

Communities Zone

30th Sept.
5-6pm

C.LTA5 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - VP Communities, Ellie Hammond (EH)
 - Arts Volunteer Officer, Tom Mackenzie (TM)
 - Housing Volunteer Officer, Aidan Lewis (AL)
 - Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Erin Smith (ES)
 - In Attendance
 - 40 Ordinary Members
 - 2 Staff Support
 - Apologies: None
 - Absent without apologies: None.
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Minutes ratified by EH
 - No objections
- **Challenges to Order Paper: None.**
- **Dates to Note**
 - Black History Month – October
 - [Autumn Elections](#): Nominations Close – 3 October
 - [CZEC Deadline](#) – 5 October
 - Nibble & Natter w/ Disability Volunteer Officer every other Tuesday @ 1pm – 7 October
 - Be You @ Stirling SU LGBTQ+ Drop In. Every other Wednesday @ 11am – 8 October
 - [Climate Festival](#) – 13 October
 - [Autumn Elections](#): Polls Open – 16 October
 - [Stirling Fund Deadline](#) – 21 October
 - [General Meeting 1](#) – 30 October
 - Mental Health First Aid Training w/ NHS Forth Valley – 28 & 29 October
 - Islamophobia Awareness Month & Movember – November
- **Society Dates to Note**

- Global Justice & MENA hosting screening of Foragers, by Palestinian Film Maker Jomana Mana – 1 October
- Air 3 running DJ nights at Slanj-A-Va (Maisie's Monday Mixes) every Monday
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - CZEC Elections: Standing members
 - Paul Graham (HUSSARS) – President Member
 - Adam Johnston (Greens)– President Member
 - Emily Deuchars (Acapella) - Lay Member
 - Will Pein (Debating) - Lay Member
 - Ali Rees (Brig, LGBTQ+) – Lay Member
 - Austin Scott (Air3 Radio) - Lay Member
 - Resignations: None.
- **Reports**
 - Vice President Communities, Ellie Hammond
 - Sustainability
 - Challenges to the University's ethical procurement policy. Leading to a change in suppliers and waste contract with BIFA.
 - Supporting Community fridge and garden.
 - Collaborated with the University on campus biodiversity strategy.
 - Beginning work on Green Impact Awards.
 - Parking & Transport
 - Trial car share programme with the university.
 - Bus route between SpringKerse park and ride to the campus unfeasible, EH is in talks with McGill's to find a different solution.
 - New addition of ticket staff should speed up journey times.
 - Societies
 - Society Shield initiative
 - Early plans to secure Airthrey Castle as society common room.
 - Gender-Based Violence
 - Reclaim the night at Stirling Castle, organised by EH.
 - University has agreed to cease supporting 'Erase the Grey' campaign.
 - Accessibility & Equality
 - LGBTQ+ Drop In Session run by EH in the green and blue space
 - Plans to introduce tactile paving on campus after consulting with Forth Valley Sensory Centre.
 - Housing

- Assisting Student President with national housing campaign.
 - Beginning collaboration with charity 'Marks out of Tenancy'
- Arts Volunteer Officer, Tom Mackenzie
 - Organised the Arts Fayre which took place during Welcome Week.
 - Interacting with different societies, art collections, and outside groups to help build a closer community.
 - Working on collaboration between Art Club and the Politics Society.
 - Plans to make contact with Macrobarts Art Centre and work on The Pathwork Project.
- Housing Volunteer Officer, Aidan Lewis
 - Researching student accommodation to better understand their rights and the unique issues they face within university accommodation
 - Looking to draft support for students in terms of tenancy advice and guidance to support students with their housing issues.
- Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Erin Smith
 - Collaborated on the University's biodiversity strategy plan.
 - Looking to start project for long term bike hire at the University.
 - Attended community energy networking event at Creative Stirling.
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - Vote to make Community Zone meetings in person rather than hybrid.
 - No majority – meetings will stay hybrid
 - Autumn Elections
 - Co-curricular Volunteer Officer, International Volunteer Officer and Media Volunteer officer roles are still open. These will be elected during the autumn elections.
 - Society Shield Award
 - If a series of criteria are met by a society, they will be featured on the Students' Union social media, a possible Instagram takeover and shield status on the website providing promotion for the society.
 - A final Society Shield Award can be won at the awards ball with a prize of £500 for the society.
 - The term runs from April 2025 to April 2026, and the criteria includes:
 - Run a give it a go session
 - At least one committee member attends all 4 community zone (does not have to be the same person)

- All committee members to have completed the two online training modules (Don't be a bystander, Consent matters)
 - One committee member to attend the finance and admin training
 - At least one committee member to attend a workshop (First aid, Mental Health first aid, NHS Workshop, etc)
 - 50% voter turnout within your society in next semesters Union Elections
 - Updated society documents (Constitution and Handover)
 - Incorporated sustainability initiatives into your activities or taken part at in the Climate Festival
 - At least one fundraising initiative
 - At least 10 paid/registered members
- Community Champions
 - New volunteer awards scheme for individuals that are on society committees. An opportunity to be awarded for the hard work you put into the society.
- Student Group Finance
 - New ways of processing reimbursements
 - We are trying to figure out why societies can't view their account balances
 - You can review the training video on the Society Finances and Grants section on the committee resources via the website.
- CZEC Grant Information
 - Up to £200 for the society.
 - Jordyn is happy to review the application if you would like feedback before submitting.
 - First deadline is the 5th October with the CZEC meeting on Tuesday 7th where you can attend and make the case for why you should have the money.
- LGBTQ+ Drop Ins
 - Information on VP Communities Instagram.
- Sensory Awareness Training – Sensory Room Forth Valley
 - Aim is to increase blind and deaf awareness
 - Interest shown both online and in-person, so EH and staff will look at arranging this.
- MHFA Training Info & Sign Ups
 - Offers basic information about mental health problems and helps to remove the stigma and fear of approaching a person in distress.
 - Member asks if any sessions will be available in the future. This will only happen if the sign-up numbers are met.
- **Any Other Business**
 - CZEC results (elected members):
 - Paul Graham (HUSSARS) – President Member

- Adam Johnston (Greens)– President Member
- Emily Deuchars (Acapella) - Lay Member
- Will Pein (Debating) - Lay Member
- Ali Rees (Brig, LGBTQ+) – Lay Member
- **Date of Next Meeting:** 11 November 2025
- **Reserved business:** None.