

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 26th January 2026,
18:30 - 20:00, Fallin Church Hall



Discussion Topics

- Actions from previous meeting
- 2026 Provisional Calendar
- Finance update
- Bees
- Community Garden Update
- Geothermal Update
- Health & Safety
- AOB

Attendees - Listed below in Table 1

1. Actions from the previous meeting

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

2. 2026 Calendar

A number of FCV events are scheduled for the year ahead already, as follows:

- Monthly bingo nights, last Friday of every month, Fallin Miners Welfare. The April session will take place 1st May.
- Lunch Hub in the Garden, Saturday 4th April at the community garden
- Summer Hawaiian themed fundraiser, 6th June, Fallin Miners Welfare
- Burntisland bus trip 17th June
- Summer fun day 25th July
- Fallin 5K run - provisionally booked in for 16th August
- Winter Grub Hub starts back 1st October, every Thursday at the Alpha Centre
- Fundraising abseil - provisionally booked in for 4th October
- Christmas market provisionally booked in for 28th November at Church Hall
- Winter fundraiser, 12th December, Fallin Miners Welfare

Trustees also agreed to organise the following events in 2026, dates & details TBC:

- Fundraising quiz & comedy night in October at the Goth. Dave Stewart has kindly offered to pay for the entertainment

- Race night with a disco (Venue TBC)
- Northern soul-style fundraiser at the Goth

ACTION: SW/BH book these three events and confirm dates/details.

A live soul band night was discussed and agreed this would be good to do in 2027, due to our already packed 2026 calendar.

Dates also still TBC for community garden open days.

3. Finance update

An update on the charity accounts was provided, as follows:

As of 24/1, FCV bank balance: £35K

- £22.5K is ringfenced for the community garden
- £12.2K remains
- Outgoings we know we will need to pay for this year total (£13.4K), of which:
 - £1K for this years accountants
 - £4.5K for Xmas lights (£1.5 this year, £3K next).
 - £1K for Snowdrop
 - Up to £6.9K for fun day (if we want to do to the same extent as last year)

We need to raise a further £1.2K to cover all of the above. We are confident we will get:

- Joes sponsored walk (£500)
- £1500 approx from community lottery, which is also for slush fund
- £1K from Councillor MacPherson, for Grub Hub

Other potential income:

- 50 in 5 (£210 sat in Just Giving account, plus any extra that comes in).
- Bonus ball income (ETA start March/April)
- Any income raised from fundraiser events noted in the Calendar update above

Other considerations: We have £7K due from Robertson in the Summer (Trustees agreed in December a portion of this would be set aside for match funding to pay for the community garden water connection. Exact amount TBC).

£1.5K annual saving is being made from this year forward with Christmas Lights storage. These will now be stored at Fallin Miners Welfare, rather than paying to be held by the lights company.

Trustees agreed a contribution should be made to the roof repairs needed at the Miners Welfare. Exact amount to be decided at Feb/March meeting. SVE have been consulted and confirmed this would be within charity rules due to the benefit the club provides to the community/FCV.

Also noted, Plean's Voice have taken inspiration from our £50 in 5 campaign and are running their own equivalent.

4. Bees

The bees at the community garden are in “hibernation mode” over the winter months. Expect them to emerge as the trees start to blossom and temperature increases. Billy has been keeping an eye and there are still signs of life, so it’s looking promising that they are surviving their first Winter in Fallin. Billy continues to do Beekeeping courses to improve understanding, and anyone else keen to get involved can be put through beekeeping training by FCV (let Nikki know if interested).

Fallin Primary are keen to do another visit, as the students loved the experience. Wallace High School also have bees and would be keen to get students out to see ours. We would need a few extra suits to accommodate the children, as well as relevant risk assessments done. **ACTION: IM** contact Nikki & Billy if there is student interest, to look into logistics of a visit.

To expand the apiary, we will need a second hive, which will require additional grant funding. The ones donated are unfortunately unsuitable as we have no way of knowing if they carry disease. **ACTION: BH** cost up what is needed for apiary expansion, additional suits and honey production, and let Nikki know, so she can apply for grant funding.

5. Community Garden

Garden is at its quietest this time of year as everything is asleep. However, work continues with filling the remaining beds (when the soil isn’t frozen). We have managed to squeeze in a couple of extra outdoor beds, so there are now spaces available if folk want them (contact Nikki).

For health and safety reasons, we have been closing the garden during icy conditions (although we can’t stop folk walking through as it is a right of way). We don’t have a grit bin yet, but will make use of blue bins in the meantime. **ACTION: BH** chase up grit bin with roads department.

Electricity connection continues to be delayed due to customer service problems with British Gas (the meter they fitted is in the wrong location and they are taking their time getting out to sort it). Situation is similar with mains water connection. A contractor identified that the excavation plans didn’t include provision for sewerage (despite this being requested), so we are now waiting for a revised quote.

The monthly book club is being held at the Miners Welfare until a warmer space is available at the garden.

6. Geothermal Energy Update

Billy and Nikki have held meetings with Alasdair MacPherson, Stirling Council and various subject experts about this. They have been advised to expect the overall cost for connecting the whole village to be at least £15 million. This is not something FCV

has the means to lead on any time soon. So trustees agreed to proceed on the basis of installation at the Garden (with the possibility of future expansion to other areas of the village in the future if those options become feasible).

Funding is needed to cover the feasibility study, which the council and other organisations are looking into helping us with. Nikki and Billy will continue to oversee delivery of the feasibility study on FCVs behalf and report back when there is more information. Any action off the back of the study is likely to require an additional freelancer, as Nikki is unlikely to be able to add this to her workload.

7. Health and Safety

FCV were reported to Environmental Health a few weeks ago by a Facebook follower, alleging we were breaching food safety standards in our handling of surplus food from supermarkets. We were grateful to the Environmental Health Officer who agreed to meet trustees quickly and confirmed, following review of our processes, that they had no concerns about the health and safety standards we were adhering to. We were advised of some paperwork based changes we should make if freezing food, and used the opportunity to seek advice on what we might need to do for future plans under FCV (community cafe, selling of locally produced cakes, honey etc.).

Thanks go out to our volunteers who remained calm, cooperative and patient during this period, and to the community as a whole for their support during what was an unnecessarily stressful time for trustees.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

Joos sponsored walk: Joe extended his thanks to everyone who donated to his sponsored walk, which raised £500 for Fallin Community Voice. It also kept him motivated and he walked 24 miles further than he probably would have otherwise. The trustees are grateful to him for this effort and to everyone who donated too.

Wallace High update (Innes Macleod): The school will be checking in with leavers throughout February and March, to support any whose post-school placements have fallen through. Their “7 weeks to success” programme also starts after the February holidays - weekly 2-hour study sessions at the school after hours, with snacks included. The school can provide transport. **ACTION: IM** send MR details. The high school will also be re-running their positive destinations event in February or March at the primary school, targeting S3 kids. And another “Meet the Parents” event will be organised in March in Fallin, so the school can hear from parents what’s going well, what can be improved etc.

Brian Hambly: Has been working with stakeholders for a few years on trying to secure a circular bus for the Eastern Villages, potentially going to Forth Valley Royal and the Peak. Options have been put forward to the council, which will be decided on as part of this years’ budget setting, so there should be an update at the next meeting. Also, the

Courier is keen to do a piece covering the Eastern Villages' improvements over the last few years. Trustees agreed they'd be happy to be involved.

Fallin Primary update (Marie Brennan): Extended thanks to all donors for supporting the school pantomime trip, the kids all loved it. There will be a Valentine's disco next Thursday and a prize bingo 18th February. The school is also due an inspection soon and keen for community partners to attend to support the school. Trustees agreed someone would support.

Free tree offer: Riverside Primary have offered us 50 bare root trees they don't need. Agreed that, if these were edible or native, the community garden will pot them up and grow them on until we can find a forever home.

Next Meeting

Attendees

Michelle Robertson (FCV)	Laney McMeechan (Resident)
Billy Hodgson (FCV)	Irene Mckay (Resident)
Steve Royce-Rogers (FCV)	Wilma Perrie (Resident)
Naomi Ross (FCV)	Joe Millar (Resident)
Karen Perrie (FCV)	Maureen Firth (Fallin Parish Church)
Steve Wilson (FCV)	Liz Perrie (Fallin Parish Church)
Elaine Wilson (Snowdrop Cafe)	Innes MacLeod (Wallace High School)
Nikki Thomas (FCV)	Brian Hambly (Councillor)
Marie Brennan (Fallin Primary)	