

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 28th October 2025,
18:30 - 19:30, Fallin Church Hall



Discussion Topics

- Actions from previous meetings
- Community garden update
- Christmas in Fallin
- Local Place Plan
- Geothermal Update
- AOB

Attendees - Listed below in Table 1

Apologies - Alison Grainger, Michelle Robertson, Nikki Thomas

1. Actions from the previous meeting

The action log was reviewed and updated and is available to review [here](#).

2. Community garden

Membership & volunteering

We have 73 members, most are active and have a bed. Several are social/volunteering only and have been a huge help in getting tasks done. All but one outdoor beds are allocated and there is someone interested in the remaining bed. All beds are taken in PT1. There is a waiting list for PT1. Due to the delay of the container's delivery, there has not been as many specific tasks at the garden and therefore less volunteer sessions. Next focus is to get the main compost area built and fill the remaining beds once the containers have arrived. Thank you to Naomi, Joe & Steve for taking lead volunteer roles and helping make people feel supported and the garden more accessible.

As we come into winter, the garden will not be in use in the evenings, until we get suitable safety lighting.

Garden development

Raised beds – We have most of our beds built, $\frac{3}{4}$ of which are in use and have been allocated. The remaining beds cannot go in position until the tool shed has been

delivered. This is also holding up our accessible beds, which are ready to be built as soon as it arrives.

Polytunnels – PT1 is fully allocated. A few beds were not being used and as we have a waiting list, Nikki has followed up with these members to encourage use and offer support if needed. PT2 just needs it ends put on. Nikki is waiting for Stephen to come back with a date.

Water – Billy has done a great job in getting the guttering started for the IBCs. Nikki will be continuing this over the next few weeks.

Clubhouse – We are due a delivery of container 3, a tool shed and a loo unit.

Utilities – SPEN have now connected us to the grid (set up for a 3-phase supply). Nikki is liaising with electricity suppliers, the cheapest by far being British Gas, who will install our meter. We will then be able to get the clubhouse fully operational. Once we are out of contract with BG, the plan is to move to a greener supplier. Regarding water, we now have a quote for this work, approx. £13k and Nikki is progressing this.

Community growing – Thank you to all who have helped look after the beds this summer. We now have some winter crops in. The primary school children harvested over 10kgs of potatoes they planted! Next step is to design the indoor community growing area. Nikki, Steve & Joe are looking at this.

Funding

CSET: the trustees agreed to our request to change use of their funding from clubhouse and polytunnel to the water connection. The following applications are pending:

- CMH&WB Year 5 & 6 – being submitted this week. £20k over two years for DO, volunteer expenses and training.
- Volunteering Support Fund – decision due in November. £20k up to March 2027 for DO, volunteer support and training.

Networking

FPS pupils visited the garden to harvest the potatoes some of their school mates planted before the summer holidays. More than 10kgs of potatoes were dug up!

Nikki is starting back at Fab Friday at the primary school, doing gardening sessions with the children.

Ellen Cowie NHS Community Food Development team visited the garden. She also gave us recipes cards.

Grub Hub turned into Lunch Hub at the Garden, with over 50 people along to have a free, nutritious meal. Some had not visited the garden before.

3. Christmas

At this year's Christmas Fair (Saturday 29th November 14:30 - 16:30) we will be serving burgers and hotdogs, but no soup, since it didn't sell well last year. Joe will do this with Steve Royce Rogers and has done his food hygiene training. Karen is ordering a 14 foot tree this year, her family will install.

The baubles will be readvertised due to an issue with the new email accounts.

Due to unexpectedly high numbers at the Halloween Party, which needed emergency purchasing of extra goodies, there will now be a small charge (£5) for the Christmas party, to make sure costs are covered, to pay for the following: bouncy castles, face painting, snow globes, mascots, candy floss, goody bags, food and more.

Lightways have confirmed they have the adaptors for the Christmas lights and that the costs will be the same as last year. Still waiting for a confirmed installation date, but we have been assured it will be before 29th November.

ACTION: KP Organise for new banner for Christmas lights sponsors.

4. Geothermal update

Councillor Alasdair MacPherson provided an update on the geothermal energy project as follows:

Since my last report I have received confirmation from Gcore that the project is technically feasible, which is fantastic news. The next step is for a more detailed feasibility study to be carried out that would meet the criteria for funders. Gcore has given me an estimate that this would cost in the region of £2-£3,000.

Community Workshop The University of Strathclyde offered to hold a community workshop in Fallin last night to raise awareness and discuss the potential of minewater thermal energy. The event was held in the Alpha Centre last night. In total I counted 16 people, which was a decent turn out

The University gave a very good presentation and there was a good range of questions from the floor. There was real interest in the project and everyone present seemed keen to know how we would take it to the next level.

I have spoken to Council officials who have confirmed that there may be grant funding available within existing Council budgets to pay for the feasibility study, subject to the correct governance arrangements. I am happy to work with officials and other elected members to secure the funding and based on the conversations I have held with elected members of all stripes, I am confident of securing the funding.

ACTION: AMacP Organise meeting between Stirling Council, Nikki and FCV trustees to establish how to unlock the funding for a detailed feasibility study.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

Elaine Wilson confirmed that the Snowdrop Cafe Christmas Lunch will take place at the Alpha Centre 5th December at 12:30. Also, that the Swinging Sixties have organised to go to the Macrobert Centre Pantomime 22nd December.

Joe Millar confirmed that there will be pots filled from the community garden and delivered to the Church Hall along with spring bulbs, for the Girls Squad to plant for a floral display next year. He has explored the potential for planting at the GP surgery, but encountered too many red tape barriers to deliver it this year. We will review options for planting at the surgery again next year.

Steve Wilson requested Councillor MacPherson follow up with the assets team to see what is happening with our request for disabled parking space at the community garden, which he agreed to do.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25th November 2025, Church Hall

Attendees

Billy Hodgson (FCV)	Laney McMeechan (Resident)
Steve Royce-Rogers (FCV)	Irene Mckay (Resident)
Naomi Ross (FCV)	Wilma Perrie (Resident)
Karen Perrie (FCV)	Helen Kerr (Alpha)
Steve Wilson (FCV)	Joe Millar (Resident)
Elaine Wilson (Snowdrop Cafe)	Maureen Firth (Fallin Parish Church)
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson	Liz Perrie (Fallin Parish Church)