

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 28th April 2026,
18:30 - 20:00, Fallin Community
Garden



Discussion Topics

- Actions from previous meeting
- Finance update
- Garden update
- H&S
- Safeguarding
- Burntisland
- AOB

Attendees - Listed below in Table 1. Apologies: Steve Royce Rogers; Nikki Thomas

1. Actions from the previous meeting

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

2. Finance update

An update on the charity accounts was provided, details available [here](#). The Fun Day is almost paid for, and given we are in such a stable place, the trustees have approved donation of £250 to the Fallin Miners Welfare roof repair (where our Christmas lights are stored FOC, vs four figure storage sum from the Christmas lights installation company).

3. Garden

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

We are at the start of the new growing season and membership remains strong. A couple of people have either given up one bed or left completely for differing reasons. Vacant beds have been offered to others. It has been agreed, that unless a valid reason given, if beds are not being used by mid May they can be reallocated. This is to be communicated to members asap. If people need help they can ask Nikki, Joe, Steve RR or Joe, who will be happy to offer assistance. Coffee morning is going well, and hopefully with some better, warmer weather more people will pop along.

GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

Raised beds – There are only 3 outdoor raised beds to build.

Polytunnels – PT1 is fully allocated. A few beds were not being used yet and as we have a waiting list, Nikki will be following up with members soon.

Water – The IBC situation is now becoming urgent as we still haven't got it set up. Nikki needs another set of hands to sort out the plastic gutter lining and someone with the correct tools and physical strength is needed to check and tighten all connections. The focus is on PT1. Once that is complete and working PT2 should be more straight forward, but help will still be needed.

Utilities – Our electricity meter is now operational, and Conor is working to get everything together he needs for us to 'get the lights on'. We will then, step by step, look to get the rest of the garden areas which need power connected.

Regarding mains water, we are hoping to get a surface water drain put in beside the big gate end of PT1, as the flooding here has been awful over winter. The plans are with Scottish Water, pending approval.

Community growing – A huge thank you to Steve for building and others who helped fill the 6 new community beds in PT1. These are already partially planted up. We now need help with watering, so even if you don't want to grow, any help to water these beds will be greatly appreciated – a rota can be pulled together if that helps?

FUNDING

Submitted:

Asda Foundation - £20000 – for refurbishing PT2, electrical and plumbing work.

Pending:

FVL CLLD – planning on submitting this for our solar panel installation. Nikki has contacted Planning to see if permission is needed. If anyone has experience of solar panels, install etc please let Nikki know.

GEOHERMAL

The team from CenZ and Glasgow Uni visited the garden this month to get a better feel and understanding of our space, help formulate the Feasibility Study scope and meet us in person. Billy also attended. They confirmed today that we can apply for the Category 3 funding, which if successful unlocks a higher amount of match funding (up to £80k, with a minimum of 50% match funding). The team will be starting the application with input from Nikki and others as required. £50k has been confirmed by the council, but not in writing, Nikki is waiting for the funding agreement.

NETWORKING

FPS pupils visited the garden to plant this year's potatoes. These are in the blue glass tubs.

They still need a bit more compost and will need watering. The children will harvest them after the summer holidays again.

Nikki is still attending Bluebell House, the new ASN provision. She has changed this to fortnightly now so more time can be spent at our garden over the busier months.

FEL (one of our funders) hosted their Climate & Energy Gathering. Nikki presented on our Geothermal project.

FEL's photographer attended our garden on 2nd April, to showcase our work and what has been achieved through their funding – a sunny day luckily!

Sean Hall has been in contact and is keen to make a short film about the geothermal project.

We held our first Easter open day on Easter Sunday, which was attended by nearly 50 people. All children received an Easter egg upon completion of a scavenger hunt. We plan to host this again next year.

4. Health & safety

Although Billy was extensively trained in H&S in his professional career before retirement, as our H&S lead, he has been undertaking fresh H&S training recently, to be kept up to date on new legislation.

5. Safeguarding update

We have refreshed our safeguarding policy to take account of new requirements around protecting children and vulnerable adults. This is currently being reviewed by staff from Volunteer Scotland, and will be finalised in due course. Trustees continue to be confident that, as things stand, since none of the events we do are targeted specifically at children or vulnerable adults, our volunteers do not require PVG checks. However, this will continue to be kept under review, particularly with respect to the Crochet Club and any plans they might have to work with children under FCV.

6. Burntisland day trip

This has been confirmed for 17th July, same format as previous years. Despite increases in overhead costs, Louise has kindly agreed to keep the bus prices the same as last year. So £7.50 per child, which FCV will pay for, and £15 per adult (to be paid by the families). Last year, we paid for 60 children, totalling £450 (plus goodie bags for the day, which will be done again).

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

Potato growing competition: Brian suggested doing a potato growing competition at the garden, with £5 entry and whoever grows the most wins a prize. **ACTION NR:** Check in with garden admin group to see if anyone has capacity to organise and run with this.

Community funding portal: Brian flagged that a new portal has opened, to help make it easier for people to find and apply for grants. **ACTION SW:** Make sure Nikki is aware of this.

Ember bus: Stacie advised that Ember buses are looking to extend their routes, which provide low cost bookable options for people to travel across Scotland. She is keen to see them add a stop in Fallin. **ACTION: SW** liaise with Stacie to pursue this with Ember.

Old walkway from the school to Polmaise estate: Following Michelle's post on the community facebook page, it is clear there are strong feelings about this public space, both from people who want to see it kept open to the public, and those who want it made safe. The space is owned by Stirling Council and features in Fallin's local place plan as an area people want to see upgraded. With limited funds, it is unlikely the council will be able to do this to a standard that would make it safe to reopen. One option would be for FCV to take over management of it. **ACTION: NR** discuss offline with Stacie to explore options for FCV involvement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 26th May, 6:30pm

Attendees

Michelle Robertson (Chair)	Councillor Brian Hambly
Naomi Ross (Secretary)	Councillor Bob Buchanan
Steve Wilson (Treasurer)	Marie Brennan (Fallin Primary School)
Billy Hodgson (Trustee)	7 residents
Karen Perrie (Trustee)	