

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 7.30pm in Saline Community Centre

Present: David Chisholm (chair) Jim Currie Marie Crane, Donald Murdoch, Janet Murdoch, Jean Morris, Peter Ball, Irene Wardell, Jean Alexander, Muriel Phillips, C McCallum, G Duncan, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Morag Aitken, Jim Hensman, Laura Chesby, Nicola Smith, Dorella Broadie, Beth Shaw, Stewart Miller, Jamie Hamilton, Nicky Donald

Apologies: None

- 1. Chair's introductory remarks:** DC welcomed those present. He advised that this was also the AGM, which would take place after the speakers had been heard.
- 2. Speaker: Jamie Hamilton:** Mr Hamilton represented Concerned Communities Falkirk (CCF). He described how the communities had come together to draw up a list of questions that need to be answered to enable people to have a reasoned opinion on fracking. A philanthropist had donated funds to enable more consultation over the area affected by fracking proposals. The Scottish Government is carrying out consultations but it is important that proper questions are asked. CCF is trying to get both sides of the debate together.

A meeting has been arranged for Saturday 11th February in Saline Church Hall. All homes receiving the Community Bulletin will be leafleted while remote areas will be advised electronically. It is hoped that a good attendance can be attracted.

Speaker: Nicky Donald: Ms Donald works for Community Ownership Support Organisation (COSO) whose role is to help groups investigating taking over assets and buildings. She will be advising Saline and Steelend Community Development Trust (SSCDT) on the possibility of acquisition of Saline Community Centre. She referred to the new greater powers to force transfers.

COSO would advise taking ownership rather than a lease as the latter offered less security and no advantage to groups. The Scottish Land Fund is able to support acquisition but not leasing. She described several successful examples that the community could learn from. In response to questions from the floor about getting representatives from these groups to local meetings, she suggested that it would be better to visit these initiatives. That would give people a better appreciation of all aspects including possible risks and how they had been overcome. Costs could form part of the feasibility application.

There was general support for the suggested approach although some felt that there was a need for more people, particularly the young, becoming involved. Nicky suggested that the Community Action Plan could be updated to reflect what had been achieved, what still needed to be addressed and any new issues. DC confirmed that SSCDT would be organising more "Talking Tables" events to address this issue.

New Items:

The Glebe Update

Kinneddar Park Issues

3. AGM

a) Chair's Introduction: DC thanked all for their collective efforts over the past year. He was proud of what had been achieved and was pleased that regular attendances were being achieved at a time when other community councils were struggling or had folded.

b) Treasurer's Report: MC advised that the 2015/16 accounts had been signed off by the auditor. This year's were due to be audited in April. She has projected spending to April and there might be a surplus to allow for the period between the grant being sought

and paid. It will be necessary to agree grants to local organisations at the February meetings. She confirmed that funds held for the Playground Group had been transferred to the group now that they had their own bank account

c) **Election of Office Bearers:** Cllr Clelland took the chair for this item

Chair: David Chisholm proposed by Beth Shaw, seconded by Jim Hensman

Vice Chair: Jim Currie proposed by George Duncan, seconded by Irene Wardell

Secretary: Donald Murdoch proposed by Dorella Brodie, seconded by Nicola Smith

Treasurer: Marie Crane proposed by Morag Aitken, seconded by Muriel Phillips

d) **Nomination of Co-opted Individual:** agreed that Peter Ball should continue

e) **Nomination of Casual Vacancy:** proposed by David Chisholm, seconded by Jean Morris

Nomination of Co-opted Organisations: The Saline and Steelend Playpark Group was proposed and accepted. It was felt that Kinneddar Park and Cowstrandburn should be represented and that the Residents Association should be approached.

4. **Minutes of November 2016 Meeting:** Accepted as correct. Proposed by Marie Crane, seconded by Jean Morris

5. **Matters Arising**

- i) West Road: GD queried why Transportation had spent money on rumble strips in Kinneddar Park but no action had been taken on West Road. He was advised that the works in Kinneddar Park were a response to residents' concerns and were cost-effective. Phil Clarke has previously indicated (see November 2016 minutes) that any West Road works cannot be accommodated within current Transportation budgets
- ii) Oakley Road Water Leak: Stewart Miller advised that some water had collected in the Scottish Gas trench, which had drained when connection was made to the Main Street pipe. The leak is no longer evident on the road surface and it is suspected that the water is being drained through the Scottish Gas trench. It is unclear where it eventually goes.
- iii) Saline to Oakley Path: Following the presentation at the November 2016 meeting, contact was made with Jenny Ventham and Andrew Clark from Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) FCS will regain possession of the site in 2018 and, in the meantime, SSCDT will be progressing bids for funding a first phase of works once formal agreement has been received from FCS.

Jenny and Andrew noted that many in Saline and Steelend were unaware of how to access the site and it was agreed that Scotways would erect fingerposts at the track north of The Steadings and at Bickramside. Survey posts will be erected along the route of the proposed path to facilitate a proper survey. Desire lines indicate public use and will form the basis for future paths. In the meantime, FCS will be investigating the provision of crossings on the burns.

A finger post will be erected on Oakley Road but this cannot take place until the road is properly reinstated

- iv) Kinneddar Park and Cowstrandburn Issues. Phil Clarke was contacted re rumble strips in Kinneddar Park and speeding through Cowstrandburn. He advised that the rumble strips were quieter than normal to avoid nuisance to residents. Fife Council have no records of incidents through Cowstrandburn but will investigate. Bandrum Nursing Home is required to improve visibility at their junction with the main road, which will help vehicles exiting the site.

Motorbikes creating a nuisance on the Blair House site have been reported to Police. Regarding other safety issues, contact has been made with Martin McGroarty, Fife Council's lead officer for minerals, and he will contact the Scottish Mines Restoration Trust as owners of the site

Residents also contacted the community council and Cllr Clelland regarding the poor traffic conditions on Oakley Road. This reflects feedback from Saline and Steelend residents. It had been established that Transportation had indicated to Allanwater in April 2016 that mud should not be carried onto the highway and that sweeping was not acceptable. Consequently the community council and Cllr Clelland had asked Pam Ewen, Planning Service Manager, to investigate.

Some questioned why Fife Council could not expedite an enforcement action and the difficulties in doing this was explained. Particularly, developers have rights of appeal not available to objectors. It is not unknown for developers to accept conditions and appeal later. This is a particular concern to some should fracking be approved

- v) **Bus Services:** DM advised that he had contacted Transportation about Saline and Steelend being prioritised in the roll out of real time bus information and provision of wifi in bus shelters. Some present noted that the info at bus bays in Dunfermline bus station was still not operational.

6. Reports

- a) **Police:** PC Kay has a new job within Police Scotland. Her replacement is PC Graeme McLaren while PC Chandler continues as one of our community officers
- b) **Treasurer:** covered in AGM report
- c) **Secretary:** DM's attached report was accepted. Actions agreed are covered in previous items
- d) **Councillor Clelland:** Much of what Cllr Clelland had intended reporting had been covered by the previous discussions. He confirmed that the bond for restoration of the Comrie Colliery site had been drawn down but was unlikely to be enough. Fife Council is still awaiting judgement on their claim against the bondholders on the Blair House site

7. Main discussion items:

- i) **The Glebe:** JC reported on the current, revised application. There has been 13 objections and 5 letters of support. The community council formally objected, which means that the application must be decided at committee level.

Local press reports have indicated that the developer would contribute to play facilities should permission be granted but no-one seems to have been contacted about this

8. AOCB

- i) **Participatory Budgeting:** DC described this funding opportunity and has advised local groups. Given the poor acoustics, a sound system bid had been suggested
- ii) **Steelend Football Ground:** DC advised of a meeting with consultants investigating the possibility of a housing development on this site. He felt that this would be appropriate if it imaginatively addressed local housing needs and positively contributed to Steelend. He suggested that Planning Aid be asked to conduct a community consultation and this was agreed
- iii) **Hotel Site:** It was felt that contractors' vehicles parked on West Road were a traffic hazard and it was agreed that Police should be asked to investigate
- iv) **Dog Fouling:** Complaints have been made about the increase of dog fouling, particularly in areas affecting children. It was agreed that the dog warden be contacted and that yet another article in the Community Bulletin

v) "Dog Walking" field: an incident between the owners of the paddock and some dog owners was noted and that horses had escaped onto the main road. The community council's view is that there is plenty of space to exercise dogs on the remainder of the field. The opening up of the Muirside Estate by FCS gives another alternative.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28th February. 2017. All welcome