

Eskdalemuir Community Council (ECC)

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday 19th March 2026 – 7pm, Eskdalemuir Hub

Elected members present: Al Green (Chair), Barry Young (Treasurer), Liz McQueen (Secretary), Ian Warden, Julie McLeod, Bernard Provost, Suzanne Paul (co-opted, Item 3)

Guest: Councillor Denis Male

Apologies: Lara Porter (UEDG)

The Secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate with 6 elected members present.

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (15th Jan 2026)

Minutes of the previous meeting, supplied by the Secretary, were approved. Proposed by Al Green, seconded by Julie McLeod.

2. Correspondence

- Notice of Scottish Parliament election
- Hustings in Langholm on 13th April – Buccleuch Centre
- Free training webinars available to Community Council members

3. Co-option of New Community Council Member

The Chair invited consideration of the co-option of a new member to the Council.

- Proposed co-opted member: Suzanne Paul, Monkenshaw, Garwald, Eskdalemuir, DG13 0QN
- Proposed by Liz McQueen, seconded by Bernard Provost
- Unanimously agreed

Suzanne Paul was duly co-opted as a member of Eskdalemuir Community Council.

Note: The Secretary will notify Dumfries and Galloway Council of the change in membership within one calendar month, as required by the Scheme.

4. Police Report

The police report for the area is now clustered to include Canonbie and Langholm. No incidents specific to Eskdalemuir were reported.

5. Bus Stops

- The roof of the bus stop in the village is leaking.

- The Men's Shed group (Ian Warden and Martin) have offered to carry out repairs, using felt and nails.
- **Action:** *Al Green and Ian Warden to check whether any suitable materials are available for recycling locally. If not, to obtain a price for materials and report back at the next meeting.*

6. Dog Waste Bin

- Concern raised about dog fouling at Bessie's Hill.
- Al Green has a contact at Forestry and Land Scotland (Lindy) regarding the possibility of erecting signs.
- It was noted that Canonbie Community Council pay a community member to empty the dog waste bin into general waste bins.
- **Action:** *Secretary to contact Ward Officer Stuart Hamilton to follow up on provision of general waste bin.*

7. Local Place Plan (LPP) Update

- Most information has been compiled, with input from Paul Carrick (UEDG), and forwarded to Al Green in his capacity as freelance graphic designer to format images and layout.
- Once the draft is complete, Community Council members will be invited to review and suggest edits before the document goes out for public review.
- The potential timing of the LPP submission in relation to the wider D&G LDP review process was discussed with Councillor Denis Male.
- **Action:** *Barry Young to review budget and arrange payment to Al Green for professional design services.*

8. Scottish Water – Black Esk Treatment Works

- The planning application for the Black Esk Treatment Works development has subsequently been withdrawn.
- There has been no further correspondence with Sandyford residents.

9. Community Events and Activities

- Spring Clean & Litter Pick: Al Green is organising a community litter pick. He has already collected four bags of litter from verges near Cote. Litter picking equipment has been delivered by the Council. Date proposed: 19th April, covering the route to Lockerbie and Samye Ling. The litter pick will be held in memory of Meg.
- Escape Active Travel Project Launch: Launch event to be held at the Hub on 4th April. The project includes five e-bikes and an e-trike. Maps have been printed and a booking system set up via the Hub website. Volunteers will be needed to support the project during the holiday season.

10. Office Bearer Discussion: Minute Secretary Role

- The question of obtaining administrative support for minute-taking, previously discussed, was revisited.
- A fee of £30 per meeting was proposed.
- It was agreed to advertise the role.
- **Action:** *Liz McQueen to research voice recording options – including virtual assistant devices or apps – as a more effective solution than the current iPhone recording method.*

11. Small Grants and Training Bursary Applications

- The following small grant applications were considered and unanimously agreed:
 - Eskdalemuir Community Garden Group: £500 for irrigation system, tap, compost and signage (8–10 regular attendees per week)
 - Stitches Group: £500 towards room hire costs for 23 weeks (8–10 regular attendees per week)
 - Ex Servicemen's Public Hall (ESMP): £1,168 for PA system and microphones for live music events. Comparative quotes supplied by Graham Wilkinson.
 - CrossDykes: £1,122 (small grant) and £4,222 (ANCBC funding) for ESMP budget. Unanimously agreed.
- Training Bursary: A request was received from Charlie McCulloch at Cote regarding funding support for current international university exchange to Australia. The education and training bursary guidelines were discussed, including the cap of approximately £500 and the rule that costs cannot be covered retrospectively. However – it was agreed that eligible costs going forward could be covered. £1,474 available in the fund. Unanimously agreed to support.
- A discussion took place regarding a possible memorial donation or the placement of a tree, bench and/or plaque near the church in memory of former Secretary John Furlonger, who served the Community Council for over 15 years.
- **Action:** *Treasurer/members to check funding guidelines and consult with the Church of Scotland and the Furlonger family before bringing a proposal to the next meeting.*

12. Planning Notices

- Monkenshaw – proposed changes to roof. (Note: Suzanne Paul of Monkenshaw is now a co-opted CC member; no conflict of interest issues were raised.)

13. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

- 'Fix My Street' App: Councillor Denis Male advised that Dumfries and Galloway Council will be launching a new app for reporting potholes and other road/street issues, launching 1st April.
- Bernard Provost reported that he has a telephone number and email address for Mrs McKinnon, who owns the property at the edge of the village where a boundary wall is collapsing.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Secretary noted a scheduling conflict with the Spring Fling Open Studios event and proposed moving the next meeting back by one week. The next meeting of Eskdalemuir Community Council will be held on:

Thursday 28th May 2026, 7pm, Eskdalemuir Hub