

Saline and Steelend Community Council

**Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Saline Community Centre**

**Present: David Chisholm (chair)** Marie Crane, John Crane, Irene Wardell, Muriel Phillips, Donald Murdoch, Janet Murdoch, Jim Currie, Morag Aitken, Melanie Mitchell, David Storey, Maureen Storey, Willie Crockett, Jean Morris, Sheila Travers, Beth Shaw, David Hatton, Stewart Miller, D Watling, D Peggie, Gareth Turner, Paul Heneke, Nicky Heneke, Cllr Bobby Clelland

**Apologies:** Kay Jackson, Jim Hensman, Peter Ball, Jean Alexander

AGM

Cllr Clelland took the chair and the following were elected.

Chair: David Chisholm; proposed by John Crane, seconded by Marie Crane

Vice Chair: Jim Currie; proposed by John Crane, seconded by Irene Wardell

Secretary: Donald Murdoch; proposed by Marie Crane, seconded by David Chisholm

Treasurer: Marie Crane; proposed by Muriel Phillips, seconded by Jean Morris

Before handing over to David Chisholm, Cllr Clelland paid tribute to John Crane's many years of service to the community and the help given to him personally.

1. **Chair's introductory remarks:** DC remarked on the progress made last year and on the continuing good attendance and participation by those present. He noted that at a recent meeting several community councils complained about poor attendances. He reminded people of the need to declare any interests in topics on the agenda
2. **Speaker: Gareth Turner:** gave a comprehensive report on the recent study of Saline Glen organised by Saline and Steelend Community Development Trust. He described how the consultant was chosen, the investigations carried out by the consultants, his conclusions and the discussions at SSCDT meetings. It was considered that the price sought was reasonable but that the financial costs to SSCDT for maintenance were considerable. Consequently, it was felt that acquisition should not be progressed.  
A full copy of the consultant's report has been posted on the Saline and Steelend web site
3. **Additional Items:** To be taken under AOCB
4. **Minutes of October Meeting:** Accepted as accurate. Proposed IW, seconded by Marie Crane
5. **Matters Arising**
  - a. Minibus: DC reminded people that the community minibus is now available although there is a shortage of volunteer drivers. Cllr Clelland pointed out that the minibus had been funded by the South West Fife Area Committee and that the vehicle could be booked at staffed local offices.
  - b. Cubs Centenary: the first event has taken place without the community council contribution being taken up. It will now go to another event and the assistant commissioner has been advised to contact the treasurer to agree details
6. **Reports**
  - a) **Secretary:** This was accepted with specific discussion on the following;
    - (i) Broadband: Cara Hilton MSP has contacted BT's Head of Policy and Public Affairs who had advised that fibre broadband should be available in April 2016 subject to BT's usual small print.

She has asked BT to contact the Scottish Government contact for Rural Broadband. She also confirmed that she will raise the matter again if action doesn't progress.

Mrs Sheila Travers drew attention to specific problems for those in more remote locations and asked the community council to support her letter to Ms Hilton. Problems for farmers and businesses who were required to complete returns on-line were highlighted from the floor. The prime minister and BT were also criticised for boasting of future developments and unfulfilled commitments while many in this community cannot get even the most basic of service. It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Travers' letter be supported and Ms Hilton contacted again.

Action: DM

- (ii) **Nether Kinneddar Lodge:** Mr Paul Heneke described the problems he was having regarding securing planning permission to change the use of a house in his grounds to holiday accommodation. He had been advised informally that his application would be refused although had had no official notification. Refusal seems to be on road safety grounds. He described the steps that he had taken to minimise risk and drew attention to the number of vehicles already using the entrance and which would not increase as a result of his proposal.

Those present felt that the proposal would have benefits for the area and supported it. Fife Council's reluctance to consider speed limits was seen as inconsistent. The possible costs to Fife Council should Mr Heneke appeal should also be considered. It was therefore agreed that Fife Council be asked to delay a decision to enable possible solutions to be examined.

Action: DC

- b) Treasurer:** MC advised that the balance remains at £454.40. Last year's grant was applied for in April but the grant was not received until August. Normally we donate £150 to both Saline and Steelend Gala Committees, however the position of the 'Saline Gala is in doubt. Payments for Data Protection and community centre rent are also due. The renewal of the gaming licence for raffles is now due. This was originally for the bonfire night raffle and, as this event no longer takes place, renewal was queried. The possibility of other raffles to raise funds for local good causes was supported and it was agreed that the licence be renewed. Groups should also be advised of the opportunity to use it. Marie Crane added that it should be appreciated that the above payments and donations will need to be paid from the current balance of £454.40.

Action: MC

- c) Police:** No report. MC asked whether Police Liaison meetings were continuing as she had not been advised of future dates. Cllr Clelland confirmed that they were
- d) Cllr Bobby Clelland:** Much of his report had been covered in previous items but he highlighted the budget pressure being experienced by Fife Council, particularly to a £50m equal pay settlement. He drew attention to an opportunity to engage in on-line discussion with Cllr David Ross, leader of Fife Council. He described investigation of council tax increases and its consequences. Many present expressed the view that increases were necessary and had sympathy for the council's position.

Of more local interest, Cllr Clelland's surgeries will be held in Saline Golf Club as it is increasingly being used as a community resource. He has advised the club to apply to the Comrie Colliery Trust for a grant to replace a heating boiler in view of its use as a community hub

## 7. Main discussion items

- (i) **Allanwater Development:** It was noted that planning permission has been granted and that the first houses to be built will be affordable homes. Cllr Clelland was asked to establish the terms of the S75 agreement, particularly regarding play facilities
- (ii) **Kingdom Housing Association:** Alan Henderson has confirmed that planning permission has been agreed but building warrants have not yet been issued. Work on site will start soon, hopefully April. There is an issue re provision of a footpath link through the Oakley Road play area due to the site not being in Fife Council ownership. However, that should not hold up the housing
- (iii) **The Glebe:** It was noted that the applicant had withdrawn his application and had submitted a

new proposal showing a revised access to The Glebe. This still impacts on existing residents, which causes concern. Also, the proposals still do not address the community council's other concerns. A further objection to the proposal had been submitted.

#### **8. AOCB**

(i) Community Centre Car Park: Questions were asked about Village Cars right to park vehicles in the car park. There are concerns that this will cause problems for the forthcoming ceilidh. It was agreed that the company be approached again

Action: DC

(ii) Bus Service Timings: It was noted that the early morning service had been re-routed to include Parkneuk. This means that the bus arrives later at the bus station, which means that students miss the connection to Fife College. It was agreed that Stagecoach be approached with a view to addressing this issue.

Action: DC

(iii) North Road Play Area: It was noted that Fife Council had pumped out the flooding but that it had returned with the first heavy rainfall. It was also noted that the water does not drain away as it should when the rain stops. MM indicated that this is hindering progress by parents looking to progress improvement of the area and she asked whether Cllr Stewart had arranged the meeting discussed in November. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart be asked to clarify the situation

Action: DM/DC

DM indicated that he had contacted Ian Jones in Transportation about the possibility of connecting to road drains. Unfortunately, this coincided with emergency works on the Forth Road Bridge with severe implications for responding quickly. Mr Jones will be contacted again with a view to a meeting of all interested parties

Action: DM/DC

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016. All welcome