

Saline and Steelend Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 28 February 2017: 7.30pm Saline Community Centre

**Present:** David Chisholm (Chair), Jim Currie, Marie Crane, Peter Ball, Jean Morris, Morag Aitken, Irene Wardell, Lewis Marshall, Jennie Marshall, Dan Peggie, Jean Alexander, Beth Shaw, Laura Chesby, Lisa Murray, Nicola Smith, Cllr Kate Stewart, Till Kroeber, Kay Jackson, Malcolm Clarke

**Apologies:** Anne Hatton, Dave Hatton, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Donald Murdoch, Stewart Miler, Muriel Philips

1. **Chair's Introductory remarks:** DC reported with sadness that Bill Philips, husband of Community Councillor Muriel Philip's, had passed away. A letter of condolence would be sent. DC also thanked new resident Drew McCullough for his help in trying to find ways to improve the audibility of meetings. Drew had provided a small amp/speaker and microphone. Unfortunately the benefits were outweighed by the poor acoustics of the hall. The possibility of installing acoustic panels similar to those used in the church hall would be investigated.
2. **Speaker:** Louise Ewing: Patients' Relationship Manager NHS Fife

### Health and Social Care

The main business of the evening was a discussion around health and social care. The difficulty some people have getting to the Oakley surgery or getting appointments that fit with other demands; delays in obtaining a diagnosis, referral and treatment; and inadequate support for people nearing the end of their lives have all been raised over the last few years.

Before responding to questions and comments from the floor, NHS Fife's Patient Relationships Manager, Louise Ewing, explained the work the Trust is doing to improve services. Central to this is the establishment of a health and social care partnership to encourage joint working. Key priorities are being reviewed and the way services are delivered is being redesigned. There is a new focus on mental illness, chronic conditions, palliative and end of life care. Locality plans tailored to the needs in specific areas are being prepared. Greater involvement of nurse practitioners and pharmacists in dealing with less serious conditions and prescribing will create more time for GPs to deal with critically ill patients. In some areas a 'triage' process is being used to identify those patients most in need of seeing a doctor immediately. In other places without a GP surgery, local 'health hubs' have been created where people with routine check-ups and less serious issues can be seen by nurse practitioners and similar specialists.

Louise acknowledged the impact that lack of resources in some disciplines was having, for example radiology. However, in this latter area a radical solution has been found by getting radiologists in Australia to review x-rays and scans during their night time 'quiet' period.

In the discussion that followed a number of people described their own experiences. Louise noted these and will follow up on them where she is able to do so. Patient opinion is important in improving services and Louise encouraged anyone who has had a poor experience of the NHS to use the confidential phonenumber and email address to report their concerns. The details are:

Telephone: 01592 648153

Email: [patientrelations.fife@nhs.net](mailto:patientrelations.fife@nhs.net)

### 3. **Additional items/order of items:**

Construction on former hotel site

### 4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

**4.1 Correct record:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 31 January 2017 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **4.2 Matters arising**

**a) Saline to Bickramside path:** Discussions with Forestry Commission Scotland have been very positive and they will shortly be fixing waymarkers and putting up marker canes across the plantation areas so that people can begin to use the path. Discussions about funding for the permanent path are continuing.

**b) Kinneddar Park traffic issues:** Transportation have confirmed that the rumble strips at Kinneddar Park have been designed to minimise noise nuisance to residents living close by. However, KPCRA consider them to be ineffective and are in discussion with Phil Clarke about other measures that will reduce traffic speeds on this section of road.

**c) Participatory Budgeting funding:** Three local groups had submitted applications for funding. These would be considered by representatives of the villages eligible at a meeting on the 4 March.

**d) Fracking Workshop:** The workshop would be taking place on Saturday 11 March. The organisers would be delivering leaflets to all homes in the area.

**e) Possible community acquisition of Saline Community Centre:** Steps to establish a Steering Group for the possible community acquisition of the building are in hand. Once this has been achieved funding for a feasibility study/business will be sought from COSO/SLF. A 'talking tables' event to review and update the Community Action Plan and to gauge support for the community centre acquisition is also being arranged. The event will also be an opportunity to collect ideas about the uses to which the Community Centre might be put.

**f) Allanwater Development:** Concerns about the state of the road adjacent to the development, inadequate traffic management arrangements, and wholly unsatisfactory access for Steadings residents continue. However, a senior officer from Fife Council has finally responded to the letter sent by the Secretary detailing the complaints. The letter seeks to reassure us that the required carriageway and pathway widths will be achieved and that the Council's clerk of works is monitoring the situation closely. The opinion of most people present was that the enforcement is weak and Allanwater are perfectly happy to disregard the conditions that have been set.

Nicola Smith reported that a Freedom of Information request on behalf of the play

parks group regarding the financial contribution towards play facilities, mentioned by Allanwater at the community council meeting they had attended, had received an evasive answer from Fife Council. The group would continue to press for an explanation.

g) **Blair House Open Cast:** The Secretary had also been successful in obtaining a letter from the lead officer in development responsible for mineral extraction in which he responds to our concerns about poor security and the use of part of the site for racing motorcycles. He had also provided an update on Fife Council's efforts in the High Court to obtain release of the £3m+ performance bond held by Royal Sun Alliance. The Sheriff has asked for further proofs of evidence and the has not yet been won or lost. Following the demise of Scottish Coal responsibility for the site has passed to the Scottish Mines Restoration Trust (SMRT). SMRT recognise their responsibility for keeping the site secure and for dealing with unauthorised activities, and are liaising closely with the Police and other authorities. On a more positive note he confirms that SMRT and Fife Council will work with local communities to determine what form the reinstatement should take and the new amenities to be incorporated. The letter also referred to the role of the local Liaison Committee but it was noted that its chair has never provided any reports to the Community Council.

h) **Steelend Football Ground:** The Community Council and the Development Trust continue to support the possibility of new housing to meet local needs on the former Steelend football ground. The intention would be for the community to be co-sponsors of the development but the landowner has indicated that he would prefer to dispose of the site on the open market. It was suggested that any application for planning permission should be resisted if it did not meet local needs.

i) **Development behind The Glebe:** The developer has submitted revised proposals for access. The opinion of those who have studied them is that they are impractical and unenforceable. This has been communicated to the planning officer dealing with the application. Because of the number of objections the application will be dealt with by the planning committee.

## 5. Reports

- a) **Secretary:** Not present but issues that have arisen are included in other items in these minutes.
- b) **Treasurer:** MC provided a verbal report. There had been no significant financial activity.
- c) **Police:** Not present but a written report they had provided was read out. It was also noted that several local people had put themselves forward for training under Police Scotland's community Speedwatch initiative.
- d) **Councillors:** Cllr Stewart mentioned her involvement with WASPI (Women against state pension inequalities) and encouraged other women approaching retirement age to register and write to the DWP. Cllr KS is also in contact with several families who have not received adequate help from the Council's Home Care team.
- e) **Planning:**
  - i) **Memorial Garden, Cowstrandburn:** People attending the meeting were surprised to learn that Fife Council had granted planning permission for this activity despite objections from transportation to the access arrangements. An article in the Dunfermline Press suggests that the landowner intends to invite 'ex pats' to pay to

have something of themselves buried in the woods at Bandrum and 'digitally marked'. A previous application for a 'natural' burial ground was refused so it is assumed that it is not a person's ashes that are being buried.

ii) **Leckerstone Farmhouse:** Malcolm Clarke attended the meeting to explain the planning application he had made to reinstate one of the derelict steading buildings at Leckerstone Farmhouse. Transportation are insisting on visibility splays that will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. People at the meeting welcomed the restoration of the building but did not necessarily share Transportation's opinion about the visibility splays. The entrance is on a winding section of the lane where vehicle speeds are low. The entrance is already in use daily and the reconstruction of the outbuilding would not add significantly to the usage.

6. **Main discussion items:** None

7. **AOCB**

**a) Post Office closure:** A number of people had contacted the Community Council about the closure of the Post Office for three weeks at very short notice. People expressed their sympathies that the closure was a consequence of a death in the family but the Post Office who grant the franchise had informed the Community Council several years ago that the operators were expected to ensure that cover was available for these eventualities. The matter has been referred to Post Office head office

**b) Abandoned cars:** Stewart Miller had noticed that several cars appeared to have been abandoned in the Saline bus turning circle car park. He had reported these to Fife Council.

**c) Construction work on former hotel site:** Several people drew attention to traffic issues created by contractors' vehicles parked on West Road close to the former hotel and the chicane.

8. **Date of next meeting**

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