

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

Present: David Chisholm (Chair), Jim Currie, Marie Crane, Peter Ball, Jean Morris, Morag Aitken, Peter Ball, Stewart Miller, George Duncan, Jean Alexander, Beth Shaw, Laura Chesby, Lisa Murray, Nicola Smith, Kay Jackson

Apologies: Donald Murdoch, Irene Wardell, Jim Hensman

1. **Chair's Introductory remarks:** DC mentioned an email he had received from a Saline resident who wanted to draw attention to the work of the Fife Council 'public space orderly', Alan Pettigrew. Alan was previously part of the Oakley team but is very pleased about his transfer to Saline and Steelend. Alan is very enthusiastic about his role in keeping our community neat and tidy and welcomes suggestions for areas that need extra attention. DC went on to say that quite a lot of time is spent at Community Council meetings talking about 'negative' things and that perhaps an opportunity to draw attention to 'positive' actions should be a regular agenda item?

In this connection DC went on to mention the positive relationship that the Community Council now has with the Council's Transportation team, and in particular with lead officer Phil Clark, who has sanctioned measures in a number of different places to reduce vehicle speeds and improve road safety. Fife Council has just been completed work to install six new road gullies along the verge at the bottom of the hill down into Steelend and it is hoped that this will eliminate the flooding that frequently occurs after periods of heavy rain. The work also unearthed (literally) a large manhole that has now been unblocked and repaired and should lead the water away to the burn.

2. **Speakers:** The meeting welcomed representatives from the Church and the Play Parks Group who had asked whether they could explain the projects they are undertaking.

a) Church Restoration Project

Stewart Miller explained the Church's restoration project. An attempt to secure funding some years ago had not been successful but it had helped the Church to focus on what they wanted to achieve. They had received valuable support from the Church of Scotland and had been able to appoint a specialist conservation architect to carry out a detailed survey and make proposals for how longstanding problems could be tackled. One major issue has been dampness in the walls and the architect's recommendation is for the cement-based harling that was applied during the last century, and prevents the walls 'breathing', to be hacked off and replaced with traditional lime render. Not only will this eliminate the dampness problems but it will dramatically improve the appearance of the building, which most people acknowledge is 'dreary'. Removing the harling will also expose the dressed stone window surrounds and other features that have been concealed, restoring the Church to something more like its appearance when it was constructed over two hundred years ago, and much more appropriate to its prominent location at the heart of our community.

The project also seeks to enhance the Church's value to the wider community. Discussions have been held with Saline Heritage Group about developing the west end of the Church as a heritage centre. The group currently utilise the tiny Session House as their museum. Saline Primary School is also supporting this initiative as 'heritage' is part of the curriculum.

The cost of the work is likely to exceed £250k and an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be submitted very soon. It was agreed that the Community Council/Community Development Trust should provide a letter of support.

Action: DC

b) North Road Play Park

Nicola Smith, Lisa Murray and Laura Chesby followed Stewart with a presentation of the proposals for improving play facilities in Saline and Steelend. The group have been very successful in raising match funding and applications will be made soon to Fife Environment Trust and LEADER for the £100k needed to implement to project on North Road, Saline. The group explained how the £10k that they had received from the Participatory Budgeting fund, which has to be spent before September, would be used for enabling work to the drainage necessary to eliminate the flooding problems. The group were congratulated for their energy and enterprise and it was agreed that a letter of support should be provided to accompany their funding applications.

Action: DC

3. Additional items/order of items:

None. Order as Agenda

4. Minutes of previous meeting

a) Correct record: The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 February 2017 were accepted as a correct record except that George Duncan's name had been omitted in error from the list of attendees. GD also felt that his comments about the health issues deriving from the flooding of the North Road play park should have been recorded in the minutes. DC pointed out that the minutes are not a verbatim record and felt that they captured the concerns of residents generally about the flooding issue. However, GDs specific comments were noted.

4.2 Matters arising: Other than those already on the Agenda

a) Saline to Bickramside path: Forestry Commission Scotland has put 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. Access to the path from Oakley Road is affected by the Allanwater construction work at present but will eventually be via a gate opposite the end of Eastercraig Gardens. In the meantime it can be reached from the Steadings access road, currently relocated further down Oakley Road.

b) Kinneddar Park traffic issues: The meeting was pleased to note that in response to complaints from KPCRA the Council has now upgraded the rumble strips at Kinneddar Park to make them more effective. KPCRA had also drawn attention to the relocation of the 20mph speed signs at the edge of Saline near the entrance to Nether Kinneddar and had suggested that they should be even further down the Oakley Road before the narrow bridge and 'Z' bend. This suggestion would be passed on to Phil Clark.

Action: DC

c) Participatory Budgeting funding: As mentioned above, the Play Parks Group had been successful in the PB exercise and had been awarded £10k. KPCRA had not been able to attend the event and their application was not considered. Sadly the application from the Heritage Society had been unsuccessful but hopefully other sources of funding for their project can be found.

d) Fracking Workshop: The workshop had taken place on Saturday 11 March and had been well-attended. The facilitators presented statements that had been made at the recent public inquiry by the promoters of fracking, Scottish Government and local communities. At the end

of the workshop the majority of attendees felt better informed but still not able to make a decision either way. Small numbers of people remained either opposed to fracking on environmental/ecological grounds or believed it to be essential for the economy. The organisers of the workshop would be issuing notes of the session.

e) Possible community acquisition of Saline Community Centre: The Steering Group for the possible community acquisition of the building has still to be established. Once this has been achieved funding for a feasibility study/business plan could 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 still to be arranged.

f) Allanwater Development: It was acknowledged that the condition of the road and access arrangements have significantly improved. However, it was noted that vehicles parked with two wheels on the pavement outside occupied homes on Oakley Road were causing obstructions to both pedestrians and motorists. Nicola Smith confirmed that the Play Parks Group is continuing with its Freedom of Information request to Fife Council regarding the financial contribution towards play facilities, mentioned by Allanwater at the community council meeting they had attended.

Several people asked about the removal of the hedge on the other side of the road from the Allanwater site. It is understood that Kingdom Housing Association are required to reinstate this as part of their development.

g) Blair House Open Cast: Still no information about the release of the Bond or plans to engage with local communities over the reinstatement of the pit. The Police are investigating complaints about illegal use of motor cycles on the site

h) Development behind The Glebe: The planning committee had rejected concerns from the transportation department about the access arrangements and granted planning consent in principle for a development of five houses, fewer than was being sought. The developer still has to submit an application for detailed planning consent.

i) Abandoned cars: The meeting was pleased to note that the abandoned cars had been removed very promptly after being reported.

j) Saline Post Office: The unexpected of closure the post office for several weeks has been reported to the Post Office who will be undertaking an investigation. A number of people at the meeting reported having difficulty accessing post office counter services at times when the post office is meant to be open. The problem appears to be the absence of cover for short absences.

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. The balance on the account is £116.

c) Police: Not present but a written report they had provided was read out. It was noted that the police are asking those who know the people that are riding motorcycles on the open cast site to contact them. The people who had volunteered for Police Scotland's community Speedwatch initiative had received their training and were available for deployment.

d) Councillors: Not present

e) Planning: None

6. Main discussion items:

a) Brightside Community Café, Bandrum: An approach for support from the Community Council has been made by the Chair of the Brightside Café Community Trust. The Trust is keen to encourage use by the wider community of its newly completed café at Bandrum

Nursing Home. The café is currently open between 11.00am and 3.00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and provides excellent coffee, soup and cakes in an attractive setting, but they are keen to extend the opening hours. The Trust would also like to work with the Community Council to develop a befriending scheme, for which Big Lottery funding is being sought. The possibility of volunteer drivers from Saline and Steelend using the West Fife Villages Community Minibus to take local people without transport to Brightside Café once a week has been suggested. The possibility of extending and diverting the existing paths network to make Brightside Café a stopping off point on circular walks is also being explored. The Trust also wants to encourage local groups to use the café for meetings/gatherings. After discussion it was agreed that a letter of support should be provided.

Action: DC

7. AOCB

a) Barking dogs: Several residents had contacted the Community Council about dogs barking and yapping continuously throughout the day at properties on the West Road and North Road. It seems that they have been locked in all day while their owners are out at work. It is possible that the owners are unaware of their pet's behaviour. After discussion it was agreed that an item would be included in the Bulletin.

Action: DC

b) Tree pruning: BS drew attention to the crude way in which a mature hedge and trees had been pruned on the road from Oakley down to Cairney Hill.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25 April 2017: 7.30pm Saline Community Centre