

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 13 MAY 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, Jayne Sangster, Graham Boyd, Linda Mabon, William Lennox, Alyson Simmons, Jennifer Hogg and James Kyle.

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING: David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth; Julie McGarry, Democratic Services Manager; Stephanie Slater, Team Leader: Community Benefits; Ewan McCrindle, Grants Funding Officer; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

APOLOGY: Councillor Billy Crawford.

CHAIR: Councillor Iain Linton, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Emma Dourish, Politics Student to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. The following Councillors declared non-financial interests in respect of the items detailed below and given the nature of their connection to the items of business were deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, all intimated their withdrawal from the meeting for the relevant items of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.6 of the Code:

Councillor Sangster in respect of item 4.2 (l) below in her capacity as a sponsor of the Club;

Councillor Simmons in respect of item 4.3(e) below in respect of political advertisement in brochures promoting the fair; and

Councillors Mabon, Lennox and Kyle in respect of item 4.2 (r) below in respect of the group being known to them in a personal capacity.

The following Councillors stated that in the interests of transparency they had a non-financial connections to the items below which were not deemed significant, having considered the terms of the objective test, as outlined in Paragraph 5.5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. Accordingly, they did not consider the connection to amount to a declarable interest that would require them to withdraw from the meeting for the item of business in accordance with Paragraph 5.7 of the Code:

Councillor Boyd in respect of item 5(c) below in respect of his work with the group;

Councillor Canning in respect of items 4.1, 4.2(p), 4.3(a) and 4.4(b) in respect of his involvement and work with the respective groups; and

Councillor Mabon in respect of items 4.3 (c) and (e) in respect of her involvement with the groups.

AFFILIATIONS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2026/27

3. There was submitted a report dated 10 April 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which invited the Committee to consider the background, aims and objectives, and activities of those organisations which have sought association with, and affiliation of, the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the affiliations, as detailed in Appendix I of the report;
- (ii) that the appropriate Services make payment of the affiliation fees to those approved organisations; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

4.1 CYCLE ANNICK (GC8276)

There was submitted a report dated 29 April 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which asked the Grants Committee to consider a request from Cycle Annick to change the conditions on their Grant award from 3 September 2025.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the updated position in respect of the progress to date with Cycle Annick;
- (ii) to the removal of the agreed conditions of grant as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

4.2 WHITELEE EXTENSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

There was submitted a report dated 29 April 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer on the financial position in respect of the Whitelee Extensions Renewable Energy Fund 2026/27 together with individual assessment reports in respect of the undernoted applications.

The Team Leader: Community Benefit, having provided the update on the financial position, sought agreement that due to the limited funding available for the next round of funding, due to close on 31 May 2026, that applications only be sought from groups within Cumnock, New Cumnock and Netherthird.

It was agreed that for the next round of funding that application be sought only from groups within Cumnock, New Cumnock and Netherthird.

It was also agreed as follows:-

- (a) EALEP Whitelee Apprenticeship Programme (GC8383) - £299,000 to support the second year of the Whitelee Skills and Employability Project, subject to:- (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project should be delivered within 12 months of this award; (iii) that the Job Broker employed will only manage cases related to this project; (iv) the applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award

period be required; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;

- (b) Bonnyton Thistle FC (GC 8359) - up to £300,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) written confirmation of all other project funding awards to evidence that full project funding has been secured prior to commencement of project; (iv) evidence of a robust procurement exercise or receipt of a minimum of 2 in date quotes for project work prior to commencement of project, with the grant subject to reduction if these are lower than the estimated project costs shown in the application; (v) should this award need to be re-profiled due to the outcome of external funding awards, that the re-profiling be agreed by the Democratic Services Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Grants Committee. The award amount will be capped at £300,000 but the re-profiling will allow amendments to allow delivery of the project within the secured budget; (vi) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (vii) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (c) Corner Cupboard (GC 8362) - refused on the grounds that the group have extended their service for a period of 6 months to a new property within the Burns Mall;
- (d) Hurlford Community Association (GC 8367) - up to £14,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate. If you are unsure whether or not planning consent is required, it is recommended that you email the Planning Service on submittoPlanning@east-ayrshire.gov.uk and provide them with details of your proposal; (iii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; (iv) 2 quotes being received for the works before the project begins, with the grant subject to reduction based on the lowest quote; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;

Councillor Sangster left the meeting at this point.

- (e) Hurlford United FC (GC 8368) - £121,124 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) written confirmation of all other project funding awards to evidence that full project funding has been secured prior to commencement of project; (iv) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;

- (f) Kay Park Bowling Club (GC 8369) - having heard a verbal update from the Team Leader: Community Benefit that all aspects of the application have been confirmed as being completed, refused on the grounds that (i) refurbishment of any council owned asset and therefore the painting of the EAC owned fence, would not be eligible; (ii) the cost of the project could be met from existing balances; and (iii) the work had already been completed and paid for;
- (g) Kilmarnock YMCA (GC 8371) - £14,750 subject to: (i) evidence of planning consents, where appropriate; (ii) that the contractor's quote be broken down to detail the cost of project works; (iii) the grant will be released on receipt of contractors invoice on completion of works; (iv) that advice on the suitability of the stair lift for a public building is taken from the Council's Building Control team prior to purchase; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, statements or publicity issues by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (h) Riccarton Bowling Club (GC 8378) - £94,297 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) receipt of any appropriate planning permissions/ building warrants; (iii) grant payment will generally be made on receipt of contractor's invoice; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issues by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (i) Springhill Bowling Club (GC 8379) - £18,965 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) confirmation of appropriate planning consents/building warrants if required; (iii) a second quote for the new mats and jacks being supplied; (iv) release of grant will be on submission of contractors invoices; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;
- (j) Auchinleck Community Development Initiative (GC 8356) - £115,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) confirmation of all final project costs due to many costs being estimated including all operating costs and salaries, with the award subject to reduction based on this confirmation; (iii) evidence of a robust procurement exercise or receipt of a minimum of 2 quotes for items over £500, including quotes for all replacement tools, prior to commencement of project; (iv) evidence of a robust recruitment process; (v) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contractors invoice; (vi) payment of year 1 grant will be released, when required, on agreement with the applicant and the Democratic Services Manager; (vii) year 2 payment will be released following receipt of information on the actual costs for the previous year's award including all required receipts and wage information and a detailed progress report; (viii) should the detail of the project be amended following this award, those amendments must to be agreed by the Democratic Services Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Grants Committee prior to commencement of project; and (ix) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, statements or publicity issues by the group relating to project works shall make

mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, Scottish Power Renewables Whitelee Extensions Windfarm and/or incorporate the REF logo;

- (k) Crosshouse Bowling Club (GC 8363) - £35,457 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) grant payment will generally be made on receipt of contractors invoice; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;
- (l) Crosshouse Community Football Club (GC 8364) - £25,794 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (iii) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;
- (m) Muirkirk Golf Club (GC 8375) - £25,756 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (iii) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (n) Portland Bowling Club (GC 8337) - £50,335 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) confirmation of appropriate planning consents/building warrants if required; (iii) release of grant will be on submission of contractors invoices; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;
- (o) **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC** - The Committee resolved:- "That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 Schedule 7A of the Act";
- (p) Caprington Golf Club (GC 8360) - £11,635 for the heating upgrade, subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) a copy of the clubs 2025 accounts being provided, with the grant being subject to withdrawal if there has been no improvement to the increasing yearly deficit; (iv) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (q) The Daimler Foundation (GC 8380) - refused for the reasons detailed in the report;

Councillors Mabon, Lennox and Kyle left the meeting at this point.

- (r) Kilmarnock Masonic Hall Social Club (GC 8370) - refused for the reasons detailed in the report.

Councillors Mabon, Lennox and Kyle re-joined the meeting at this point.

(s) **RE-ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Press and public were re-admitted.

4.3 WHITELEE FINANCIAL REPORT

There was submitted a report dated 29 April 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer on the financial position in respect of the Whitelee Extensions Renewable Energy Fund 2026/27, together with individual assessment reports. It was agreed as follows:-

- (a) Kilmaurs Community Council (GC 8373) - refused on the grounds that Renewable Energy Fund monies cannot be used for improvements to/refurbishment of Council assets unless the asset is leased, managed and maintained by a local community group or social enterprise;
- (b) Newmilns Regeneration Association (GC 8376) - up to £92,844 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) the award will be in principle, subject to agreement of the court for the transfer of the townhouse premises, held under the common good fund, to Newmilns Regeneration Association; (iii) confirmation of either a signed lease of a term suitable to the level of grant awarded or the sale of the asset to Newmilns Regeneration Association prior to the commencement of project works and release of grant funds; (iv) costs for VAT are included in this award. The NRA are advised to check with their professional accounting team if the proposed historic building repairs could qualify for reduced or zero-rated VAT. If so, the award will be reduced in line with this; (v) evidence of a robust procurement process; (vi) submission of the successful tender to evidence final project costs; (vii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (viii) written confirmation of all other project funding awards to evidence that full project funding has been secured prior to commencement of project; (ix) should this award need to be re-profiled due to the outcome of external funding awards, that the re-profiling be agreed by the Democratic Services Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Grants Committee. The award amount will be capped at £92,844 but the re-profiling will allow amendments to allow delivery of the project within the secured budget; (x) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project should be delivered within 12 months of this award. The applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award period be required; and (xi) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo;
- (c) Auchinleck Talbot Football Club (GC 8357) - up to £25,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) written confirmation of all other project funding awards to evidence that full project funding has been secured

prior to commencement of project, with grant awarded subject to reduction if other applications are successful; (iv) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;

- (d) Bellfield Bowling Club (GC 8358) - £25,564 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) confirmation of appropriate planning consents/building warrants; (iii) release of grant will be on submission of contractors invoices; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo; and

Councillor Simmons left the meeting at this point.

- (e) Mauchline Holy Fair (GC 8374) - £18,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) written confirmation of all other project funding awards to evidence that full project funding has been secured prior to commencement of project; (iii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, and incorporate the REF and SPR logo.

Councillor Simmons re-joined the meeting at this point.

4.4 SNEDDON'S LAW FINANCIAL REPORT

Submit report dated 29 April 2026 (copy enclosed) by the Chief Governance Officer on the financial position in respect of the Sneddon's Law Renewable Energy Fund 2026/27, together with individual assessment reports. It was agreed as follows:-

- (a) Community Open Garden Shortlees (GC 8361) - £21,407 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; (iii) evidence of relevant building warrants/planning permissions; (iv) a second quote being received for the composting toilet shed, with the grant subject to reduction based on the lowest quote; (v) a second quote being received for the ramps, handrails and other works associated with the install of the composting toilet, with the grant subject to reduction based on the lowest quote; (vi) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project should be delivered within 12 months of this award. The applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award period be required; and (vii) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;
- (b) Cycle Annick (GC 8366) - £43,814.76 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) grant payment will generally be made on receipt of contractors invoice; (iii) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project

should be delivered within 12 months of this award. The applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award period be required; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo;

- (c) Kilmaurs Bowling Club (GC 8372) - £22,832 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning permission/ building warrants, as applicable; (iii) a second quote being received for both the bowling green edges and solar panels, with the recommended grant being subject to reduction based on the lowest quote; (iv) grant payment will generally be made on receipt of contractors invoice; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund, and/or incorporate the REF logo;

Councillor Boyd left the meeting at this point.

- (d) The Killie Community (GC 8381) - £10,370 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) evidence of planning consent/building warrants, as appropriate; (iii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contractors invoice; (iv) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project should be delivered within 12 months of this award. The applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award period be required; and (v) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo; and

Councillor Boyd re-joined the meeting at this point.

- (e) West Netherton Bowling Club (GC 8382) - £14,840 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) grant payment will generally be made on receipt of contractors invoice; (iii) written agreement that the club will amend the dissolution clause in their constitution at the next scheduled AGM to confirm that *should the club be dissolved, any remaining monies and assets, following settlement of liabilities, will be passed to a local likeminded voluntary community organisation*; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issues by the group relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo.

Councillor Boyd left the meeting at this point.

4.5 HAREHILL FINANCIAL REPORT

There was submitted a report dated 29 April 2026 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer on the financial position in respect of the Harehill Renewable Energy Fund 2026/27, together with individual assessment reports as undernoted. It was agreed as follows:-

- (a) Cumnock Juniors Social Club (GC 8365) - £15,000 subject to: (i) the Council's standard conditions of grant; (ii) payment of grant will generally be on receipt of contactors invoice; (iii) as per the Council's conditions of grant, the project should be delivered within 12 months of this award. The applicant is requested to keep the fund updated with project development and a formal written request must be received should an extension to this award period be required; and (iv) as far as is possible and reasonable, that any press release, social media posts, statements or publicity issued by the charity relating to project works shall make mention of the grant from the EAC Renewable Energy Fund and/or incorporate the REF logo.

Councillor Boyd re-joined the meeting at this point.

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2026/27

5. There was submitted a report dated 30 April 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) Darvel Old Folks Trip Committee (GC 8341) – refused on the grounds that the project costs can be met without the need for grant funding;
 - (b) Newmilns Regeneration Association (GC 8346) - £1,145.30;
 - (c) St Kentigern's Golden Age Group (GC 8345) - £1,008;
 - (d) Riverbank Retreat Wellbeing (GC 8337) - £3,000 subject to confirmation that the total project costs have been met;
 - (e) Dunlop Events Association (GC 8342) - £1,500;
 - (f) Auchinleck Community Development Initiative (GC 8347) – refused on the grounds that the project costs can be met without the need for grant funding;
 - (g) Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council (GC 8348) - £1,350 subject to: (i) submission of 2 quotes for the supply of the gazebo; and (ii) re-imburement in full of £900 from GC7672; and
 - (h) Bonnyton Music and Movement (GC 8338) - £1,950 subject to: (i) submission of 2 quotes for the bus hire; and (ii) satisfactory receipt of the progress report for GC8170.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED AND PAID OUT UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

6. The Committee noted the undernoted applications approved and paid out under delegated authority.
- New Cumnock Sheepdog Trials (GC 8343) - £411 to assist in meeting the costs associated with New Cumnock Sheepdog Trial this year, scheduled to take place on Saturday 26 September 2026, at Dumfries House Home Farm, Cumnock.
 - St Kentigern's Golden Age Group (GC 8344) - £288 towards the provision of Afternoon Tea
 - Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council (GC 8349) - £490 assist in meeting the costs of shrubs for the garden areas at the front of the Morton Hall; plants for

the Welcome Garden; compost; flowers for planters and flowerbeds within the village, inc. at Loudoun Road; and repairs to the planter at the Welcome Garden plus stone chippings.

- Mauchline Community Council (GC 8354) - £500 to assist with purchasing seasonal floral displays by filling large display planters located around the village.
- Knockentiber Together (GC 8340) - £500 to support the purchase of 28 hanging baskets at £45 each for the village of Knockentiber. There are no watering or maintenance costs as this is done on a voluntary basis by the community group member.

The meeting terminated at 1605 hours.