

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 29 March at 7.30pm in Saline Community Centre

Present: David Chisholm (Chair) Marie Crane Jim Currie Jean Morris Melanie Mitchell Muriel Philips Peter Ball Beth Shaw Jean Alexander Irene Wardell T Kinnear John Baxter Mrs Baxter A Mentaplay Stewart Miller Willie Crockett Tom Dodds

Apologies: David and Maureen Storey Kay Jackson Donald Murdoch Roddy Jones John Crane Cllr Kate Stewart Paul and Nicky Heneke Jim Hensman

1. Chair's introductory remarks:

DC welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded people to add their email address to the attendance register if they wished to receive notifications and minutes of meetings by email.

2. Speaker: Ian Jones from Fife Council had indicated that he would attend the meeting to talk about flooding and drainage but had had to cancel.

3. Additional Items: None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting:

a) **Correct record:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.

b) Matters Arising:

i) **North Road Play Area:** The meeting was pleased to learn that the Play Area Group is making some progress in resolving the flooding problems at the playground on North Road. The waters have subsided and Fife Council have undertaken to 'jet' the drains which they believe may have been blocked. MM also reported that arrangements are in hand to formally constitute the group which will receive more than £1500 from donations made in memory of local mum and grand mum Donna Chesby who died recently, and from a collection in her name taken at the school end of term church service.

ii) **Nether Kinneddar Lodge:** The owners of Nether Kinneddar Lodge were unable to attend the meeting. It is not known whether progress has been made in resolving the planning issues.

iii) **Bus services:** The poor bus service continues to aggravate many people and Cllr Stewart's efforts to arrange a meeting with Fife Council and Stagecoach are being ignored.

iv) **Housing development behind The Glebe:** It was noted that the planning application for new housing off North Road behind The Glebe is scheduled to go to committee on the 27 April. There are a substantial number of objections on the Council website and concerned local residents will be petitioning councillors who serve on the committee before the meeting

v) **Longannet Task Force:** DC had represented Saline and Steelend at the Longannet Task Force report back meeting and at the West Fife Villages Form meeting which reviewed the emerging action plan. There is concern that little effort is being made to engage with local communities to create a 'vision' for the reuse of the site which is of national, strategic importance. Local interest in re-opening the Longannet railway line to create a passenger connection from Alloa through to Edinburgh achieved coverage on national radio and television.

vi) **Dunfermline Age-Friendly City Event:** Residents Fiona Aitken and Jocelyn Miller from Saline had attended the 'Dunfermline: An age-friendly city' event and participated in workshops to identify the measures necessary to achieve this. High on the list of priorities was public transport improvements.

vii) **Saline Gala:** There was disappointment that unless people willing to take on the responsibility come forward, Saline Gala will not take place for a second year running. Like other village 'institutions' it has for far too long, relied on the efforts of a small but dedicated group of local people.

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. In the light of the news about Saline Gala not taking place it was agreed that the money allocated to it would no longer be 'protected'. However, it would not at this stage be allocated for any other purpose.

c) **Police:** Not present.

DC had spoken to PC Kirsty Kay (nee Orrock) and had obtained her new email address. It is unlikely the Police will have the resources to attend individual Community Council meetings but the occasional West Fife Villages Liaison Meetings continue. Details will be obtained so that anyone interested in policing issues can attend

Action: DC

d) **Councillors:** Not present

6. Main discussion items:

The following were reported and discussed.

a) Remembrance Garden behind Bandrum: The planning application for a 'Remembrance Garden' on land at Bandrum created a longest discussion. From a small parking area just off the road a small path would meander up the steep slope through the woodland, along which relatives would scatter a loved-one's ashes. A previous application for a 'natural burial area' on the same land was rejected several years ago on the grounds of unsatisfactory access arrangements. For the current application the applicant has commissioned a report from a leading transportation engineer that seeks to demonstrate that the appropriate conditions in terms of visibility splays at the entrance can be met by a slight repositioning and regrading of the verges. It also makes assumptions about vehicle speeds along that section of road. The view of the meeting was that these are unrealistic. There was concern too about the 'economic viability' of the proposal. It was noted that the application includes a 'log cabin' and there was concern that the long term intention might be development of other parts of the site. These concerns will be communicated to Fife Council.

Action: DC

b) Health Concerns: There was some relief that statistics provided by the community health team at NHS Fife demonstrate that in percentage terms the number of cancer diagnoses in Saline and Gowkhill over the three years up to 2014 is no greater than elsewhere in Fife. There had been concern that the number of people from Saline is disproportionately high. This can be partly explained by our population being relatively small. Ten people out of 1,500 seems more significant than, say, 100 out of 15,000.

c) Hutting Project: The meeting also had the opportunity to review the project to construct 12 'huts' on Forestry Commission land at Carnock Moor, beyond Cowstrandburn. The proposal is a pilot for the Scotland-wide '1000 huts' initiative. 'Hutting' was a popular movement in the early part of the last century and provided the opportunity for families from over-crowded,

unhygienic inner cities to get some fresh air. The huts being proposed at Carnock Moor are very simple and have no electricity or running water. Ten of the huts would be allocated by a 'lottery' and two would be for community/educational use. Most people at the meeting liked the idea but had concerns about security, vandalism and sanitation. There were questions too about whether the huts are being sold or provided on some other basis. The group have resolved issues about building regulations that had been

7. AOCB:

a) Traffic speeds and accidents on West Road: One new item of business was traffic speeds and accidents on the West Road. Tom Dodds who lives on the edge of the village along the West Road has documented these over a period of a few months. At the road safety meeting with the Lead Officer from Fife Council transportation team last year the West Road was not identified as a priority but the information now provided suggests that perhaps it should be. The meeting noted the measures that have been taken at Upper Steelend and it was agreed that Fife Council should be asked to carry out similar investigative work into traffic speeds and driver behaviour on the West Road that had led to them being introduced.

Action: DC

b) Insurances: The meeting concluded with a discussion about insurance cover for community groups operating in the Saline and Steelend area. The Community Council obtains insurance cover for its activities through Fife Council and this can be extended to any sub-committees. However, the cover provided is extremely limited and the definition of a sub-committee is narrow. The majority of members on a 'sub-committee' have to be elected members of the community council. It does not cover activities outside 'meetings' and any group undertaking one-off events to which the general public are invited need to ensure they carry out risk assessments and obtain the appropriate insurance cover.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016