

Saline and Steelend Community Council

**Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 28 April 2015 at 7.30pm in Saline Community Centre**

**Present:** David Chisholm, Marie Crane, John Crane, Morag Aitken, Muriel Philips, Donald Murdoch, Irene Wardell, Fiona Aitken, Ann Hatton, Peter Ball, Jim Currie, Jean Morris, Beth Shaw, David Storey, Maureen Storey, Jean Alexander, Stewart Miller, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Alistair Robertson (guest)

**Apologies:** Kay Jackson, Martin Cairns, Dave Quinney, Jim Hensman, Helga Corp, Cllr Kate Stewart

**Declarations of interest:** None

**1. Chair's introductory remarks:** DC advised the meeting of the passing of Roy Corp, Helga's husband. Helga has been a regular attendee and contributor to community council meetings and he expressed the community council's sadness at this news. It was agreed that a card and letter of condolence be sent to Helga on behalf of the community council.  
**Action: DC**

**2. Guest Speaker:** Mr Robertson indicated that the new CEO of NHS Fife had identified a need for greater engagement with communities and for information to be better distributed. Consequently Mr Robertson has been appointed as NHS Fife Health Ambassador for an initial year. Mr Robertson has identified the key issues as an aging population and a shortage of doctors. He described various initiatives such as use of pharmacists and nurses for minor ailments/injuries that were now taking place, which was welcomed by those present. It was suggested that these could be promoted via the web site. He also indicated that 101 nurses were currently being recruited to address issues previously reported. NHS Fife saw an improved role for community councils. Several of those present noted excellent treatment received at Queen Margaret Hospital.

**3. Additional items for the Agenda/Order of items:** None.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on the 31 March were accepted as a correct record. Proposed by MA, seconded by JC.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting:** Apart from those covered by the agenda.

a) Odour from West Craighouse Farm: The material has now been ploughed in and the matter should now be closed although some complained of a terrible smell on 27 April. DC advised of communications with the farm who had felt that complaints were excessive. He had rebutted this robustly.

b) Consultation on "Making Places" supplementary planning guidance: DM circulated a CD for members to comment on. These should be returned to him or DC by 22 May.

**Action:**

**DC/DM**

c) Reduced Speed Limit Steelend/Upper Steelend: David Storey advised that the petition had now been completed. It was agreed that the Community Council should write to Fife Council's CEO in support of the petitioners. There was some discussion on the effectiveness of a speed limit but that this could be improved by installing village name

signs at Upper Steelend. It was agreed that Cllr Clelland be contacted about this.

**Action: DC/DM**

- d) Villages Web Site: It was noted that many organisations' information, including the community council's, is out of date. Updating is the individual organisations' responsibility and it was agreed that they be reminded of this. The community council page should be updated as a matter of urgency. Info should be fed back to JC to enable him to update the welcome pack. **Action: DM**
- e) Boundary Commission: JC reported on proposals to transfer Saline and Steelend to "The Lochs" ward. This was seen as an ill-conceived proposal and it was agreed that JC be authorised to co-ordinate actions to oppose it.

## 6. Reports

### a) **Secretary**: see attached report

It was agreed that the community council be represented at Fife Council's seminar on Common Good. DM agreed to attend if another volunteer cannot be found and will contact those members unable to attend this meeting.

**Action: DM**

The community council has also been contacted by Julie Gracie from the National Confidential Forum. This organisation was set up to enable people who have spent time in institutional care as children to come forward and share their experiences. They are seeking help from the community council to spread the word and it was agreed that this be done via the Community Bulletin and web site.

**Action: DM**

### b) **Treasurer**

Letters of thanks have been received from organisations given donations.

Payments for hall hire and data protection for this financial year have been paid

The books have been prepared for audit but cannot be passed to the auditors until the bank provides a statement.

The current balance is £2148.29 but £1150 is ring fenced for projects such as restoration of the Barrowman Plough. The community council grant for 2015/16 will be applied for after the accounts have been audited. The amount of the grant is £643.

### c) **Councillor**

Cllr Clelland indicated that he had written to Fergus Ewing MSP asking that Underground Coal Gasification be included in the investigations and consultations on Scottish Government policy on fracking but has not yet received a reply.

## 7. Main discussion items

### a) **Housing**:

- i) Kinneddar Mains/LRD site: DC reported on discussions with Fife Council re objections to the development and decisions taken following consultation with members. It is anticipated that both applications will be presented to committee shortly. There was

disappointment that Fife Council officers have not contacted objectors although it is presumed that the development now meets the criteria set out in the outline consent.

DM advised of financial requirements forming part of the outline consent. Given the considerable artistic talent in the ward and the current project being progressed with Saline Primary School, it was felt that the requirement to contribute to Art should be co-ordinated within the community.

DC advised that the developers (Allanwater) had indicated a willingness to attend a meeting to discuss various issues and it was agreed that this be organised.

**Action: DC**

- ii) Kingdom Housing Association: DC has been advised that KHA is still on course for a site start this year and that the first MMR properties will be provided on the Allanwater site. KHA has also provided a copy of their landscape framework, which was presented to the meeting. Anyone wishing an e copy should contact DM.

## **b) Turbines:**

- i) Killernie Farm/Steelend: MA reported that the developer was now looking to add two additional taller turbines. There is support in Steelend for one additional turbine but, if an application appears for two additional turbines, the residents will need to be consulted afresh. **Action: DC**

- ii) West Craighouse Farm: DC advised of e mails with the applicant who could not understand why people thought that the test mast was the proposed site. He presented a constraints map that demonstrated that the only area that was not constrained was the site currently proposed. Following discussion about a possible public meeting, it was agreed that there was nothing to be gained from this. It was noted that Fife Council had failed to determine the planning application within the statutory period and it had been 'deemed refused'. The applicant has submitted an appeal to the Scottish Government.

- c) **Buses/community transport**: BS reported on her discussions with Aileen Aitken from Fife Council. She sees it as a bigger issue that she will be examining it in a West Fife Villages context. DC advised that his discussions with RVS suggested potential to extend the community taxi scheme to this area.

- d) **Saline Glen and Steelend Community Centre**: DC advised that he had contacted the Scottish Land Fund who have funds for projects like this. However, it was pointed out that there are strict rules for community participation and support before SLF will provide funds. A key factor will be in ensuring that any proposals are financially sustainable. SLF suggested applying for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for a grant to carry out feasibility work. It was agreed that DC and DM will investigate further and provide a draft bid for further discussion.

## **8. AOCB**

JC reminded those present of the forthcoming Art and Photography Exhibition. He is also seeking help to transport and erect equipment.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 26 May