

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday at 7.30pm in Saline Community Centre

Present: Not available

Apologies: Not available

1. Chair's introductory remarks:

DC welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded people to let a member of the Community Council know if someone has moved into the village so that they can be given a welcome pack.

2. Speaker:

None

3. Additional Items

The Post Office

West Craighouse Farm

Longannet Task Force

Community health concerns

Woodchip facility at Blairingone

Dunfermline: Age-friendly city event

Saline Gala

4. Minutes of the previous meeting:

a) Correct record: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record. Proposed by Marie Crane and seconded by Beth Shaw.

b) Matters Arising:

i) **Broadband:** The delay in bringing superfast broadband to Saline and Steelend remains a concern. Residents in Upper Kinneddar and Hamilton Place have received letters saying it is available but the latest information is that it will be phased in during the spring and early summer.

ii) **North Road Play Area:** The flooding of the play area remains a major concern. The play area group have met Cllr Kate Stewart and Clare Lovett from Fife Council. Efforts to arrange meetings with Ian Jones from Fife Council and someone from Scottish Water to determine responsibilities and agree actions to be taken are being made. It was noted that the problem extends beyond the play area. A house in Curlin' Ha Gardens is affected by rising groundwater and a small section of North Road appears to be sinking.

iii) **Nether Kinneddar Lodge:** The owners of Nether Kinneddar Lodge reported that Cllr Bobby Clelland had provided assistance but Fife Council planning department remain minded not to grant to a change of use for a holiday let on the grounds of road safety concerns. Paradoxically they have informed the owners that if the cottage was to be used for bed and breakfast it would not need planning permission. The Community Council remains supportive of the owners' application for a holiday let.

iv) **Village Cars:** The operators of Village Cars had removed the majority of their vehicles from the Community Centre car park on the evening of the ceilidh but parking of vehicles in places other than on their premises remains an issue for some people.

v) **Bus services:** Stagecoach continue to ignore requests for a meeting with local people to discuss adjustments to the timings of bus services. The additional length of time required to serve Park Neuk and the consequences for onward connections remains a particular concern.

5. Reports

a) Secretary: Not present

Issues normally dealt with by the secretary have been incorporated elsewhere on the agenda

b) Treasurer: MC reported that there had been no significant expenditure since the previous meeting. Money was still being held for Saline Gala but it was not clear whether it would take place in 2016. DC would speak to Gala organisers.

Action: DC

c) Police: Not present.

Concern was expressed that PC Orrock was not responding to emails and that no written report had been provided. However, it was noted that the liaison meetings are continuing. DC will try to contact PC Orrock.

Action: DC

d) Councillors:

Cllr Kate Stewart mentioned the **community minibus project** and encouraged anyone with a drivers' licence to register as a volunteer driver. She also referred to the **fracking meeting** to be held on the 28 February. DC commented that Ian Holmes-Lewis had agreed to represent Saline and Steelend at the meeting but something had arisen and he was no longer able to attend. It had not been possible to find anyone to attend in his place. KS said she would provide a copy of the presentations made at the meeting. She also mentioned a campaign to reopen the **Longannet railway line** for passenger use and the **Longannet Task Force** community report back on the 29 February.

6. Main discussion items:

The following were reported and discussed.

a) Kingdom Housing Association: KHA have obtained their building warrant but issues related to paths across the park remain unresolved. Construction is expected to start in April/May.

b) Allanwater Development, Oakley Road: Construction of the SUDS feature is continuing and a start has been made on site preparation for the housing. Concerns have been expressed about Allanwater's reluctance to act in a 'neighbourly' manner.

c) The Glebe: The planning application is still under consideration. The community council reiterated its objections to the scheme as resubmitted. The date of the committee meeting has not yet been set. JC drew attention the submission made by the Coal Authority.

d) The Post Office: DC reported that he had once again been contacted by residents concerned about the service provided by the Post Office, in particular not always having someone trained in counter services present and impromptu closures. It was recognised that the post office fulfils a valuable service for many people but there is an expectation that it should be run in a business-like way. The problem for some of no longer being able to have prescriptions delivered to the post office was also raised. It was noted that the pharmacy will deliver direct to residents who are genuinely unable to collect prescriptions from Oakley. Whilst there are concerns about development along West Road it was acknowledged that construction of new homes on that scale could bring additional shops and other services.

- e) West Craighouse Farm: It remains unclear whether the proposed wind turbine will go ahead but planning permission has been granted for a house on the land on which the wind monitoring mast was erected. A condition of the permission is that it is occupied by a farm worker.
- f) Health concerns: As mentioned by Cllr Kate Stewart, a petition is being circulated in west Fife seeking 1000 signatures so that a request can be made to the Scottish Government for an inquiry into the perceived increase in the number of cancer diagnoses in the area. It was acknowledged that over the past few years there had been a significant increase in the number of people from Saline and Steelend known to be being treated for, or in some cases dying from, cancer. DC had contacted the consultant in public health at NHS Fife who had agreed to provide comparative statistical information for the March community council meeting.
- g) Longannet Task Force: DC encouraged anyone who is able to attend the Longannet Task Force community report back on Thursday 29 February in Kincardine Community Centre at 4.00pm. The future use for the site is strategically important not only for our area but to Scotland as whole.
- h) Woodchip production facility at Blairingone: DC reported that he had been contacted by residents from Blairingone about noise from a nearby woodchip production facility on a farm at Blairingone. Fife Council planning enforcement officers are investigating but it is unclear whether the 'noisy part of the operation has now been transferred to another farm in the area.
- i) Dunfermline: An age-friendly city event: DC reported an opportunity for older residents to participate in a day-long event on the 18 March in the Glen Pavilion to consider how Dunfermline might become a more 'age-friendly city'. Details would be included in the Community Bulletin.
- j) Saline Gala and other events: The Sambangra drumming group, which has become a sub-group of the Community Development Trust, is seeking funding to stage a 'pageant' towards the end of May, involving dance, specially commissioned music and a procession between Saline and Steelend. It was noted that this would be around the time of the Saline Art Exhibition, the Open Studios events and the Kirklands open garden day. The possibility of promoting this period as a 'mini festival' and encouraging other groups to stage events was suggested. It might also be possible to stage the Saline Gala in early June as part of this initiative. If the 'pageant' goes well it could be a step towards staging a more ambitious project in 2017 celebrating the life of the knight and wizard Sir Michael Scott who, as legend has it, lived at Killernie Castle

7. AOCB: None

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 29th March 2016