

Culross Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 10th June 2013

Held in Town House

Present:
Cllr David Alexander (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Diane MacKenzie
Cllr Tim Collins
Cllr Willie Ferguson
Cllr Clare Short
Cllr Siné Russell
Ex Officio Present:
Nil
In attendance:
Elaine Longmuir, NTS Sian Loftus, Little Houses Project Maureen and Gilbert Fotheringham, Members of Public
Apologies Submitted:
Cllr George Connelly MBE (Chair)
Cllr Robert Nelson (Treasurer)
Cllr Kate Stewart

The meeting started at 7.00 with Cllr David Alexander in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
1. Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed all present.	
2. Declarations of Interest	Nil	
3. NTS Update	<p>Elaine Longmuir, NTS, introduced Sian Loftus of the Little Houses Project. Sian outlined plans for 6/7 The Cross which is to be reinstated back from flats into two 'vertical' two-bedroomed properties. Sian advised the meeting that this property was the second oldest in the village and therefore of great historical interest. It is hoped to involve Culross Primary 6 & 7 children in the design aspect of doorways and gates for the property as part of a project featuring 'design in an historic landscape'. They would then have follow up visits to artists and blacksmiths and eventually see the chosen design being made at a forge.</p> <p>Building work to commence in August or September 2013, with the aim of the properties being ready for rental by the public in summer</p>	

	<p>2014. In order to fund the project, the now empty property "Beechwood", adjacent to The Red Lion, is to be sold by NTS, possibly with outline planning permission for a small house to be erected in the back garden.</p> <p>DM raised concern about the grit and Council bins sitting outside 6/7 The Cross. Sian confirmed that these would be moved.</p> <p>Sian confirmed that an A3 display panel would be made to illustrate the plans and work to be done on 6/7 The Cross. Agreed to update the CC as more information becomes available.</p> <p>Sian also reported on "McKenzie House", the empty property opposite Bessie Bar Hall. Little Houses have contacted the owners and offered to buy the property but no response received as yet.</p> <p>Elaine reported no major events, just usual running of the properties. She was disappointed that the Newsletter was not in current production as she was unable to advise locals of "free entry" through its pages. Hoping to do a mailshot to the community which DM offered to assist with.</p> <p>DM to send Elaine pictures of the overgrown vegetation on the NTS wall bordering the Session Green.</p>	<p>SL</p> <p>SL</p> <p>EL/DM</p> <p>DM/EL</p>
4. Approval of Previous Minutes	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th May 2013 were approved.</p> <p>Proposed: David Alexander</p> <p>Seconded: Willie Ferguson</p>	
5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting	<p>Re: Roy McCormack Community Fund</p> <p>DM confirmed that Mandy had now located all paperwork pertaining to the Stables.</p> <p>Ken Munnoch of Stables Management Committee to stay involved. Plans ongoing.</p>	
6. Treasurer's Report	<p>No report available as Treasurer unable to attend meeting.</p>	
7. Correspondence Received	<p>TC advised the meeting that correspondence had been received from Canada concerning an old Culross town lamp (similar to one hanging outside the Townhouse). The correspondent was willing for it to be returned to Culross, but how to get it here? Agreed to ask NTS if they wished it.</p> <p>Resume of all correspondence was given, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Emergency Services info/input • FC – delays signage • Solar Panels, Parley House • Devilla Wind Farm • Portal for Community Councils • Changes in Planning Laws 	<p>TC/EL</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older persons housing • Specific needs housing • Request for info & mins of public parking meeting • Haggs Wynd • Letter to Environmental Services • Public toilets • Title to West Green • Devilla Wind turbines • Take part in Research • Blocked path/lights action 	
8. Chair's Report	No report available as Chair unable to attend meeting.	
9. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports	<p>WF reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass to be cut for Gala this week, thereafter every fortnight. Long grass at river path noted. • Level crossing gate now repaired. • Vegetation at Bin area at East End Park now cut back and burnt fencing to be repaired. • 6 breaches in railway fencing had been noted and repairs to be made. • Model aircraft landed inside perimeter fence of ash lagoon last week. 	<p>WF</p> <p>WF</p>
10. External Meeting Reports	<p>Valleyfield Liaison Committee – meeting to go ahead re: Ash Lagoons/Ranger Service/maintenance of footpaths. TC mentioned the poor condition of the 'non-slip' surface on the footbridge.</p>	WF
11. Input from Members of the Public Present	<p>Maureen and Gilbert Fotheringham (MF & GF) attended the meeting to raise the issue of the blocked pathway between Orchard View Cottage and the Primary School. DM read aloud to the meeting previous correspondence received from the Rights of Way Society and Fife Council. MF concerned that this had been a Right of Way for over 70 years so why was it not in use now? GF asked the CCC to approach former Provost John (Ginger) Robertson as he believed that Ginger had paperwork proving it to be a Right of Way when he was a Councillor with Dunfermline District Council. GF asked if there was not a wayleave for the main sewer with Scottish Water which came down the Newgate and continued over the disputed pathway? CCC confirmed that they were in favour of upholding all Rights of Way and suggested that as they had already tried to resolve this issue, perhaps GF should contact Andrew Ferguson of Fife Legal Services directly regarding this matter, the Rights of Way Society and also Ginger</p>	

	<p>Robertson. Details of addresses and phone numbers to be given to GF by DM. WF to also raise with Legal Services FC.</p> <p>MF also asked for Strynd Vennel to be considered.</p> <p>MF & GF left the meeting after their input.</p>	DM
12. Planning	<p>1. Parley House – Planning application for solar panels. No comments, no objections.</p> <p>2. Changes in Planning Laws noted. Now need 5 objections to get to Committee level.</p> <p>3. CCC – summer recess – need to keep an eye open for planning applications during this period.</p>	
13. AOB (Any Other Business)	<p>1. CCC Vacancy. One vacancy remains on CCC. WF reported that a new family, Mr and Mrs Stirling, had now moved in to what was formerly Bill Battison’s farmhouse and Mrs Stirling may be interested in joining CCC. Also welcome addition of their children to Culross Primary school.</p> <p>2. Repair of Fencing East Car Park. In hand, see Item 9.</p> <p>3. West Green House. Title Deed located and sent to Andrew Ferguson, in the legal department of Fife Council for interpretation. Ongoing.</p> <p>4. Wind Farms. DM attended meeting in Saline hosted by the wind turbine firm Renewable Energy (RE) who are working in partnership with the Forestry Commission. Proposal to erect 11/12 wind turbines in Devilla Forest producing potentially 2Megawatts of power each. RE pay £5,000 per magawatt per turbine. This could raise a community benefit of £120,000 per year and Culross may be able to receive portion. Potential for communities to contribute to cost of a turbine - cost £2m each, approx. repaid over 10 years.</p> <p>TC noted that if it were to go ahead, due to their extreme height, the tops of the turbines would be visible from the Coastal Path in Culross.</p> <p>DM advised by RE to wait until full planning permission had been granted before CCC submit any application for community benefit.</p> <p>Brewsters Farm to resubmit their planning application for own private turbine – possible community benefit?</p> <p>5. Culross Walking Guide. DM presented a</p>	<p>WF</p> <p>WF</p> <p>DM</p>

	<p>mock up of maps and guide to walks and Rights of Way within the Culross area. To be ready for sale at the Farmers' Market on 30.06.13.</p> <p>6. Village Signage. DM provided an update on signage and confirmed that in conjunction with Scott Blythe of Transportation Services, ordering of signage was in hand and new signs should be in place by end of Aug/Sept. Also signs on history of Red Lion and Abbey to be in place soon. DM confirmed that she has submitted an evaluation form to Fife Council.</p> <p>7. Village Newsletter. DA to ask Duncan Woods if he still wishes to produce the Newsletter. DM suggested that a single page news-sheet would be quite acceptable if this made the task less onerous.</p> <p>8. Village Clean Up – Tuesday 21st May 2013. DM reported that 13 people turned out and 1 skip was filled. It appeared that Community Workers had already been out round the village the previous weekend. Thanks to everyone involved.</p> <p>9. Road and Pavement Repairs. Yellow markings on roads indicate that something is about to happen! CS to get in touch with Ian Jones.</p> <p>10. anchors/Repainting/Refurbishment of Plaques. DA suggested that this might be a useful project to be handed over to Young Offenders team. WF to find out more & advise Tim. Money for Hammerite paint to come from Environment Fund. Also discussed 'short cut' beside west-most Anchor on to Coastal Path and agreed that funds should be set aside from Disability budget to turn into a proper slope access for wheelchairs and bicycles.</p> <p>11. Blocked Right of Way. See Item 11 in Minutes.</p> <p>12. Flower Tubs. £180 paid from Floral Fund to various members of the public who have adopted tubs. 42 tubs now adopted around the village. Following feedback from Balgownie West, it has been decided that there is insufficient space to locate a pavement tub and hanging baskets present a difficulty in watering.</p> <p>13. Hanging Gardens. DM reported that the</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DA</p> <p>CS</p> <p>WF/ TC</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM</p>
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	<p>affected wall at the bottom of Erskine Brae homeowner's garden has now been dismantled and rebuilt by the homeowner. Half way along the Hanging Gardens, the coping stones still remain dislodged. Further along, a huge tree is threatening the safety of the wall. DM has spoken to the homeowner and he has agreed to remove the tree.</p> <p>14. Haggs Wynd. CS reported that Fife Council had reported that the wall, which has badly eroded sandstone, was safe but should be closely monitored. They agree that the wall does belong to FC. DM to send pictures to CS for onward transmission to Ian Jones of FC. GC has already written to Andrew Ferguson of FC asking for urgent repairs to be made, costs being covered by the Common Good Fund.</p> <p>15. Culross Conservation Appraisal & Management Plan 2009. DM confirmed that this document had been discovered online and was worthwhile reading for all.</p> <p>16. Dundonald Arms. GC has now heard back from Mr Jim Ryce, owner of the Dundonald Arms Hotel. He is happy for the CCC to use the rear of the building to establish a temporary car park, if they wish to do so, at their own expense. DA to progress.</p> <p>17. Roy McCormack Community Fund. It has been confirmed that the RMCCF will be established to raise funds to benefit the community in Culross. Committee members to include DM, CS and Derek Burns. Constitution to be established. Launch to be made with flyer through every door. Fund-raising suggestion of 'Tablet in Jam-Jar' (Roy's favourite sweet) – buy jar of tablet at Farmer's Market, eat tablet and save coins in jar. Return jar + coins to the RMCCF at the Festival in August.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>DM/CS</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DM</p>
14. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Next Meetings. Monday 2 September; Monday 14th October 2013 at 7.00m in the Town House. AGM – Monday 4th November 2013. Agenda to be circulated to Cllrs for comment input prior to being displayed on notice boards.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

The meeting ended at: 8.35pm.