

# Culross Community Council

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### Held in Town House

<b>Present:</b>
CCC Cllr Tim Collins (Chairperson)
CCC Cllr David Alexander (Vice Chairperson)
CCC Cllr Eileen Laidlaw (Correspondence Secretary)
CCC Cllr Robert Nelson (Treasurer)
CCC Cllr Diane MacKenzie (Minute Sec)
<b>In attendance:</b>
Cllr Willie Ferguson
Paul Foley NTS Property Manager
Alastair Robertson NHS Fife Community Ambassador
Keith Davidson Resident
<b>Apologies Submitted:</b>
CCC Cllr Ben Cook
Cllr Kate Stewart
PC Chandler

**The meeting started at 7.00 with Cllr Tim Collins in the Chair.**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Action &amp; Owner</b>
	The Chair welcomed all present.	
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Ben Cook, Cllr Kate Stewart, PC Chandler	
<b>2. NTS</b>	<p>The NTS Open Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March to launch the new information and shop in the Town House was well attended and the new season is off to a good start with a busy Easter weekend, including family Easter egg hunt.</p> <p>Paul &amp; Ryan Nelson met Clan Ranald and agreed proposed Pirate Event is not compatible with Farmer's Market and Church Fete and the events will now be held on separate weekends – the Pirate Event will be on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> August; the Farmer's Market/ Fete 16<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p>Discussions on going re venues/ road closures/ ticketing/ advertising/ community benefit etc. Advised CCC may have to offer something to get community benefit.</p> <p>Bessie Bar Tearoom – meeting taking place with staff next week to consider future plans.</p> <p>Eileen requested NTS support for the CCC campaign to seek official action to prevent the former Dundonald Arms Hotel and Sandhaven House falling into further decay and dereliction given they are listed buildings of significant location in the village. Paul requested Eileen to write again to Kingsley Bruce NTS Surveyor (copy to Willie) highlighting concerns but Trust is currently running at reduced capacity with resultant increase in workloads. Important to maintain visual record of deterioration.</p> <p>Anna Rathband, NTS Filming Department will be attending next meeting.</p>	EL

<b>3. Guest Speaker</b>	<p>Alastair Robertson, NHS Ambassador &amp; former chairperson of NHS Fife, is undertaking this new role to inform people who are working and engaging with people and communities to improve health &amp; well-being. Visiting CC's to give communities a stronger say on how services are developed, to understand the different needs of communities and to encourage a bottom up approach to services.</p> <p>Concern expressed about the number of emails received by CCC and whether they could be more focused and relevant – Alastair requested Eileen to send sample of emails not considered relevant to <a href="mailto:alastair.robertson1@nhs.net">alastair.robertson1@nhs.net</a></p> <p>Willie raised concern about communication between support services for patients being discharged from Larbert Hospital and recognised this is a similar challenge to communities in NE Fife who may be in Ninewells. Talk of introducing 'step down' beds prior to discharge home to enable planned community services to be put into place.</p> <p>CCC have a winter programme of support and are keen to have services focussed on illness/ accident prevention.</p>	<p>EL</p>
<b>4. Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting</b>	<p>The Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 were approved: Proposed: TC Seconded: EL</p>	
<b>5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>DA TC DM DA TC</p>
<b>6. Treasurer's Report:</b>	<p>RN circulated copies of his monthly report. Both accounts are in credit and holding funds ring-fenced for various projects – signage; newly formed Senior's Group; newsletter &amp; new play park/ picnic area. Scottish Power Grant of £24,500 for the new play park received - thanks to Willie – see below for details. Concern expressed that without maintaining clear income/ expenditure for each 'project' there is a risk of spending funds allocated for another priority. Agreed to move signage money into Environmental account and for the newsletter to have detailed costs for next meeting.</p>	<p>RN RN TC</p>
<b>7. Correspondence Received</b>	<p>Eileen gave a summary of the correspondence received including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Police Scotland update on integrated police service &amp; monthly report</li> <li>● Planning – see below</li> <li>● FC Empty Housing Officer/ Planning Enforcement regarding former Dundonald Arms Hotel &amp; Sandhaven House</li> <li>● Fife Cares Newsletter</li> <li>● Play Park updates</li> <li>● Invoice sent for recent filming</li> <li>● Email of concern re Fracking from Tim Green and emailed reply</li> <li>● Updates from TC on the INEOS &amp; Kincardine Public Meetings re Fracking &amp; Unconventional Coal Gas extraction (UCG) – see below</li> <li>● Email from Donald Campbell, Steering Group Against Fracking, requesting information on CCC stance on fracking and offer to attend CCC meeting – see below - meeting discussed this matter at length and determined fortunate to have Cllr's with longstanding knowledge &amp; expertise in the mining industry and agreed to</li> </ul>	<p>EL DM EL</p>

	carefully monitor media in the meantime. The CCC noted offer and will revert in the future if assistance required.	
<b>8. Chair's Report</b>	<p>The village quiz nights are proving to be very successful with the event on March 26<sup>th</sup> in the Biscuit Café in aid of the seniors group raising £131.50. The following event will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> in the Red Lion in aid of the Culross Festival.</p> <p>The senior citizens bus trip is set for the 15<sup>th</sup> April and only two places remain. The grant application to FC for £200 was successful and further donation of £200 received. Carlow Home donating minibus.</p> <p>The setting up of the Digital awareness sessions is proving a bit of a problem and individual sessions are the preferred option. Tim will offer 42" TV to school.</p> <p>Newsletter – many dates have changed since the printing of the last newsletter and agreed to print a slim edition early June to update summer events. Caution expressed about costs and these are to be checked. Eileen asked to contact LV CC to seek funding contribution.</p> <p>The works on the Kincardine Bridge completed ahead of schedule.</p> <p>Attended INEOS Community Consultation meeting &amp; Public meeting in Kincardine – INEOS are looking to the future and extracting gas through Fracking should the current moratorium be lifted and planning permission be obtained as it now owns the licenses for the Midland Scotland Area. Scottish Government Grant has been given to USA company to assess further viability/ feasibility of this. Meanwhile public meeting in Kincardine heard Cluff Natural Resources currently has 100% working interest in 8 deep Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Licenses in the UK including the Firth of Forth near Kincardine – basically the River Forth eastwards from Kincardine Bridge to Crombie Point. This is planned to be their first deep water UCG project and will require planning consents to proceed. CCC will be carefully monitoring the situation.</p> <p>The Right of Way through the Dundonald Car Park is an on going issue and expected to be heard at committee in the near future.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>EL</p> <p>TC RN DA WF</p> <p>DM</p>
<b>9. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports</b>	<p>Longannet Power Station Closure – Willie advised 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 date for closure, slim possibility of this being revised if appeal by an English Generator against National Grid Transmission charges is successful. Moral is very low and community impact huge. Future uncertain for Power Station, possible to convert to gas but highly unlikely. Cheap fracked gas is available from America and Cluff Energy is proposing UCG but none of this is likely to involve Longannet.</p> <p>Ash Lagoons care &amp; maintenance programme being drawn up and discussions will take place with FC in the near future re this and cycle path.</p> <p>Concern raised about unsafe condition of fence next to cycle path/ lagoon at Bon Accord Park – noted this was FC responsibility and Willie will advise.</p> <p>Passenger services on the railway – viability unknown.</p> <p>Discussed Charter Document created by Bellsdyke Community giving communities the right to appeal to Europe should something unacceptable be proposed in the community. At the moment the CCC is closely monitoring the situation and is in a unique position having strong mining expertise and therefore takes note</p>	<p>WF</p> <p>WF</p>

	of the various offers to join with other campaign groups and will revert in the future if necessary.	TC DA RN WF
<b>10. External Meeting Reports</b>	None Attended other than above.	
<b>11. Planning</b>	Approval of matters required for dwelling house at Blair Mains Farm; Alteration including new windows 24 Erskine Brae; Refusal of consent for the Garage at the House at West Green to be converted into dwelling; NTS installation of fascia signs at Townhouse; Screening opinion for proposed erection of single wind turbine at Balgownie Farm; Update on notification periods for planning applications.	
<b>12. Any Other Competent Business</b>	Planters at Blackadder Haven and elsewhere in the village have reached end of life and need to be removed/ replaced – Tim may have a source for a dozen barrels.  Spring Clean Up – date to be decided at the next meeting and to incorporate removal/ replacement of planters.  New play park – the fund-raising target of £82,500 has now been reached thanks to the unexpected grant of £24,500 from Scottish Power and the CCC is very appreciative of all Willie has done for us in achieving this grant. The application to the Common Good Fund (CGF) has been resubmitted for a reduced amount of £6,700 towards the proposed picnic area on the former common good drying green. It is proposed to have 3 picnic benches; 3 litter bins, 3 benches; an outdoor table tennis table, fencing and wildlife friendly planting. The date of CGF meeting is not known and in the meantime, volunteers have removed the hedge and will be continuing to fence the area from the main road. The Gala Committee have generously agreed to purchase vandal-proof, removable & lockable goals for the village green and consent for this has been obtained from FC.  Filming Donation – the CCC will receive a donation of £500 after the recent filming of 'A Christmas Carol' will and it was agreed to share this as follows – Opus 8 Choir £200; Ailidh Nelson & Herbie £50; Ruridh & Rory £10 each; balance to CC.  Signage Project – Final stage is to fix Pole at the sawmill road end and erect the sign.  Concerns raised about maintaining the rights of way as they are becoming overgrown in places and agreed a flail cutter is required. Tim & Robert to price.	TC  ALL      TC DA DM   DM RN  TC/ DA/ DM  TC & RN
<b>13. Date of Next Meeting</b>	Next Meeting – Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2015, 7pm in the Town House	

**The meeting ended at: 9.15pm**