

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTE REQUIRES TO BE APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AND MAY BE AMENDED

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2026 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK/BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Councillors Iain Linton, Jim Todd, Stephen Canning, Caroline Barton, Linda Mabon, William Lennox, Alyson Simmons, Jennifer Hogg and James Kyle.

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING: Stephanie Slater, Team Leader: Community Benefits; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jayne Sangster and Billy Crawford.

CHAIR: Councillor Iain Linton, Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Mabon, in respect of recent engagement with Catrine Community Trust stated that in the interests of transparency she had a non-financial connection to Item 3.2 below which was not deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. Accordingly, she did not consider the connection to amount to a declarable interest that would require her to withdraw from the meeting for that item of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.7 of the Code.

Councillor Canning, in respect of his involvement with Kilmaurs Community Council and in particular the Tolhouse (Jougs), declared a financial interest in respect of Item 4(i) below and given the nature of their connection to the item of business was deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, intimated his withdrawal from the meeting for that item of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.6 of the Code.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025

2. There was submitted a report dated 18 March 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which advised of progress for the period 1 October to 31 December 2025 in respect of grant funding to community/voluntary sector services.

It was agreed to:-

- (i) note the financial position in respect of grant payments and project briefing updates in respect of community/voluntary groups outlined within the appendices attached to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

3.1 GC 8212 TAKE A BOW

There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which asked the Grants Committee to consider a request from

Take a Bow to consider the partial reallocation of a Renewable Energy Fund (REF) award made on 21 May 2025 for the purchase and installation of a new chair lift.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Take a Bow had been unable to progress the installation of a new chair lift due to cost issues due to additional major works required;
- (ii) to repurpose the £12,385 subject to:- (a) the council's standard conditions of grant; (b) evidence of appropriate planning permissions/ building warrants if required; and (c) receipt of at least 2 quotes for the works with the amount subject to reduction if the lowest quote is less than the award amount; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

3.2 GC 8222 CATRINE COMMUNITY TRUST

There was submitted a report dated 24 March 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which asked the Grants Committee to consider a request from the Catrine Community Trust to change the conditions on their Grant award from 21 May 2025.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the updated position in respect of the progress to date with Catrine Community Trusts business plan for the expected capital project for the AM Brown Institute;
- (ii) to remove the conditions of grant as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (iii) to amend the condition of grant as detailed in paragraph 12 of the report to "To secure salary draw down for year 2 and year 3 evidence must be provided that the Catrine Community Trust have completed a satisfactory business plan to allow the progress of the CAT of the AMBI";
- (iv) to approve the delay on drawing down on the approved award until a satisfactory health and safety report is received on the building as detailed in paragraph 11 of the report; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Simmons joined the meeting during consideration of the above meeting.

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2026/27

4. There was submitted a report dated 20 March 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer on the financial position in respect of Community Grants to Local Organisations for 2026/27 together with individual assessment reports in respect of the undernoted applications. It was agreed as follows:-

- (a) Ayrshire Deaf Club (GC 8322) - £3,000 and that the group engage with colleagues in Ayrshire360 for assistance in identifying other potential sources of external funding;
- (b) Mauchline Holy Fair (GC 8330) - £2,000;
- (c) Wee Rascals Mother and Toddlers (GC 8335) - £3,000;
- (d) Darvel Area Regeneration Team (GC 8320) - £800;

- (e) Fenwick Community Initiatives (GC 8324) – refused on the grounds that the total project costs could be met without the need for grant funding;
- (f) Stair Community Association (GC 8332) - £2,700 and that the group undertake work to ensure financial sustainability for future years through fundraising, increasing costs for venue hire or alternative sources of funding;
- (g) Kilmarnock First Edition Festival Group (GC 8327) - £2,000 subject to written confirmation that the purposes of the application are fully funded;
- (h) Shortlees United FC (GC 8315) - £500 subject to submission of the last audited financial statement or an interim financial statement for the year;
Councillor Canning left the meeting at this point.
- (i) Kilmaurs Community Council (GC 8318) - £500;
Councillor Canning rejoined the meeting at this point.
- (j) Fenwick Community Council (GC 8331) - £500 subject to the satisfactory receipt of the financial assistance progress reports for GC8282 and GC8283;
- (k) Cumnock Arts Make People Smile (CAMPS) (GC 8336) - £2,000;
- (l) Galston Community Development Trust (GC 8325) - £1,500;
- (m) Newmilns Regeneration Association (GC 8329) - £2,000 subject to the satisfactory receipt of the financial assistance progress report for GC8248;
- (n) EA Caledonia Pipe Band (GC 8334) - £3,000; and
- (o) Ayrshire Gymnastics Trust (GC 8339) - £2,000.

CONSIDERATION OF DELEGATION AMOUNT

5. Following discussion it was agreed to continue to temporarily decrease the officer delegation to £500 until the end of financial year 2026/27.

Councillor Lennox joined the meeting at this point.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED AND PAID OUT UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

6. The Committee noted the undernoted applications approved and paid out under delegated authority, viz:-
 - Strings N Things (GC 8317) - £480 towards let costs at the Boswell Centre, Auchinleck for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027; and Consumables/Master Class Tuition.
 - Bellsbank ECC Parent Council (GC 8326) - £490 towards costs of purchase of laptop computer; public liability insurance (one year, commencing 30 March 2026); and lottery licence - £40.

The meeting terminated at 1418 hours.