

BALLOCH CASTLE COUNTRY PARK REGENERATION GROUP
MINUTES OF MEMBERS MEETING, 5/6/25
BALLOCH HOUSE HOTEL

Present: Sally, Audrey, Cara, Matt, Gillian, Michael Mason, Karon Battersby, John Smith, Chris Paterson, Andy Sinnott.

Apologies: Fraser McLaurin

Minutes of previous meeting on 29/4/25 proposed by Audrey, seconded by Matt.
No matters arising.

Karon proposed a toast to the Committee for their hard work and getting the Memorandum of Understanding with West Dunbartonshire Council signed off.
Thanks to Karon for cakes and fizzy water.

Constitution/ Membership

Audrey stated that our Constitution needs to be reviewed and updated, she will undertake this task and suggest appropriate amendments.

We will have a general membership, Michael offered to edit the draft membership form and we can add a QR code at appropriate time to gather donations. Cara suggested we use MS forms to gather info for our Membership List.

Flags Project, Phase 2

Audrey gave an overview of Phase 2, WDC have given their approval to us moving forward with this.

Cara will speak to the local Primary schools and advise that we will be in touch with them after the school summer holidays

Arty in the Park Event

We are hoping to arrange another date, tagging on to a Council event.

Castle Information Display Area

We have been awarded £2000 from the Strathleven Foundation to install the Information Display within the Castle toilets lobby area. Sally and Matt are leading on this.

WDC are installing a new push button disabled friendly door to this area.

National Heritage Lottery Fund

We will agree with WDC at our next Partnership meeting what will be included in our bid, likely to be

Development Officer

North Lodge

Masterplan for Park

Other suggestions: Castle Cafe, refurb of Walled Garden.

Main aim is for Park to generate an income.

Lease needs to be reviewed to protect any income raised.

LLTNP have been invited to be a supporting partner in our bid, awaiting response.

Feedback from WDC/BCCPRG Partnership Meeting

WDC is happy with the Flags Project.

HLF application to be discussed at next partnership meeting.

Woodland Management Plan will be signed off soon and will be sent to us.

WDC has been given an award from the Nature Restoration Fund for a 5 year programme to remove INNS and for replanting in the Park.

Karon stated areas of Himalayan Balsam are decreasing and home grown Oak trees have been planted.

A new Community Officer has been appointed by WDC, they will help us with our HLF application.

Possibility of Volunteer days to clean up signs etc in the Park.

Feedback from Deputation to WDC, IRED Committee

Sally and Matt gave a presentation to the IRED Committee outlining our work and the importance of making the Park self-sustaining, our potential HLF bid and invited Committee members to visit the Park for a walk round with our Group.

Future Stakeholder Meetings

Fisheries Trust have offered to work on the ponds but will need funding.

WDC is developing a Climate Action Hub, they are holding a meeting on 17/6/25.

“Community Planning West Dunbartonshire is delighted to invite you to join us in this session, taking place in Clydebank Town Hall.

Tuesday 17th June 2025 from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

The session will feature presentations around community energy and a chance to contribute to the development of a new Climate Action Hub being developed in West Dunbartonshire.”

BHCC has been invited to our next meeting on 3/7/25.

Donations

Matt is investigating donation options for our Group, Giving looks a good option. We can look at donations for specific projects or have general donations.

He will investigate further and hopes to have an outcome in the next couple of months.

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance £3634.83, includes £2000 for Information Display.
Public Liability Insurance to be deducted.

Loch Lomond 10K, 21/6/25

BCCPRG will have a stall at this event for community engagement.

North Lodge, Kiosk no progress on these.

AOB

Health and Safety prevents us having access to the Castle, possibly by the end of the financial year.

New windows to be installed in the Castle and HERAS fencing removed by the end of the financial year.

Plan B for the Mountain Bike Trail will be going out to consultation.

DONM 3/7/25 (Trustees)