

## Culross Community Council

### Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

#### Held in Town House

<b>Present:</b>
CCC Cllr Tim Collins (Chairperson)
CCC Cllr David Alexander (Vice-Chair)
CCC Cllr Robert Nelson (Treasurer)
CCC Cllr Diane MacKenzie
CCC Cllr Siné Russell (Mins Secretary)
CCC Cllr Eileen Laidlaw (Correspondence Secretary)
CCC Cllr Clare Short
<b>Ex Officio Present:</b>
FC Cllr Willie Ferguson
<b>In attendance:</b>
Elaine Longmuir, NTS
Gail Bald
<b>Apologies Submitted:</b>
FC Cllr Kate Stewart

The meeting started at 7.00 with Cllr Tim Collins in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
	The Chair welcomed all present.	
<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	FC Cllr Kate Stewart	
<b>1a. New CC Cllr</b>	DM introduced Gail Bald to CCC. TC invited GB to become a councillor and GB accepted. Proposed: TC Seconded: DM	
<b>2. NTS Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EL reported that she had been spending the closed season bringing admin work up to date.</li> <li>• A new Senior Assistant to the Property Manager was to be advertised in the Job Centre (30 hrs/week). DM to also display advert in the village noticeboards.</li> <li>• Cleaning of the properties begins in March.</li> <li>• Opening date, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.</li> <li>• Work progressing on 6/7 The Cross.</li> <li>• Beechwood still to be refurbished and re-let by the end of the year.</li> <li>• 11 Mid Causeway still to be re-let.</li> <li>• RN enquired as to the deficit that the NTS runs in Culross. EL confirmed the figure to be £65k – pressure to reduce, but will take some time.</li> <li>• Visitor numbers for the Palace last season 10,000.</li> </ul>	DM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTS Shop and Admissions to move to ground floor of Town House</li> <li>• RN expressed his continuing interest in starting a Heritage Group. Keen to recruit volunteers in 50-68 age group to gather information from older residents. Also wanting to recruit younger interest to take the Heritage Group forward. EL to speak to NTS head office to put a team together, possibly Uni students too? DA suggested asking for residents to hand in old photos/objects of interest to EL for 'Antiques Roadshow' session. DM reported that she had met a lady from Culross who was feeling isolated and lonely. DM keen to create a social opportunity for older locals, now that Age Concern no longer running. Possibly tie up with Heritage Group. DM to collect names of older residents who might like to be involved in an occasional social get together.</li> </ul>	DM
<b>3. Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting</b>	<p>The Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 were approved.  Proposer: DA  Seconded: Eileen L</p>	
<b>4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Signage</b> – DM reported that Scott Blythe had been in touch to apologise for the delay. He is involved in fatal accident investigations and has been dealing with these over the Christmas/New Year period. However, posts in stock and just need to be ordered and erected. Also lectern at Culross Abbey and signs for Culross Car Parks to be erected. DM confirmed to RN that 2 finger sign posts are awaiting erection, by volunteers from the village, but this has been delayed due to the current roadworks at the sawmill roadend. RN offered to assist.</li> <li>• <b>Bench</b> – the cost of replacing the bench damaged during the filming will be £602 inclusive of delivery and installation by Fife Council. To be paid for by Miglet, the film company. Bench and nameplate to be installed soon, but slightly different style as original style no longer available. Current bench sitings to be slightly altered so that new bench will fit in.</li> <li>• <b>Miglet</b> – £1500 - monies for filming inconvenience and bench, received by BACS on 03.02.14. DM reported that Miglet have confirmed that they are likely</li> </ul>	DM/RN

	<p>to return in April/May and not March as previously intimated. Therefore, buildings at The Cross will remain in the current colour until filming completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>DART Energy</b> – RN reported that meeting cancelled in December.</li> </ul>	
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	<p>RN circulated copies of his monthly report:</p> <p><b>Current Account</b></p> <p>Opening Balance: £5224.03  Income: Newsletter: £ 96.00  Paths Guide £ 67.50  Expenditure: Wreath £ <u>-29.80</u>  Closing Balance - £<u>5357.73</u></p> <p><b>Environmental Account</b></p> <p>Opening Balance: £1195.68  Income: £ 0.00  Expenditure: Examiner Gift £ <u>-20.00</u>  Closing Balance: £<u>1,175.68</u></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Balance of Signage Grant at 26.01.14 = £4645, held in Current Account.</p> <p>RN advised CCC that he was still awaiting the account for the bonfire insurance. CS confirmed this had been submitted via Gala Committee but that this would take some time to come from Fife Council.</p> <p>DM enquired whether the Paths Guide monies should not be in the Environmental Account. RN confirmed that as the cheque had been written out to Culross Community Council, it had not been possible to bank in the Environmental Acc. He would however be transferring the £67.50 to the Environmental Acc.</p> <p>DM advised RN that due to funding application closure dates for grants, she will need copies of the accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.</p> <p>RN expressed concern at printing costs for Newsletter – approx. £500. Advised that this is due to colour printing in this current edition.</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>DM/RN</p>
<b>6. Correspondence Received</b>	<p>Eileen L gave a resume of Correspondence received since the last CCC meeting:</p> <p><b>External E-mails to CCC on yahoo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TC – On Shore Community Benefits. ScotGov publication.</li> <li>● Wm Walsh – Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-20. Stage 2 consultation - closing 28.02.14</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wm Walsh – Customer Forum – Strategic review of Water Charges 2015-21.</li> <li>• Wm Walsh – Planning and Renewal Energy Forum on 28.01.14, Edinburgh + Resource Efficiency Planning Tool.</li> <li>• FC – Info about various bodies offering Grants.</li> <li>• FC – Fife Access Forum Evening Seminar, 05.02.14, Fife House, Glenrothes.</li> <li>• FC Planning – Changes to Late Representation Process.</li> <li>• K Banks, NHS Clinical Governance – Pharmaceutical Consultation. Closes 21.02.14</li> <li>• FC Planning – West Fife Planning Committee. Agenda for 22.02.14</li> <li>• DM – Greener Together Awards. Closing date 31.01.14.</li> <li>• K Banks, NHS Clinical Governance – Consultation on Carers Legislation. Closing Date 16.04.14.</li> <li>• FC – Fife’s Cultural Consortium. Road Show Rothies Hall, 19.02.14.</li> <li>• Wm Walsh – Plunkett Foundation Support.</li> <li>• Update on CCF Funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM – Playpark – with continued updates.</li> <li>• DA – Culross Citizen Award</li> <li>• TC – Ken Munnoch re: Coastal Communities Fund and The Stables</li> <li>• Enid, DM – Planters</li> <li>• TC – Sian Loftus 6&amp;7 The Cross and empty houses</li> <li>• DM – Devilla Forest re: modifications to sawmill entrance</li> <li>• Planning Apps – Culross, 6&amp;7 The Cross – formation of gates. Kincardine, erection of wind turbine at Bogside Farm, Alloa.</li> <li>• DM – Rights of way in Culross</li> <li>• DM – Scott re: signage update</li> <li>• DM – Miglet re: o/s invoice for filming.</li> </ul> <p>CS - confirmed that Floral Enhancement Grant for this year had been approved.  DA - suggested the sponsoring of flower tubs again this year. Agreed at £10 per tub.  It has been noted that some damage/vandalism has been caused to some tubs over the last couple of months and one at the Lockit Well has disappeared. GB confirmed that she would replace this with one of her own.</p>	<p>GB</p>
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<b>7. Chair's Report</b>	<p>TC reported that discussions on The Stables had not moved very far forward. It was suggested bringing all key personnel concerned together in a single meeting. TC to continue to try to move discussions/plans on. Building Energy Survey was conducted over the phone re: estimates for insulation, windows and doors. Unable to discuss walls, etc. Needs a visit and proper survey.</p>	<p>TC</p>
<b>8. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports</b>	<p>Cllr Willie Ferguson reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oakley Police Station is NOT to close, despite rumours circulating. The station will remain open.</li> <li>● New fencing, bordering the railway track, is currently being installed at Low Valleyfield and Culross – green in LVF and galvanised in Culross.</li> <li>● Emergency repair to seawall in Culross completed following severe weather.</li> <li>● Possibility of some funding for new playpark from Scottish Power, if application made. Expected funding from Miglet of £1k did not come as they did not in the end make use of Scottish Power's car park.</li> <li>● Fife Councillors have a pot of money – around £500k – to be dispensed before new budget on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. WF to fight CCC corner re: playpark application for funding.</li> <li>● Eileen L asked WF if the fencing on the landward side of the coastal path by Pond Cottage was to be renewed too by either FC or Network Rail? WF confirmed that he would look into this.</li> <li>● It had been noted that hedge cutting along the coastal path had not had the top of the hedge cut. WF confirmed that new contract had been given to Land Engineering this year. RN hopes to obtain a quote of £100 to cut the hedge tops with tractor and trailer brush cutter.</li> <li>● Regarding the railway crossings, WF confirmed that there was pressure from Network Rail to close the one at Pond Cottage. Doing so however, would prevent access for emergency vehicles to the railway line/lagoon. However, the large stones placed by a home owner on this pathway are already impeding vehicular access to the railway crossing. DM advised that the pier reinstatement began originally in response to Network Rail wanting to close the pier rail crossing. CCC agreed that it was important to keep</li> </ul>	<p>WF</p> <p>RN</p>



	<p><b>Play Park</b> – DM reported to CCC on the progress of the proposed Play Park. A community survey sheet had been made available and of the 120 issued, 70 had been returned. Results as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 68 out of 70 in favour of new playpark</li> <li>- 40 agreed on a Nautical theme (14 from school)</li> <li>- 27 did not agree (all from school)</li> <li>- 3 no opinion</li> </ul> <p>Toddler Group – all agreed on Nautical</p> <p>Other ideas suggested from School – Beach, Castle or Coal themes.</p> <p>DM informed CCC that FC have advised that at this late date for applications, they need to have only 1 design, already put together, with a detailed application and all boxes ticked, or cannot be considered for the money. They suggested a pre-agreed plan. However, three companies have agreed a bespoke design in 3 weeks. Therefore it was agreed to give each of the designers the same brief – display these at a meeting and choose the most popular.</p> <p>It was further agreed to investigate the possibility of incorporating the Common Good Land Drying Green into the design and removing the hedges which parents feel hides children from their view and erect a low fence at the roadside instead. DM to write to Andrew Ferguson in Estates regarding this.</p> <p>Toddler group have suggested having a small enclosed area for very young children.</p> <p>Various ideas were discussed on play possibilities and materials to be used e.g. physically challenging, energetic types of play for fitness, balance etc in main play area. Use of natural materials e.g. wood, ropes. Picnic tables to be incorporated into the design. Agreed that two distinct areas of play would be best for older and younger children.</p> <p>Surfaces were also discussed – wet pour, grass, play grit, bark, rubberised bark, etc.</p> <p>Toilets – could they be upgraded?</p> <p>Budget – maximum budget £100k – after that require planning permission from Fife Council. However, for practical purposes of funding, CCC agreed that £75k would be their choice. DM has already applied to Tesco for £4k. Possibility of funding from:- Fife Environmental Trust - £30k; Locality budget, Lynn Hoey - £25k; Common Good fund - £20k; Scottish Power; West Fife Villages Forum + fundraising by CCC.</p> <p>RN asked for clarification on funding.</p>	<p>DM</p>
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	<p>Total cost of project to be gathered before scheme can go ahead. Once funding complete, Fife Council advised and they go ahead with work. CCC hold all monies until playpark finished and then 'gift' the money to Fife Council.</p> <p>DM to prepare design brief and deliver to the three companies tendering by 04/02/14.</p> <p>The three designs to be presented at next CCC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> – RN concerned over cost of colour version of Newsletter at £1.40/copy. Black &amp; white version of previous Newsletter was cheaper.</p> <p><b>Bins</b> – A breakdown was the cause of the delayed collection.</p> <p><b>A985</b> – An Eddie Stobart truck overturned at Christmas and also a car next to cottages at Brewster's farm. Since the accident with the harvester, there have been 3 more incidents. Work has begun at the sawmill entrance to improve visibility. WF to advise CCC concerns with Roads department, but advised that action gets measured in fatalities!!</p> <p><b>Complaint</b> – from resident over New Year fire. CS to knock at door and explain.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all in attendance and the meeting ended.</p>	DM
<p><b>13. Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Next Meeting – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 at 7pm in the Town House.</p>	

**The meeting ended at: 8.55pm.**