other trustees if support is needed.

4. Merging community group meetings

Given there is so much activity in the village these days, it had previously been suggested that community groups come together to host one larger meeting per month, rather than having lots of separate ones. The benefits being:

- For those who sit on multiple groups, they don't have so many meetings to attend
- Same for members/residents who want to stay involved with each of the groups
- It helps foster collaboration, improve communication between groups and streamline workloads

Suggestion was to have one longer meeting, where each group would be allocated time for their own agenda items, followed by time for village-wide agenda items, and for this to be monthly, on a Tuesday evening.

Reps of FCV, PCC and Alpha all agreed to this in principle and Church reps requested to be part of this too. **ACTION: All** groups to check with other reps and revisit at next meeting. **KP** to check with Chris Burns that this would be acceptable for PCC.

5. Strathcarron update

Iain flagged that, although he intends to remain present in Fallin, his Strathcarron community post comes to an end in June. His final three projects are:

- Working with Nikki and the primary school to establish an outdoor learning space at the community garden, using funds from Strathcarron
- Making a film to showcase the village, which he will be looking to interview people for. If anyone is interested in being interviewed, or anyone with videography skills is interested in being involved, they should contact Iain directly
- Organising a conference to showcase to external organisations what's been happening in the village, ideally starting in the community garden, then going out to Stirling Barracks. Date for this TBC & Iain will be in touch with more details, but again anyone interested in being involved should contact him directly

The Snowdrop Cafe will continue after Iain's post ends, led by Steve & Elaine Wilson and Billy & Adele Hodgson. As will Emma's Crochet Club and the Walking Group.

6. Polmaise Bowling Club

Dave Stewart, Chair of Polmaise Bowling Club attended to give an overview of what's happening at the club at the moment and invite people to join. He noted that membership of the club, particularly among women and younger people, is growing. The club now has over 70 members and is one of the country's biggest. This year, bowling has been recognised as an Olympic Sport, so there is lots of potential in the sport beyond playing as a hobby. He is keen to get more involved with the primary and high school to get students involved. He also advised he would pass on contact details to FCV for Persimmon Homes, who may be able to support the charity.

7. DTAS & the future of church buildings

Naomi flagged that DTAS are providing support to communities who may be interested in purchasing churches, including support with funding for this. She advised that information could be passed on to anyone who might be interested in pursuing this for the church in Fallin.

Steve W also advised that he'd spoken with Jim Stewart, who advised it was highly unlikely the memorial could be moved, without it disintegrating.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

Christine & Laura - Kids Christmas Party

- Will be 6/12 1-4pm at the miners club
- Thanked FCV for the donation. More fundraiser nights planned for it, including:
 - Prize bingo at the church hall 7th June
 - Race night at the miners club 4th October
- Funds raised so far will cover lots of what's needed, so it's on track to be a fantastic event for the kids

Steve W - Alpha Centre & Fun Day

Asked whether the alpha centre will be ready for the Fun Day 2nd August. Annemarie advised council are currently saying it will be open again by 20/6, however there's a chance of more delays based on how things have been progressing so far. Marie Brennan advised she is on leave at that time, but if the primary school deputy is available to open up, the school can be used as an alternative for toilets etc. **Action:** MR to email school to check.

Joe - Community Events

Asked whether dates of events will be published well ahead of time. MR advised yes, tentative dates are usually noted at meetings and available in minutes; They're published on Facebook etc. once dates are confirmed. Joe has had some issues

accessing the minutes via the weblink. **Action:** Steve RR to look into fixing this. Will also be circulating minutes to all FCV members going forward.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 27th May 2025

Attendees

Michelle Robertson (FCV)	Marie Brennan (Fallin Primary)
Steve Royce-Rogers (FCV)	Innes Macleod (Wallace High School)
Steve Wilson (FCV)	Elaine Wilson (Snowdrop Café)
Billy Hodgson (FCV)	Iain Guthrie (Snowdrop Café)
Naomi Ross (FCV)	Mo Firth (Fallin Parish Church)
Karen Perrie (FCV)	Liz Perrie (Fallin Parish Church)
David Stewart (Polmaise Bowling Club)	Joe Millar (Resident)
Annemarie Hamilton (Alpha)	Laura Kirkwood (Fallin Miners Club)
Helen Kerr (Alpha)	Christine Laurie (Fallin Miners Club)
Irene Mckay (Resident)	Wilma Perrie (Resident)