

Saline and Steelend Community Council

Minute of Meeting of 27.05.14 in Saline Community Centre

Present

John Crane (chair) Jim Hensman, Marie Crane, Donald Murdoch, Muriel Phillips, Isobel Menzies, David Chisholm, Joan Featherstone, Roger Featherstone, Peter Ball, Jim Currie, Helga Corp, Alan Robertson, Irene Wardell, Morag Aitken, Jean Morris, Jean Alexander, Robert Squairs, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Alan Fowler (Fife Voluntary Action)

2. Apologies

Dave Quinney, Cllr Kate Stewart, Kay Jackson, Sandy Carstairs, Till Kroeber

3. Minutes of Meeting of 29.04.2014

Approved. Proposed by AR, seconded by JF

4. Matters Arising

- JC reported that he had asked Fife Council to examine the leylandii in the overgrown Upper Kinneddar garden. He had been informed that a request would have to be made by neighbours and that a fee of £350 would be required. AR pointed out the possibility of vermin being present. Cllr C outline the problems associated with Fife Council taking legal action
- JC has written to Transportation requesting a site meeting re congestion on Oakley Road. He has invited JF to this meeting. Cllr Clelland indicated that Fife Council has approved the preparation of traffic calming proposals that should be started in October following consultation locally.
- JC confirmed that provision of a ramp at the community centre entrance door was impossible and that handrails were to be installed.
- DC has established that planning permission will be required for the siting of the Barrowman plough in the church grounds. This will involve significant expenditure. PB indicated that the Congregational Board and insurers were easy with the concept of a long-term loan, and were awaiting a response from the Church of Scotland General Trustees
- DC advised that there were mixed opinions on the use of the redundant Oaklea play area. However, he had been approached by several parents who were concerned about the provision of facilities generally. The concept of further examination was supported and it was noted that Saline and Steelend Development Trust was willing to help parents develop their ideas
- A meeting with Liz Murphy re disabled access to Saline cemetery has been arranged for 29th May. Those involved have been invited. It was noted that an apology was made and it seems that access has been improved
- JC indicated that he has written to Fife Council three times regarding removal of the anemometer mast at West Craighouse with no response received

JC/JF

DC

DC

5. Councillors' Report

Cllr Clelland advised that, while the date at which the bond for restoration of the Blair House site had been triggered, the insurers have been reluctant to meet Fife Council. Independent lawyers have been appointed to liaise with the insurers. He warned of potential costs to the council should legal action be necessary.

Concerns were expressed about security on the site and it was noticed that the Police had found children in the pond. It was agreed that the Health and Safety Executive should be contacted and DC offered to do this

DC

6. Guest: Alan Fowler

Alan is employed by Fife Voluntary Action that was established around 18 months ago as a merger of 3 former bodies. It is funded by Fife Council and the Scottish Government to provide support services to communities. Organisational Development and Capacity Building are key roles. JC suggested that FVA should be invited to the SEG AGM. JF advised that the group had met to agree the agenda and that she would need to speak to the rest. AF indicated that he would be happy to attend and provide assistance but would prefer a formal invitation. JF advised that the AGM was open to everybody

7. Treasurer's Report

£2383.71 is currently held but only £24.17 is available to the community council with the balance ring-fenced for other projects. The annual grant has not yet been paid despite considerable work by the treasurer

8. Police Report

8 calls were received between 29th April and 23rd May. The Police have been active regarding speeding and had visited Saline with speed guns. It was noted that a major factor in the low incidence was the electronic sign at the Oaklea/Main Street junction

9. Secretary's Report

MP advised that the new ship in Rosyth Dockyard was to be named on 4th July but that the public would not be allowed in. She also advised of a seminar on path maintenance in Glenrothes.

It was noted that Fife Council will be consulting on bus subsidies and that questionnaires will be available in Dunfermline bus station or on Fife Direct. She advised that, on 19th June, there will be a bus on Main Street, Saline from 9.15-9.45 and in Steelend from 9.45-10.15. The public can visit to discuss their need/opinions with council staff.

It was noted that work to improve drainage at West Park has been completed and has made a significant improvement. The secretary will contact Fife Council to express the community council's appreciation

MP

10. Turbine Proposals

The proposed changes to the turbine at Lockshaw Moss have been approved. The developers will be paying an additional royalty to reflect the increased output. The

JC

annual sum will be £6000 and will be distributed via the West Fife Villages Community Councils Forum

11. Main Street, Saline

Problems of congestion have been raised at Police Liaison meetings. There appears to be a specific problem caused by cars for sale at the garage being parked on the street. DC will contact the owner to investigate an amicable solution.

DC

12. Blair House Site

JC had circulated a draft letter to Fife Council's Chief Executive expressing concerns about the lack of action towards reinstating the site. It was agreed that this should be sent as an open letter

JC

DC advised that he had met Thomas Docherty MP who had indicated a willingness to help

Cllr Clelland advised that the Scottish Government had relaxed the rules on opencast coal operators working in proximity to communities. He noted that there were coal reserves adjacent to the Blair House site that could fall into the new category. There was considerable astonishment that the government should relax rules in the light of recent developments.

JF

13. Killernie

JF queried the proposed sale of land at Steelend and Mr Squair's husbandry of the land. She said that she had been told that Mr Squair had sold his tractor and only had 50 sheep remaining on the farm. Mr Squair responded by saying that he had disposed of the tractor as it had been sitting idle for much of the year and had other vehicles that could do a lot of the work previously done by the tractor. As far as his sheep were concerned, he said that he had over 400 on the farm at present. He described how he was operating and offered to open his books for examination by Cllr Clelland, who responded by saying that this was not necessary. Mr Squair said that JF should check her facts before presenting them in public. He added that there was a vendetta against him, he could not understand why and that it was very upsetting. The chair said that his information was that the Squairs had entered into community activities since their arrival in the village. The meeting felt that Mr Squair's activities were not matters for the community council and that any Housing issues would be addressed if a planning application is submitted.

DM

MA and JM advised that some Steelend residents were concerned about the possible access road but did not have an issue about the land being sold. They advised that Steelend residents saw merit in additional housing in Steelend. DC suggested that development of the football ground would be an option and it was noted that the community council had previously indicated provisional support for this to Fife Council.

14. AOCB

- MP advised of outbreaks of Japanese Knotweed in Saline Glen. Other outbreaks have also been noted and there was concern that this would spread. It was noted that public bodies do not have powers to force owners to eradicate the plant and the possible expense in treating it. Nevertheless, it was felt that costs should be obtained and DM will discuss this with a local expert.

- JF advised of the open AGM of the Saline Environmental Group on 18th June to which all are invited. The group will shortly be cleaning and staining seats and benches and will be participating in Saline Church's Fun Day. JC asked whether the wooden entrance signs could also be restored.

She advised that the group has agreed to take on responsibility for the school orchard from the Forestry Commission. DC indicated that, in the context of a discussion on another project, the Forestry Commission had mentioned that the final agreement was not yet in place, they had indicated that discussions with JF and others about the orchard were at an early stage. JF expected this to be resolved at the SEG AGM
- DC advised on Saline and Steelend Community Development Trust activities. The Trust has a priority of creating the postponed Saline to Kinneddar Park path. The Big Lottery remains supportive while Fife Council anticipates starting the Oakley to Kinneddar Park link next year. To progress matters, a letter has been sent to the Forestry Commission's Deputy Operations Director seeking her assistance to resolve the current impasse

SSCDT is participating in the "String of Pearls" proposal to link West Fife Villages communities to Keltly and Lochore Meadows. Saline and Steelend have key roles and he will be attending a meeting to agree how communities can work together on this. DM will represent the community council at this meeting.

Applications have been submitted to a number of bodies for funding to improve information and facilities such as seats throughout the community. This will be linked to training while Saline Primary School will be actively involved in creating associated art works. If funds are raised, there will be meetings with other organisations to agree how best to use the resources

SSCDT is aware of the problems of parking and access to Saline School. A sketch proposal for additional parking at the bus turning circle, a new access to the school with possible associated green space and a small development of elderly persons' bungalows has been prepared for further discussion with the community and landowners

A "100 Club" is being developed and members encouraged to participate. Profits will be distributed to worthwhile projects in the community

The Trust has offered support to the "Saline Smilers" group who are seeking to improve play facilities and to Saline Church regarding its Elderly Support Project

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th June 2014 at 7.30 in Saline Community Centre

