

Culross Community Council

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

Held in Town House

Present:
CCC Cllr Tim Collins (Chairperson)
CCC Cllr David Alexander (Vice Chairperson)
CCC Cllr Robin MacKenzie (Treasurer)
CCC Cllr Diane MacKenzie (Minute Sec)
CCC Cllr Robert Nelson
CCC Cllr Ben Cook
In attendance:
Cllr Willie Ferguson
Cllr Kate Stewart
Sian Loftus NTS
Apologies Submitted:
Paul Foley NTS Property Manager

The meeting started at 7.30pm following the AGM with Cllr Tim Collins in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
	The Chair welcomed all present.	
1. Apologies	Paul Foley NTS Property Manager	
2. NTS	<p>Sian Loftus NTS gave a presentation on Bennet House, formerly known as MacKenzie House or West Green Cottage – situated opposite the Palace and newly acquired by the NTS for restoration.</p> <p>The NTS Little Houses Scheme has an acquisitions Policy and this house meets all the criteria – 17th century, at risk and presenting a safety issue – taken over 4 years of effort to acquire after lying empty for over 20 years.</p> <p>The project has been budgeted to cost c.£275,000 to purchase, strip out, make safe and restore and there are no grants available. The only financially viable option is to divide into 2 houses, one four bedroomed house not viable – no garden, no parking and believed wouldn't attract a family.</p> <p>The refurbishment is expected to take around a year and intend to show case the work to other professionals, schools, visitors using a website, lectures, tours and events and a Learning Officer will be based in the village one day per week to coincide with tours, other professionals coming as required.</p> <p>Meeting considered the impact of dividing this property into two houses and remained of the opinion the house should be refurbished as one large family</p>	DM

	<p>house due to the resultant impact on parking congestion and the school role should it be divided into two houses.</p> <p>Cllr's would appreciate any help from the NTS in securing repairs/ improvements to the two remaining empty properties in the village – Sandhaven House and Dundonald Arms Hotel.</p> <p>Planning application under consideration but work on repairing the north gable will commence after Outlander filming.</p>	
3. Police Report	No Police report	
4. Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting	The Minutes of 7 th September 2015 were approved: Proposed: DA Seconded: BC	
5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:	The signage poles have still to be set at Devilla, David to purchase postcrete and date to be set. Louise Arnott, new NTS Gardener, has wood for village Bonfire – Robin will pass details to Gala.	DA TC DM DA RM
6. Treasurer's Report:	<p>Having resigned at the AGM, Robert circulated copies of his final monthly report.</p> <p>Discussed details of Senior Citizen's Fund – FC Grant £200, Donations £200, Quiz £131, Balance £325.40</p> <p>Paths for All Grant – to be transferred to Environmental Account.</p> <p>Invoice for new door on Hanging Garden Steps – paid.</p> <p>Floral Grant – underspend to be spent on hedge cutting, wild flowers & bulbs for new picnic area.</p> <p>Signage Money – situation to be confirmed for next meeting.</p> <p>Floral Enhancement Grant form for 2016 completed.</p> <p>FC Grant Form for 2016 completed.</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>RM</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM RM</p>
7. Correspondence Received	<p>CCC training on offer from FC and form detailing needs completed.</p> <p>Gas tank request – letter received from FC enquiring about location of Forbes Garage, believed to be Williamson House and this to be advised.</p> <p>Action Earth - Grab a Grant £50 to £250 available, Ben to pass to Ken for Pier Fund application.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>BC</p>
8. Chair's Report	<p>The next quiz night will be on Thursday 5/11 in The Biscuit Cafe 8pm and the last one for this year will probably be on the 26th November in the Red Lion? 2016 quiz nights to be planned at Forum.</p> <p>Gala Bonfire – meeting agreed £200 donation to the fireworks for event on 8/11.</p> <p>The senior citizens next event is a Christmas shopping trip and afternoon tea on the 24th November leaving the West Car Park at around 9:30 am – FC Grant applied for – need audited accounts.</p> <p>The date for the next newsletter is early December. Deadline for copy is the 22nd November.</p> <p>Contributors and advertisers have been notified. Currently have ads worth just over £500 and with the Tombola receipts this edition will be in the black financially.</p> <p>There is still no feedback from the "Task Force" established to aid in the aftermath of the Longannet closure – CCC not invited on Task Force, no information as to the status of the ash lagoons, the</p>	<p>FORUM RM</p> <p>TC/RN/RM</p> <p>BC</p>

	<p>cycle way, the ash pipes and all the other environmental issues that will arise from the departure of SP. Hopefully SP will impart whatever they can through the Newsletter next month.</p> <p>There is a community group forum meeting in the Stephen Memorial Hall on the 17th November - hall is booked and an outline agenda prepared - outline as the meeting is intended to be informal but organised. We are NOT in charge of this Forum, we merely facilitate.</p> <p>The objective is to ensure the continued co-operation between the various volunteer groups in the village, to review the past year and identify any areas of synergy where improved co-operation might be helpful for the coming year. The Festive events could be identified and co-ordinated at this meeting.</p>	
9. Elected FC Cllrs' Reports	<p>Willie – complaints received about the state of the coastal path when fence replaced on ash lagoons - SP will repair and remove graffiti from railway bridge. Railings repaired next to sea wall and need painting – Community Payback Team?</p> <p>Common Good Fund – Festival Committee applied for grant for £3200 for PA equipment and this has been agreed.</p> <p>West Fife Village Forum AGM appointed new chairperson Donald Campbell and meetings now to be quarterly, rotating round each community – next meeting Kincardine on 26/11.</p> <p>Kate – contacted about lack of childcare in the village and pleased to see registered child-minder now in village at Burnbank.</p> <p>West Fife Forum establishing Credit Union and Community Transport pilot project. KS to provide information prior to village forum on 17/11.</p> <p>Outlander has brought many visitors to the village and hope to see local benefits.</p> <p>Community art project created wall display for underpass on the history of High Valleyfield, involved children from HV, Torryburn & Culross schools.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>KS</p>
10. External Meeting Reports	<p>Tim & David attended Longannet Liaison meeting to hear what the current situation is regarding the closure of the Power Station – definitely closing but no plans to demolish at present, grass cutting and paths maintenance to be undertaken for a further year but thereafter no one knows yet what is happening.</p>	
11. Planning	<p>The Garage at the West Green – appeal declined on flood risk – ground floor of building needed to be 5.4m above sea level as opposed to 4.75m on current plan. FC applying to Scottish Government to close right of way through Dundonald Car Park.</p>	
12. Any Other Competent Business	<p>Christmas Trees – agreed to purchase 3</p> <p>Forest Enterprise Scotland – timber felling in the Waas Plantation area and will consider improving flooding along right of way when bring in excavator, likely 2016/17.</p> <p>Remembrance Day Service – George will lay the wreath on behalf of the Community.</p> <p>Hogmanay Event – George will be standing down from officiating at events and a vote of thanks to George for all his hard work to date.</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>RN</p> <p>GC</p> <p>RM/ DA/</p>

