

**Fairlie Community Council – Monday 02/03/2026, h. 07:00pm, Semple Centre, 45 Main Rd, Fairlie**

The meeting is declared open at **07:07pm**

*Attending:*

FCC: Rita Holmes (chair), Marco Piva (minutes secretary), Alan Holden, Malcolm Milne, Jackie Pearson, Gaye Nelson, Ian Hunter

NAC: *none*

Police: Sgt. Donald Fisher

7 MoP

*Apologies:* Mairi Wyatt, Arran Hewlett (FCC); Cll Tom Marshall, Cllr Ian Murdoch, Cllr Eleanor Collier, Cllr Todd Ferguson (NAC)

The meeting opens with a presentation from LirIC (the company planning to build the cable connecting Hunterston to Kilroot in Northern Ireland); present are Chris Jenner (Head of Land & Consent); Alan Davenport (Engineering Manager); Barry Turley (Stakeholder Manager); Jon Francis. The PowerPoint presentation was thorough; it will be shared to all present to this meeting and to those who wish as soon as it is received by RH.

Points raised at the last meeting between FCC and LirIC:

- electromagnetic interference: it will be extremely low. The limit considered acceptable is  $\mu T40,000$ , while the cable that would be laid produces approximately  $\mu T50$ . All this is expected to be confirmed by the EIA.

- potential lead pollution: HVDC have several layers of insulation exactly to prevent this.

Q&A:

- AlHold: is heating around the cables anticipated?

CJ: the interconnector to France, managed by the same company, shows virtually none.

- JP: Where will the cables be sourced from?

AD: It's too early to tell.

- Will there be jobs created?

Discussions have been held with Ayrshire College in Kilmarnock; there will be jobs during the construction phase, during operations not more than 5/6 people will be employed.

- The construction phase is expected to take place between 2028 and 2032. Planning application should be filed in January 2027.

- What about noise pollution from the ships?

It will be extremely reduced and kept under control.

**Approval of February minutes**: proposed by MM, seconded by AlHold

**Police report for February:**

TWO crimes were reported for the last month:

- + 1 bogus trader; this was stopped soon. There is a full description of the individual(s) involved and of the van they were driving, as well as its licence plate.

- + 1 theft of fuel

- 20mph zone: the police can enforce it; priority will however be on areas where accidents and injuries happened. Checks will be done.

MoP: years ago, the court ruled that lorry traffic could only go through Fairlie after applying for consent.

A discussion on this ensued, reaching the conclusion that this is likely to be limited to new Hunterston developments, and that would be a planning matter.

As there are no further questions for the local Police, Sgt DF leaves the meeting due to personal commitments, reminding everyone that he can easily be contacted via e-mail if any issues requiring Police attention arose.

**NA Cllr's Report:**

No Cllrs present.

**1. Crosbie Wind Farm update/Public inquiry WIN-310-1**

The public inquiry will take place in the two weeks following the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2026.

Dr. Melvin Grosvenor visited several locations that would be impacted by the development.

MoP: allegedly, the height of some of the planned turbines will be lowered to accommodate request by aviation.

The next instructions from the reporter are expected to be issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March

**2. Convention of Highland Community Councils**

It took place at Scottish Parliament on 24/02/2026. The only CCs from outside Highland Council represented were Port Seton, Cockenzie and Fairlie. The round table was well chaired by Helen Crawford, a Highland Community Councillor, who was clear in her address to by Ms Gillian Martin MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, that one government democratic tier, ie the community representatives, in relation to damaging effects on rural communities were not being "heard". The Convention of Community Councils was asking for a seat at the table re. Spatial Energy Planning which the convention felt was not being dealt with effectively. CCs were being inundated with planning Applications for large industrial developments . The CCs were undersourced for the job as were the cash strapped Local Authorities. It was believed that the ECU was not fit for purpose.

**3. Greenwheel – EV charging and solar**

A email was circulated: Greenwheel are preparing planning applications on Hunterston PARC to build an EV charging hub powered by renewable energy, provided by a planned solar farm.

JP did some research on Greenwheel, who have their head offices in Motherwell and were founded in spring 2024; the name links to several companies including Greenwheel Ltd.

**4. Hunterston SSG**

The next meeting will be held on Thu 05/03 at 01:30pm, at Seamill Hydro; open to the public.

The radiochemistry lab, that was closed by SEPA, is now ready to reopen, pending SEPA approval (which appears to be likely); The Chair and the Vice Chair of the SSG have met the team.

In Apr 2026, B station will pass in the hands of NDA.

**5. Hunterston PARC Liaison Committee**

The next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, not open to the public.

JP: XLCC have been rebranded as Aquora; however, this rebranding is valid only for XLCC UK Ltd, not for XLCC Ltd, which is the company that received the funding and that, according to

the Registry of Companies, is still in existence.

John Riddell, Chair of HPLC, present as a MoP: the 2-year lease XLCC took to do investigations has expired and has not been renewed or transferred.

The XLCC project and the Bakkafröst (aquaculture) projects have been withdrawn.

6. **North Coast Locality Partnership**

Next meeting online via Microsoft Teams on Tue the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at 06:00pm.

7. **Highview Power**

Mr. Hugh MacLean (MoP): No formal application has been filed yet, but a risk assessment has taken place. The project would bring to the area 20,000 tons of liquid air, the highest concentration in Britain, to be contained in 50mt tall tanks. Scottish Ministers appear to have approved the fact that an EIA won't be necessary. Mr. MacLean and JP will create a document to analyse this and identify eventual further steps to take.

**AOB**

+ Mr. James Jarvie contacted FCC saying that his mother Ms Rosemary Jarvie left a sum of money to FCC. IH will be receiving a cheque made to FCC.

Ms Jarvie was particularly fond of the Victoria fountain, which is presently being looked after by the Fairlie Community Gardens

+ MoP: On the shore path, just south of The Causeway, there is a sharp bend where cyclists may potentially fall; would it be suitable to have a fence built?

+ MoP: The wooden bridge by the marina is starting to show signs of rot; who owns it? It is competence of Largs CC.

The meeting closed at **08:46pm**.

The next FCC meeting is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 at 0730 pm at the Seemple Centre, 45 Main Rd.