

Saline and Steelend Community Council

Minute of Meeting of 26.11.13 in Saline Community Centre

Present

John Crane (chair) Jim Hensman, Marie Crane, Donald Murdoch, Joan Featherstone, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Peter Ball, Kay Jackson, , Roger Featherstone, Muriel Phillips, Till Kroeber, Irene Wardell, Helga Corp

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

JC advised that he would be continuing as chair in the meantime with JH standing in when required

2. Apologies

David Chisholm, Cllr Kate Stewart, Jim Currie, Isobel Menzies, Dave Quinney

3. Minutes of Meeting of 20.10.13

Approved. Proposed by JF, seconded by MC

4. Matters Arising

- JC confirmed that that a letter had been sent to Fife Council relating to the community council's concerns about the dangerous condition of the Saline to Oakley road, particularly with regard to the two housing developments that are proposed for this area the issues raised at the October meeting

5. Cllr Clelland's Report

Cllr Clelland reported that the one way system is operational in Oakley. This does not affect access to the shops and health centre.

Fife Council has concluded agreements for restoration of the St Ninians and Muirdean opencast sites subject to some legal matters. The Council is now moving on the Blair House site where 2 companies are interested. Members felt that there would be benefits from involving the communities in possible alternative restoration with possible financial benefits. Members were concerned about the inadequate fencing and the possibility of danger to users of the right of way and particular concerns of children swimming in the hole

Fife Council's draft budget is out for consultation and show possible savings of £94 million. This is available on line

6. Treasurer's Report

£2788.14 is currently held but only £545.60 is available to the community council with the balance required to restore the Barrowman Plough and an amount ring-fenced for future bonfire and firework displays. The Bonfire Night made a profit of £114.38, considerably down on last year.

JC and MC will not be organising next year's event and JC will prepare another article

JC

for the Community Bulletin seeking a new organiser. JC is willing to brief a new organiser and provide an information pack but, if a volunteer is not found, there will be no event in 2014. It was noted that Martin King was the only new volunteer this year and his sterling efforts were welcomed.

PH advised that the Congregational Board had confirmed its preferred site for the Barrowman plough and the matter has been passed to the Church of Scotland General Trustees. JC has been informed that planning permission is not required. PB also indicated that the church will need to be absolved of any liabilities

7. Secretary's Report

MP advised of several planning applications that had no impact on the community. She also advised that Fife Council was consulting on its Draft Housing Land Supplementary guidance that can be found on the Council web site

8. Blair House Opencast

MC advised that there has been a Trustees' meeting and that £6723 has been paid out

9. Outh Muir Planning Application

JC reported on the last meeting of the Liaison Committee. The committee had discussed how proposed the community fund would be allocated should planning permission be granted. It was felt that the preferred option would be to divide it up by community council area with Saline and Steelend receiving 30% with other community councils receiving between 5 and 15%. JF felt that this meant a done deal regarding planning permission but TK advised that participation on the committee did not imply support for the application and that our representatives had stuck to the mandate previously agreed. DM considered that the representatives had negotiated a good deal for the community and moved that they be given a further mandate as suggested. JF opposed this and, following a vote, the motion was approved.

JC highlighted that the community council had officially submitted an objection to this application but that we still had a responsibility to keep a close eye on any community benefit that was being negotiated

JF queried the grant of planning permission for a wind turbine at Killernie Farm, which she felt was contrary to Fife Council's policies.

10. West Fife Villages Exhibition of Art and Photography

JC indicated that it had been agreed that the 2014 event would not take place. As with Bonfire Night, new blood is required if there is to be an event in 2015. It was noted that there had been a poor turnout by local people but increased visits from outside the area

JC

11. AOCB

- It was noted that the Comms Group needed help to meet publication costs for the Community Bulletins. JC indicated that Knockhill Racing Circuit had offered a donation of £100 that was gratefully accepted. JC will collect a cheque
- JF expressed concern that the test mast at West Craighouse had not yet been removed and asked whether JC had contacted Craig Mitchell as agreed

JH

previously. JC confirmed that he hadn't managed this and apologised for the delay

- JF reported on discussions with JH and the supplier of the Christmas tree. (Redcraigs Nursery) Due to weather damage, there isn't a suitable tree available but she believed that Craig Mitchell had offered one. MC indicated that she had spoken to Mary Mitchell who had said that Hallcroft Farms didn't have any trees but that Jim Evans had previously suggested that he had a suitable tree. It was therefore agreed that JH will speak to Jim Evans. JF indicated that Saline Environmental Group had no funds and felt that this was a community council matter. MC indicated that this was originally an SEG project that the community council had previously contributed to but had also confirmed that it would not contribute in 2013. The possibility of using the lights previously bought will be investigated.

JC

It was agreed that, if Jim Evans cannot supply a tree, there will not be one this year.

Peter Ball stated that it was unlikely that the church authorities would agree to the planting of a fir tree in the church grounds.

DM/JC/
MC

- JF asked for an update on the Development Trust membership and AGM. KJ indicated that there were currently 65 members with other applications to be determined at the next meeting. The AGM will be held in early 2014 when the interim committee will stand down and seek election if necessary. Members will be advised of the date and eligibility for election as a trustee.
- HC advised of problems for elderly and/or disabled people accessing the community centre and suggested that a handrail was required. JC confirmed that he hadn't been able to address this issue yet but would do so. It was suggested that there is a need for an accessibility audit of the centre and John will discuss this with the secretary
- DM reported on support for the "West Fife String of Pearls" proposal at the recent "Talking Tables" event and of concerns over the future of the proposed path to Oakley. JF referred to her report to the October meeting when she outlined the problems experienced by SEG. Nevertheless, DM felt that efforts are made to resolve these issues and suggested that the Development Trust be asked to take this on board. Following a vote, a clear majority supported this proposal
- Joan and Roger Featherstone submitted their apologies for their unavoidable absence from the January and February 2014 meetings

JC

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2014 at 7.30 in Saline Community Centre

