

Culross Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 2nd February 2015

Held in Town House

Present:
CCC Cllr Tim Collins (Chairperson)
CCC Cllr David Alexander (Vice Chairperson)
CCC Cllr Robert Nelson (Treasurer)
CCC Cllr Diane MacKenzie
In attendance:
Cllr W Ferguson
Paul Foley NTS Property Manager
Kingsley Bruce NTS Estate Surveyor (South)
PC Chandler
PC Drummond
R MacKenzie
Apologies Submitted:
CCC Cllr Eileen Laidlaw (Correspondence Secretary)
CCC Cllr Ben Cook
Cllr K Stewart

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	Eileen Laidlaw, Kate Stewart, Ben Cook	
2. NTS	<p>Paul Foley NTS Property Manager Culross confirmed approval of budget to relocate the admissions office and retail shop to the Town House. The east wing of the Town House will be used for exhibition space and Tourist Information – Fife Tourism Partnership & Camus are investing in virtual tourist information hub.</p> <p>NTS are awaiting confirmation from Clanranald the proposed Pirate weekend scheduled for 8th & 9th August is progressing as planned and meantime liaising with Ryan Nelson regarding plans for the Farmer’s Market expected to be the same weekend.</p> <p>NTS are hosting a Community Open Day on Saturday 21st March to introduce the village to the new shop, admissions area and NTS Volunteers etc. Will promote via the newsletter, notice board, toddlers & school etc.</p> <p>Meeting arranged with Scott Wilson, Head teacher Culross Primary School, to review programme of events and education on offer via NTS and establish long term plan.</p> <p>Kingsley Bruce, NTS Estate Surveyor, advised he is first point of contact for tenants in the NTS properties and there is a system in place should tenants wish to seek an independent opinion on a matter of concern.</p> <p>All properties are currently let at present and demand remains high when filling vacancies. There has been a</p>	

	<p>phased programme of rent increases as many have not been increased for many years but NTS are conscious not to increase beyond a reasonable and affordable level for tenants.</p> <p>Progress being made with the purchase of MacKenzie House and more details will be known by the next meeting – hope is to restore and repair to a habitable dwelling.</p> <p>Agreed to publicise and promote the rolling programme of investment in the Little Houses Scheme and the benefits for all of the NTS properties in the village.</p>	
3. Guest Speaker	PC Chandler & PC Drummond, Community Policing Officers based in Oakley and keen to come to as many CCC meetings as possible. Advised no crimes reported in the Culross area during the last month and the local Community Engagement Meetings will continue to set the local police priorities. These meetings are open to the public and held in the Admin Building, Ash Lagoons, Low Valleyfield – the meeting of January 2015 set speeding as the priority.	
4. Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting	The Minutes of 1 st December 2014 were approved: Proposed: DA Seconded: RN	
4. a Approval of Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting	The minutes of Inaugural Meeting of the newly elected members of the CCC was held on 1 st December 2014 were approved: Proposed: DA Seconded: RN	
5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:	The signage poles have still to be set at Devilla. Painting the anchors as part of the village clean up is still to be completed.	DA TC DM DA TC
6. Treasurer's Report:	RN circulated copies of his monthly report. Both accounts are in credit and holding funds ring-fenced for various projects. The annual council grant has been received and the Christmas Quiz held at the Red Lion raised £215 towards the former Drying Green Common Good Land picnic area.	RN
7. Correspondence Received	<p>EL was unable to attend the meeting but gave a written summary of correspondence received on the yahoo account and highlighted:-</p> <p>Letter received from Mr Balfour, Agent on behalf of Owner of 4 – 6 Mid Causeway (former Dundonald Arms Hotel Car Park) consultation of permanent closure of right of way and subsequent correspondence to submit CCC objection, advise FC of objection, advise Scotway's of objection and neighbours of application.</p> <p>Letter received from Scotways regarding the Geddes School Path Right of Way FD14. Scotways are recommending that the National Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) be amended to show that the southernmost section of route FD14 (i.e. that part lying South of Low Causeway and leading to the coastal path) had been lost, not having been used in more than 20 years. The CCC confirmed there had been no further correspondence/communication between village residents and the community council on this matter since 2013.</p> <p>Application to Locality Fund for new Senior's Group. Emails publicising the Culross Forum Meeting to be held on 19/1/15. On-going correspondence finalising new play park design, including further consultation at School Christmas Fair, and fulfilling related funding requirements. Various planning applications and updates that are not contentious at this time.</p>	EL TC DM

8. Chair's Report

This is the first CCC meeting of 2015 and a lot has happened since the last meeting in December 2014.

Firstly: A retrospective application to close the right of way through the Dun car park has met with vigorous opposition from the whole community.

NTS advised have registered an objection to the application to close the right of way through the former Dundonald Car Park in order for a dwelling to be built there.

The meeting agreed this right of way has been in daily use for many decades and long-standing residents have testified to this. The alternative routes are inaccessible for prams, wheelchairs and the senior citizens and many letters of objection to this closure have been submitted highlighting these concerns. It has been confirmed there is no building warrant in place and it is not known how the eastern gable can be erected without access to the neighbouring land, access which hasn't been requested and which won't be given.

It is anticipated the s/w Area Committee will consider the application at the next meeting to be held on 24th February and this meeting is open to be the public.

Members of the community would like to display luggage labels on the fencing expressing their dismay at the state of the site and the removal of the right of way – the meeting supported this plan and offered to small financial grant if required.

The annual Christmas trees were well received by the community at large and installed in time to allow the younger children to decorate the community garden tree.

The Ceilidh and torch-lit procession was well attended and a great success to be repeated next year. Insurance premium was £53.

The round table discussion of all the village voluntary groups seems to have been well received and is already showing co-operations and synergies between the groups. It was agreed by the group to meet again in the autumn and review the effectiveness of the co-ops.

All enjoyed the senior citizens beetle drive and a number of ideas for future events were put forward. We have forms to apply for some financial assistance from FC for this group.

The suggested summer outing is a trip to the Helix Kelpies and the Falkirk wheel.

CCC does not qualify for "recurring" grants but we can apply for individual events or series of events. The bus trip will be our first attempt to garner funds from FC for the seniors. We are working towards April 15th as the date for the trip.

The next issue of the newsletter is well under way and the deadline for copy is still 15th February. Some groups have yet to send information. Reminders have been sent but the events calendar that everyone wanted will have a lot of blank TBA boxes unless the groups come forward with the information.

CCC has been gifted a 42" flat screen TV and a HP Lap Top by *Virgin Media Group*

It would be good if we could establish a broadband connection in the stables, the Stephen Memorial Hall or somewhere public. We could then run a few events to get the less IT savy engaged.

9. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports	<p>Willie was pleased to advise Enid had successfully obtained a grant for the newsletter from Scottish Power. David mentioned the value of the multi-disciplinary liaison meeting that used to take place and would be worthwhile to have reconvened.</p> <p>Fence around lagoons damaged and vandalised and this will be repaired; the footpath damaged by Network Rail in Low Valleyfield will be repaired when dries out; the Footbridge is due to be painted; Poaching on the Lagoons to be reported to the Gatehouse at Low Valleyfield on 01383 881043. Wildlife Officers have been on patrol recently.</p> <p>West Fife Village Forum cancelled.</p>	
10. External Meeting Reports	None	
11. Planning	<p>The consultation to formally close the right of way through the former Dundonald Arms Car Park has seen extensive community objection. Expected to be considered at February meeting of s/w Area Committee.</p> <p>Conversion of the Garage at West Green – application is on the existing footprint and is considered to be a sympathetic conversion.</p>	
12. Any Other Competent Business	<p>New play park – following final consultation at the School Christmas Fair the design has been finalised; Red Lion Christmas Quiz raised £215; the tender document is now being prepared by FC; two reference have been submitted by local FC Councillors – Willie & Kate; the Common Good Fund have advised the application from March 2014 will be considered at the next meeting on 8/4/15.</p> <p>Community Fund-raising – David advised he had spoken with Niall at Biscuit Café and proposing to have a monthly quiz hosted in turn by each of the village groups to raise funds for their own activities, alternating between the Red Lion and the Biscuit Café. To be publicised in the newsletter.</p> <p>Farmer's Market & Church Fete – if this goes ahead the CCC would like to have a stall to raise profile & funds.</p> <p>Countryside Trust Ranger donated old interpretation boards and frames that could be used for the new picnic area at the former drying green.</p> <p>Community Mapping Project – seeking to record the local resources, groups and activities in each area of Fife and have been sent the minutes of the recent village Forum for information.</p> <p>Street sweeping requested for Hanging Gardens and Hags Steps as they are covered in fallen leaves and are dangerous. Many more people are using these routes with the new signage directions and walking guide maps.</p> <p>Signage Project – Final stage is to fix Pole at the sawmill road end and erect the sign.</p> <p>Concerns raised about the Wallace Spa right of way becoming overgrown and agreed to walk and investigate solutions.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>DA</p> <p>TC/ RN</p> <p>DA TC DM</p> <p>WF TC/ DA/ DM</p> <p>TC/ DA</p>
13. Date of Next Meeting	Next Meeting – Monday 2 nd March, 7pm in the Town House	

The meeting ended at: 8.50pm