

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGENDA FOR MEETING ON 28 OCTOBER 2025

19:00 HOURS AT FORGLEN HALL

Website: www.afcc.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlvahForglenCC/>

Contact: secretary.alvahforglenc@gmail.com

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

<https://teams.live.com/join/9360378464422?p=3V4Ex8ATbSNh2KxHbw>

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising
 - a) Bogton Noticeboard
 - b) Forglen Cemetery Car Park
 - c) Kirkton of Alvah Church.
 - d) Sub-groups- Community Benefit: Moray East Wind Farm community benefit vehicle : Deveronside path. Request for officer visit to explain Moray East Community Bnefit
 - e) Convention of Community Councils: Meeting 10 October to discuss concerns over renewable energy projects and major energy infrastructure in Aberdeenshire, Angus and Aberdeen City
 - f) Community Benefit associated with Brownside Solar Farm.
4. Finance ; Current AFCC Bank Balance
5. Rural Broadband AND Digital Voice.
6. Planning Applications:

APP/2025/1515 Site Address: Turfhill House, Forglen, Turriff, AB53 4LR Applicant: Mr James Morley c/o SM - Architectural Design, 9 Whitehills Court, Ellon, AB41 8AW Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse
7. Floral Displays and Public Amenity Areas/ Wildflower areas
8. Arts Group
9. Campaign for better Funding share for Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian
10. Community Ownership Fund: Community Buildings/derelect land
11. Updates from Aberdeenshire Councillors
12. Any Questions from Members of the public
13. Any other Business
- 14. Date of Next Meeting – 25 NOVEMBER 2025 ALVAH HALL**

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Secretary email: secretary.alvahforglenc@gmail.com

WESTHILL AND ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the meeting on 12th June 2025, Westhill and Elrick Community Council (WECC) agreed to put together some simple information on funding of local authority and health services in the Aberdeenshire area. This is with a view to encouraging other community councils to join forces to campaign, in a non-political way, for a better share of funding from Scottish Government. The decision followed many months and years of local councillors having to report to WECC on cuts to services, budget reductions and the share of funding available to the Council.

This campaign needs to be kept simple. The funding formulae for local authorities and the NHS Boards are very complex and take into account a significant range of factors. However, our area has been repeatedly disadvantaged by the process, over many decades. The impact of this is really starting to be felt now.

Whilst it could be argued that decisions on exactly how funding is allocated locally is up to our elected representatives or, in the case of NHS Grampian, a Board made up of local appointees, with chronic underfunding over decades, their position is extremely difficult and such budget decisions have to be made from a very disadvantageous start.

Out of 32 local authorities, Aberdeenshire Council receives the 4th lowest level of funding per head of population, £2,813 against an average of £2,973, i.e. 94.6% of average. Only Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian receive less per head of population. The three island councils receive between £5,214 and £5,889 per head of population. A significant proportion of this excess over average is made up of an allocation for transport which is understandable. Even if the figures for the three island local authorities are taken out of this exercise, given their small populations, it only alters the average amount per head by £33. It should be noted that Scottish Government has a sort of safety net whereby no local authority will receive less than 85% of the average.

To be just average, Aberdeenshire Council would need to receive an additional £42 million per annum. To match the highest level of funding for a mainland council it would need to receive an additional £181 million per annum.

Based on just being average would result in an additional £42 million. Such large figures can be difficult to comprehend, so we need to put it into context.

At the moment, there are over 100 road defects, within the WECC area, logged on Aberdeenshire Council's fault reporting portal. Every one of them has a note to the effect that the defect has been inspected but no action planned meantime as worse defects elsewhere are getting priority. If Aberdeenshire Council received average funding from Scottish Government, and decided to allocate it all to road maintenance, it could spend over 4 times as much as it does on maintaining roads. That would sort the problem.

We have heard anecdotes of teachers having to buy, from their own pockets, essential materials for their class work. If Aberdeenshire Council received just average funding from Scottish Government and decided to allocate it all to secondary education, it would increase the budget by 31% and mean that every school can get an extra £2.5million. If it allocated it all to primary education, it would increase the

budget by 33% and mean that every school could get an extra £287,000. If it distributed it across all secondary and primary schools, it would mean an additional £1174 per pupil. What a difference that would make.

It must be remembered that these shortfalls are not a one off. This has been going on for decades and by now, at these sorts of levels, means that local authority services since the formation of Aberdeenshire Council have been underfunded by well over a £1 billion in real terms. It is therefore unsurprising that we are now seeing the cracks. It was inevitable with such chronic underfunding.

It is a similar, possibly even worse, picture with NHS Grampian which is entirely funded by Scottish Government. As with local authorities, funding is distributed on the basis of quite a complex formula. Grampian Health Board receives only 89.9% of the Scottish average per head of population. This equates to a figure of £150 million per annum to be just average. We know that Grampian has the lowest number of hospital beds per head of population in Scotland and that it has a much publicised multimillion deficit. Scottish Government has made a loan to help to cover this deficit, but it has to be paid back. The amount of the loan is around half of the annual shortfall below the Scottish average. Although a huge amount of money, the deficit is less than the shortfall below the Scottish average. So, it seems reasonable to assume that NHS Grampian's finances would be healthy if it received only the Scottish average.

In conclusion, it appears to be indisputable that the public authorities on which we rely to provide essential public services are seriously underfunded compared to the Scottish average and that this is a chronic problem over decades.

Local politicians have tried to get this situation improved, but the shortfall is still immense and we are now starting to really feel the effects of this.

Something needs to be done to redress this unacceptable situation.

It is proposed that the support of all community councils across Aberdeenshire be sought and thereafter a summit held with all the MSPs to present this to them and seek their support in getting something done by Scottish Government to resolve this.

WM30/07/2025 for WECC