

Culross Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 31st March 2014

Held in Town House

Present:
CCC Cllr Tim Collins (Chairperson)
CCC Cllr David Alexander (Vice-Chair)
CCC Cllr Robert Nelson (Treasurer)
CCC Cllr Eileen Laidlaw (Correspondence Secretary)
CCC Cllr Siné Russell (Minutes Secretary)
CCC Cllr Clare Short
Ex Officio Present:
Nil
In attendance:
Elaine Longmuir, NTS
Sgt. Jillian Neil – Police Community Officer, P Division
Apologies Submitted:
CCC Cllr Diane McKenzie

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

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
	The Chair welcomed all present.	
1. Apologies for Absence	CCC Cllr Diane McKenzie who was on holiday.	
2. NTS Update	<p>EL advised that the NTS opening day was Thursday, 3rd April 2014.</p> <p>The tearoom is trying to make a profit this year and will now be open 12-3pm.</p> <p>Artie, formerly of the Singing Kettle, will perform in July.</p> <p>New Assistant Manager in place who is keen to get involved with forming a local history group once she has settled into the post.</p> <p>“Beechwood” – has been advertised for rent. Upgrade not taking place. Hoping that a low rent will encourage new tenant to make improvements.</p> <p>“6 & 7 The Cross” – work progressing well.</p> <p>Otherwise, business as usual.</p> <p>TC asked if NTS could make a small contribution to the Newsletter – EL replied that she has no budget for this. DA suggested taking out an advert for the tearoom and Artie. EL to be advised on costs for advertising.</p>	TC
3. Guest Speaker	Police Community Officer, Sgt Jillian Neill, of P Division, has	

	<p>recently returned to the area and is stationed at Oakley Police Station along with 7 other officers covering SW Fife and the West Fife villages. She confirmed that there is now no front counter at Oakley, but the police station is manned day and night.</p> <p>Police have also been issued with cycling equipment to get out and about and deal with community issues.</p> <p>The non-emergency number to call for police assistance/enquiries is 101. Emergencies as usual on 999. Diary appointments are made to see a Community Officer by ringing 101.</p> <p>Keen to be involved in any Community events to give a positive police presence. TC suggested Farmer's Market in June.</p> <p>Dates for Community Engagement meetings, hosted by Police Scotland, are posted on West Fife Village Forum. Concerns can be e-mailed in to Community Officers, e.g. speeding, anti-social behaviour has been targeted recently in Kincardine.</p> <p>Can assist with Community Speed Watch programmes, run by the public and reported to the Police.</p> <p>Regarding recent housebreaking incidents, Gillian confirmed that a male had been detained. She advised use of timer lights when out of the house at night as most burglaries were opportunist.</p> <p>RN raised issue of speeding/crashes on A985 which she acknowledged and advised that the contacts for assistance with road improvements would be Fife Council and BEAR Scotland. RN confirmed that approaches to both have been made. TC to raise issue with FC Cllr Willie Ferguson.</p>	TC
<p>4. Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting</p>	<p>The Minutes of 3rd March 2014 were approved: Proposed: DA Seconded: RN</p>	
<p>5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</p>	<p>It was acknowledged that "Age Concern" was the name used in Culross for the former senior citizens group, now disbanded, and that any future group being organised would choose a new name. (The former "Age Concern Scotland" and "Help the Aged" have now become one entity called "Age Scotland".)</p> <p>Empty Housing – New FC Empty Housing Officer to be appointed. Eileen L to supply addresses of empty properties to him and keep correspondence going.</p> <p>Tubs – TC still sourcing/pricing tubs. Approx. £50/barrel, £25/half barrel. Gail Bald to give TC list following walk round village.</p> <p>Slate Loan – RN has inspected and it appears debris has been washed down. Suggested that pathway needs to be cut back in order to clear debris on a regular basis. RN to speak to owners of Balgownie House.</p> <p>RN confirmed that he had spoken to Mr and Mrs MacDonald</p>	<p>Eileen L</p> <p>TC</p> <p>RN</p>

	re: cutting done at the Newgate. He has also agreed to oversee the Abbey flower beds.	RN																
6. Treasurer's Report:	<p>RN circulated copies of his monthly report:</p> <p>Current Account</p> <table data-bbox="504 264 1098 409"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance:</td> <td>£5,510.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: Spring Newsletter:</td> <td>£ 168.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure: Winter N'letter:</td> <td>£ - 500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Balance -</td> <td><u>£5,178.23</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Environmental Account</p> <table data-bbox="504 483 1098 555"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance:</td> <td>£2,743.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: Floral Grant</td> <td>£ 402.00</td> </tr> </table> <table data-bbox="504 595 1098 667"> <tr> <td>Expenditure:</td> <td><u>£ NIL</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Balance:</td> <td><u>£3,145.18</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Balance of Signage Grant at 23.03.14 = £4645, held in Current Account.</p> <p>RN reported on several invoices received since his Balance Sheet, which will be itemised next month. He expressed his concern over the Newsletter costs and suggested switching to black and white printing only. TC advised that the saving would be minimal and felt that colour printing gave quality and encouraged contributors. Low Valleyfield Community Council have agreed to give £50 contribution, however, Kincardine when approached gave a negative response. It was suggested that parents, who receive copies via the school but are living outwith the village, could be charged £1 a copy. Russell Play are to be asked to supply a graphic image of the new playpark for the front cover of the next Newsletter.</p>	Opening Balance:	£5,510.23	Income: Spring Newsletter:	£ 168.00	Expenditure: Winter N'letter:	£ - 500.00	Closing Balance -	<u>£5,178.23</u>	Opening Balance:	£2,743.18	Income: Floral Grant	£ 402.00	Expenditure:	<u>£ NIL</u>	Closing Balance:	<u>£3,145.18</u>	
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**7. Correspondence
Received**

Amna Khan:
e-Safety and Online Child Protection. Conference
NHS Fife:
Public Representative Opportunity for Area Drugs
Therapeutic Committee.
Joan Milne, FC Corporate Services:
Info about various funding bodies.
David Birrell:
Fife Cares Bulletin
Strategic Development Planning
March Bulletin
Diane/CCF:
Climate Change Gathering 2014 - 24 April 2014, 9.00 - 4.40
pm. Community Central Hall, Maryhill.
Jeannie Carwardine:
Letter regarding Jeannie's explaining that she does not
want her property to be incorporated into the playpark
design.
Dorothy Brownlie, FC:
Minutes of Valleyfield Meeting on 6th March.
Diane:
ENTRUST Newsletter
Inner Forth Wildlife Funding:
Four year project.
Letter from Tim Green:
Concerns about the playpark design relating to the
communal drying green and and removal of hedges.
Diane/FC:
Changes to Council Tax charges for empty homes.

Planning Updates:
Bogside Farm, Alloa. Application for change of use from
agricultural land to form domestic curtilages.
Diane to Scott Wilson, Culross PS:
Trees for communities fund.
Tim to Elaina Musgrove:
Forthcoming Gala details.
Tim/West Fife Villages Forum:
Two people attending the Windpower Siting Meeting at
Blairhall Community Centre on 27 March.
Diane:
Workday in Community Garden - Saturday 29 March.
Eileen:
Letter to Sylvia Taylor, Empty Homes Officer, FC.
Response from John McArthur, requesting addresses of the
properties involved.
Tim to CCF:
Completed CCF Application for The Stables funding.
Diane, re: Playpark:
Playpark updates/presentation/decision/Common Good
Land/FET Funding application submitted. Mar 26, from
Clare, approval from ENTRUST project approval for
playpark. Signed Partnership Agreement from FC received.
Application to West Fife Area Common Good Fund has

	<p>been processed. Will go to committee for decision. Diane/Robert: Recording and submission of expenditure. Diane: Grafitti at carpark. Gail Bald: Resignation from CCC. Diane: Sign advising of removal of present playpark equipment.</p>	
8. Chair's Report	<p>Main efforts directed at completing draft application for the CCF grant for The Stables funding. Deadline 4th April and application submitted well in advance. If successful, full application required to include 3 quotes from various contractors involved – insulation/electrical/joinery/double glazing. Local contractors for preference over lower cost quotes appears to be acceptable, within limits. Community survey – only 13% response rate, but showed diverse number of activities that people travelled to outwith the village. Tubs – took a walk round the village with DA and Gail Bald and Gail produced list of tubs to be replaced and their locations. Subsequently Gail had to resign from CCC due to unforeseen family issues which was a pity as she was keen to get involved. Culross Old Peoples Welfare Society – bank books dating from 2008 were passed to Jeannie Carwardine by John Connor's widow. Jeannie then forwarded these to TC. There is a Constitution requiring 8 members minimum of which a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are officials. CS to meet with Cathy Beveridge who is an account holder and ask who other Committee Members and signatories were. TC keen for CCC to re-engage with the elderly community in Culross. DA suggested setting a date for a Coffee Morning for the elderly and see who turns up. Abbey Coffee Shop available all day on a Monday and can hold 14 people. Need a minibus for transport. TC suggested a stall at the Farmers Market. Community Garden – no further contact since the last meeting, but an unofficial discussion seems to indicate that they wish to continue as they are for the time being. Newsletter – contributors have been notified that next issue will be out in late May, copy deadline of 4th May. Front cover picture suggestion was to acquire an image of the proposed new playpark from the contractor.</p>	CS
9. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports	None.	
10. External Meeting Reports	None	
11. Planning	Bogside Farm – Planning application for two houses.	

<p>12. Any Other Competent Business</p>	<p>War Memorial Hedge – needs trimming. To request FC attend to this before 11/11/14.</p> <p>Play Park Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area design produced by Russell Play was chosen as the overwhelming favourite at the consultation drop-in event held on the 17th March. DM has requested updated drawings to be displayed on the notice boards and will post as soon as they are received. • Results have been publicised on S1Culross, notice boards and the various groups in the village have been emailed. • DM has applied for funding before 31st March 2014 deadline (Fife Environmental Trust £30,000, FC Locality Budget £25,000 and Common Good Fund £20,000). Securing the necessary funding to take the project forward will be the most challenging phase. • CC should know the outcome of funding applications by late Summer/early Autumn 2014 and if successful we are hoping for a planned installation date of Spring 2015. • Update on the progress of the project should be available in autumn 2015. If the £80,000 funding is secured we will then be able to refine the chosen design to incorporate some of the valuable feedback provided at the consultation drop-in. • CC received concerns from 4 members of the community about including the common good land known as the former drying green area in the design and issues about removing the hedge were also raised. DM has made FC Legal Department aware of the objections and elected officials will discuss the proposals at their next ward meeting (16th April) • Concerns raised about removal of hedge- CCC committed to ensuring any new play park area should maintain, enhance and showcase the importance of biodiversity. If successful in securing funding, CCC will plan to incorporate wildlife hedges and meadows into any new play area to compensate for any loss of wildlife and this would offset the removal of the privet hedge- should it subsequently be removed. • CS to acknowledge receipt of letter to J Carwardine. • CS & EL to draft reply to Mr Green re letter. <p>TC extended, on behalf of CCC, his gratitude to DM for all her hard work and effort on bringing the the Playpark project together and the completion and submission of the funding applications.</p>	<p>WF</p> <p>DM</p> <p>CS CS/EL</p>
<p>13. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next Meetings – Monday, 12th May 2014 and Monday 9th June, both at 7pm in the Town House.</p>	

The meeting ended at: 8.35pm