

**West Fife & Coastal Villages Community Council Forum
Comrie Community Centre
Thursday 24 February 2011**

Agenda	Discussion Points	Action

<p>Present</p>	<p>John Bonnar Oakley/Comrie Tim Collins Culross Muriel Colver Blairhall Marie Crane Saline/Steelend John Crane Saline/Steelend John Duffy Torryburn & Newmills Jim Hensman Saline/Steelend Willie Hepburn Kincardine David A Lord Carnock/Gowkhall Cllr. Bobby Clelland Fife Council Cllr. Willie Ferguson Fife Council</p>	
<p>1. Apologies</p>	<p>Ann Macdonald Cairneyhill Sue Hamilton Charleston, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Lynn Hoey Fife Council Cllr Kate Stewart Fife Council</p>	
<p>2.a Chairman's Statement</p>	<p>David Lord stated that owing to his other, non-Forum commitments, he felt it necessary to stand down as chairman. He would like to continue to represent Carnock & Gowkhall CC [subject to C&GCC chair's approval]. DAL apologised to members that, towards the end of 2013, these commitments, an annual holiday in October, and an emergency family health situation in November, had meant that he was unable to make arrangements for meetings those months. He trusted that he could help the incoming chairman return the Forum meetings to their previous frequency and activity.</p>	
<p>2.b Election of new chairman</p>	<p>Cllr Ferguson offered to assist at this point with the transition of the the post of chairman. Cllr Ferguson temporarily took the chair and called for proposals for the post of Forum chairman. Willie Hepburn proposed John Duffy; DAL seconded the proposal. There being no other proposals for the post, Cllr Ferguson asked members if they agreed to JD's appointment: agreed unanimously. DAL offered to continue chairing for the duration of the meeting having prepared the agenda: John Duffy agreed. Tim Collins said on a point of order that, having now elected JD as chairman, he should immediately assume that role: DAL acceded: JD took the chair.</p>	
<p>2.b Minutes Secretary</p>	<p>DAL added to his report that the lack of a minutes secretary is exacerbating the ease with which we arrange our meetings, inform members and visitors, and produce timely minutes. As suggested by members previously, he had spoken with and emailed Lynn Hoey asking if there might be a member of Fife Council's local clerical staff who might take on this role. She has agreed to make enquiries and will let us know results shortly. John Duffy reminded member that Hazel Jow had also been our de facto treasurer. In practice, this is a minor role of chequebook keeping, and noting the occasional expenses for room hire. It is hoped</p>	

<p>3. Police Report</p>	<p>that a new minutes secretary could similarly continue this additional activity. JD asked who had the chequebook, and who are the signatories. DAL said he had Hazel Jow's files and the accounts books plus cheque book. The signatories are DAL and still Sheila Carribine: that needs updating. DAL will obtain a 'change of signatories' form from Alliance & Leicester [Santander] Bank and pass it to John Duffy to arrange updated signatories.</p>	<p>DAL</p>
<p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<p>With no police officers present, there was no police report. The community policing team sergeant is Jillian Neill. Community Engagement meetings: The dates for the next at Oakley are: 20 March; 22 May; 24 July; 11 Sep; 13 Nov. WH said that many CEMs were very poorly attended. DAL said that C&GCC had a self-delegated person who tries to attend most of these, and does usefully report back. Details are put in the quarterly C&G Gazette.</p>	
<p>5. Forum Constitution</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by JH and seconded by DL.</p>	
<p>6. Planning Issues</p>	<p>John Duffy provided copies of the constitution. He pointed out that we might need to change the wording to take account of the fact that the secretary/acting treasurer positions are appointments rather than elected posts from among members. Furthermore, there was no clear statement of how any funds held by the Forum are handled. This may be an issue if a community benefit comes from the proposed Lockshaw Moss turbine. [Secretary's note: Members discussed the status of the Lochshaw Moss turbine development at this point – details appear below under 6.f Planning] DAL offered to look at the wording in the context of the Fife Council Scheme for Community Councils, which Democratic Services recommend forms the basis of CC constitutions. He will draft suggested clauses for further discussion.</p> <p>a. FIFEPlan – 7 Feb 2014 deadline: DAL is submitting an entry for both C&GCC b. Outh Muir turbines: It is likely that this will go for decision 18 March. c. Blairadam 14/00008/EIA: This has now been submitted for planning approval. It is likely there will be considerable opposition from CCs outside Ward 1 residents to the east of Steelend are likely to oppose this d. Fife Council turbines in West Fife: The Dunfermline Press article refers to Fife Council proposing to submit plans for smaller turbines on a number of its school, community, and infrastructure sites. FC will hold community consultation events to inform local residents. e. Dart Energy coal-bed methane extraction Falkirk: This is going to a public enquiry hearing beginning 18 March and is likely to last</p>	<p>DAL</p>

<p>7. Council Officers/ Elected Members Reports</p>	<p>three weeks. DAL had previously submitted an objection to this on behalf of the Forum. This is based on the fact that waste water is planned to be pumped into the Forth near to Grangemouth. Any pollutants and residue may end up on the west Fife shoreline. Dart Energy should be informing Fife residents about this and consulting with them, too. This has not happened. There was a general discussion about this project, and other unconventional gas extraction processes that might come to Fife. Member felt there was little information coming to CCs: we should be informed earlier about these potential projects, since exploration licences already exist. There is a strong local [Falkirk] community action group [FAUG] opposing this proposed drilling project and there has been over 2,500 objections. f. Lockshaw Moss turbine: 12/029776FUL [Delegated to Karen OHare] John Crane asked if members knew what was happening about this. The site crosses the boundary of Blairhall and Saline. Has construction started, or have the developers decided not to proceed? Cllr Clelland explained that the developers have withdrawn the original application: a new planning application was being made for a larger turbine. g. Bogside traffic: XX[Who was it?] asked 'What was happening with all the construction lorries along the Bogside Road'. Cllr Clelland explained that DCC had a license to remove old bing material. Cllr Bobby Clelland: <i>New budget plans:</i> There have been wide consultations, though attendance and response had been somewhat variable. FC are now making final decisions and these will be available for viewing on line <i>Planning:</i> There will be a meeting of the West Fife Planning Committee in the Central chambers 3 Feb 2014. There will be a closed pre-determination meeting beforehand.. <i>Improving local democracy?:</i> There is a proposal to try and decentralise powers to stronger area committees with area councillors; these bodies will act like min councils. Cllr Willie Ferguson: <i>Recent storm surge:</i> There had been concerns about potential flooding at Kincardine and other low-lying points. However, nothing of any significance had occurred. <i>Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board:</i> are in discussions concerning consolidating and sharing control rooms. The closest will be in Edinburgh and Glasgow [police only?]. Thornton and Dunfermline stations will become non-operative. Knockhill-Powmill road was undergoing reir under a joint BEAR Scotland-FC contact. <i>Surface mines restoration or re-operation:</i></p>	
<p>8. Community Council Feedback</p>	<p>Blair House SM: There have been no offers; it is considered to be a poor investment There will be a Blair House Community Liaison Group meeting on 7 March 2014. The bond insurers are not conversing with FC legal at present. The planning consent requiring restoration comes in to force in March: the next stage in the legal</p>	

<p>9. Any other business</p> <p>10. Date of next meetings</p>	<p>process then begins – await further news. The other Fife SM sites: St Ninians – this is re-working after a redefining of contracts. Muir Dean, Crossgates – some problems yet to be solved.</p> <p><u>Saline & Steelend:</u> JH informed members that another wind turbine planning application is for 180 ft installation on the farm between Kinnedar and Cowstrandburn. If planning consent for housing is permitted at The Grange under proposals in FIFEPlan, it will add 25% to the population of Saline. This will pose too big a burden on resources in a village with few and limited services, including public transport and schooling, and with possibly no shop. Fife Council planners should be listening more to what local residents are saying.</p> <p><u>Blairhall:</u> Muriel Colver said that Rintoul Avenue will be closed for resurfacing from 15 Feb for a short period. The pavement has now been improved. The MUGA and play area have had additions.</p> <p><u>Cairneyhill:</u> No report.</p> <p><u>Carnock & Gowkhall:</u> DAL had nothing significant to report.</p> <p><u>Culross:</u> Consultation between residents and FC are ongoing concerning improvements and upgrading to the play area by the green.</p> <p><u>High Valleyfield:</u> DAL and JB had attended a meeting in HVF Community Centre, chaired by Lynn Hoey, Locality Manager, Fife Council to discuss what arrangements might be made for commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Valleyfield mining disaster. Suggestions had been submitted for improving access to the memorial at the site; also for some refurbishing of the memorial nearby the community centre. Lynn will take these ideas back and arrange a further meeting in March to continue this commemoration project.</p> <p><u>Oakley & Comrie:</u> John Bonar said a new Walking Group had been formed. Plans were under consideration for the development of the Sports Hub.</p> <p><u>Kincardine:</u> The Mercat Cross has been removed for restoration under the guidance of Historic Scotland. The cross dates back to 1831, though the original one was there 351 years ago. The sports field drainage had been attended to, though there was some uncertainty as to whether this was now satisfactory or not. About 500 persons will benefit from grants coming from the Coalfields Regeneration fund.</p> <p><u>Saline & Steelend:</u> The Community Hall and adjacent stables were undergoing an upgrade. The spring edition of the community newsletter was now published and distributed. The bus turning circle on the A823 has major foul water drainage problems: SEPA are investigating.</p> <p>Nil.</p>	
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