

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 24th April 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, Laura Chesby, Nicola Smith, Lisa Murray, Beth Shaw, Stewart Miller, Dan Peggie, Dave Watling, Barry Doyle, Tom Dodds

Apologies: Jim Hensman, Morag Aitken, PC Chandler

1. **Chair's introductory remarks:** DC welcomed those present. He remarked on the concerns expressed by many in the community over the handling of the West Fife Villages Citizen of the Year. He confirmed that all community nominees would receive an award, Jim Hensman for Saline and Steelend. He would be raising the matter at the next meeting of the West Fife Villages Community Councils Forum to ensure that this situation didn't arise again. He remarked on Jim's contribution to our community and of his recent ill health. All present wished Jim well on his road to recovery.
2. **Speaker: Barry Doyle:** Barry gave an interesting and informative talk on Saline and District and the roles of the management group. He was primarily responsible for arranging speakers, Jackie Kerr and Linda Moyes led on projects while Tina Chapman led on museum activities. The society has different themes each year and Archaeology is the theme for 2017/18. He referred to the impending visit by 35 American descendants of a member of the Hardy family who is buried in Saline Old Graveyard.

The society is holding an Open Day on 27th May. Monthly meeting will now take place on the 3rd Monday of each month to enable ladies from the WRI to attend.

3. New Items:

There were no new issues that could not be addressed through "Matters Arising"

4. **Minutes of March 2017 Meeting:** Accepted as correct. Proposed by Marie Crane, seconded by Beth Shaw

5. Matters Arising

- i) Saline Church: Stewart Miller advised on recent developments. The Church is currently seeking funds to progress bid for Heritage Lottery assistance and anticipate a conservation architect being appointed by August and a submission in spring 2018. DC confirmed that he had sent a letter of support on behalf of the community council.
- ii) Playground Group: Nicola Smith advised that the group has submitted its application To Fife Environment Trust and will shortly apply for "Leader" funding. DM indicated that Leader can award grants of up to £100,000 and were holding a funding seminar in Charlestown in May that offered opportunities to speak to other funding bodies. Details have been circulated to other groups and the seminar will be promoted in the next Bulletin.

The group has finally received a response from Fife Council on obligations for community facilities related to the Allanwater development. Those present felt that the response was evasive and suspected that facilities would not be delivered. There was particular concern that most requirements would not be met until the development was completed. It was agreed that the community council should press for "up front" payments in future.

Regarding North Road, it is suspected that the flooding problem is caused by a drain in the road and an engineer has been appointed to investigate.

An important aspect is that funders will require Fife Council to confirm maintenance of the facility. The meeting was concerned that Fife Council management was dragging its

heels and pushing for changes to the proposed equipment. It was felt that the group had worked hard and that designs reflected the wishes of the community. NS felt that the matter would be resolved but it was a worry

- iii) Saline to Oakley Path: As indicated previously, Forestry Commission Scotland has marked out the route. Scotways will erect signs at either end when access is available through the Allanwater site. In the meantime, DM is contacting Jenny Ventham with a view to getting a crossing over the burn that bisects the route.
- iv) Kinneddar Park and Cowstrandburn Issues. DM advised that Phil Clarke had responded to residents' concerns over the location of the 20mph zone on Oakley Road. He had advised that Fife Council felt that moving the limit to Kinneddar Bridge would not encourage drivers to slow down for the whole length and that the difficulties in negotiating the bend at Kinneddar Lodge would effectively restrict speeds. Some queried that drivers would continue to speed southwards and that there was merit in revising the zone. However, it was also accepted that speeding drivers were unlikely to be influenced.

Phil also advised that the access close to the bend was not to the Allanwater site but for maintenance of the SUDS ponds and only limited use was anticipated.

DM advised that copies of all communications with Phil had been passed to Kinneddar Park and Cowstrandburn Residents Association

- (v) West Road: Tom Dodds advised of 3 recent accidents at the bend beyond the Saline boundary. One had involved injuries and those involved had been lucky to avoid more serious injury. There was considerable discussion of possible causes but no outstanding reason was identified, It was felt that further accidents will occur with potential for more serious outcomes. DM will contact Phil Clarke to ask Transportation to carry out a detailed investigation. Tom will make his personal experiences available.

Action:DM

- (vi) Fracking: DC advised that the group who had carried out the recent consultation had reported back. The approach has been seen as worthwhile and other communities are considering doing likewise. The Scottish Government has been pleased with the methodology. It was agreed that DC would prepare a summary for inclusion in the Community Bulletin. The document should be posted on the Community Website with hard copies deposited in the shop, community centre, Steelend Club and golf club

Action: DC

- (vii) Blair House Site: DM hopes to meet Martin McGroarty shortly to discuss how best the community can be involved in best restoration of the site. It is believed that there was to be a judgement on the restoration bond on 12th April but no information is available. There has been conflicting views on the judge's decision and there was little point in trying to guess the outcomes

- (viii) Parking on Pavements: There have been more (substantiated) complaints of cars parking on Oakley Road pavements. Concerns were also expressed about children running from the park to the Allanwater site and about a drop between Oakley Road and the temporary passing place that could be a hazard. It was agreed that Phil Clarke be contacted in the first instance.

Action: DM

- (ix) Brightside Cafe: DC advised on discussions on how to encourage use of the facilities by the community. He noted that the Heritage Society was proposing a heritage trail that covered this area. DM is liaising with Linda Moyes and Barry Doyle on a mutually beneficial network

- (x) Barking Dogs: Nothing further to report

6. Reports

- a) **Police:** PC Chandler was unable to attend and submitted the attached report. Although not part of the report, the prosecution of a quad bike rider was welcomed.

Concern about a convicted paedophile being housed in Saline has been raised by some parents. While it was believed that the person was not considered a danger, many felt that neighbours should have been notified. It was agreed that PC Chandler be asked to obtain a response from Police Scotland

Action: DM

- b) **Treasurer:** MC advised that the 2016/17 accounts had been audited. She was waiting for forms from Fife Council to enable this year's grant to be claimed. Until the grant is received, the £116.79 in the bank is the only available funds

It was noted that Stewart Millar has been auditing the community council accounts for some time and has also been providing a service for others. Stewart had been offered payment but had declined. He indicated that others were giving their time free of charge to benefit the community and he wished to make his own contribution. All present expressed their appreciation of Stewart's efforts

- (c) **Secretary:** DM indicated that his input had largely been covered by "Matters Arising". However, he had been advised by a Community Bulletin distributor that there was a "for sale" sign on the property at 37 Upper Kinneddar'. This property has been the source of complaints for many years due to its deteriorating condition and overgrown hedge that were affecting local amenity. DM has contacted Fife Council Housing who had advised that the council were acting as a broker between owner and interested buyers. Fife Council can only divulge details of the property if an interested party completes a form that would be passed to the owners. These forms have been provided and will be posted on the web site. It was noted that several local people have already expressed an interest. This was welcomed by the community council and, hopefully, there will be a final resolution of this problem.

- d) **Councillors' Reports:** None

7. AOCB

- (l) Litter: Dan Peggie drew attention of Upper Kinneddar and Eastercraigs Gardens residents' about windblown debris from the Allanwater site ending up in their gardens. There are also concerns that workers are using the park car park to eat meals and not disposing of litter properly. There was a degree of understanding of Allanwater's problems but not for the deposit of litter in the park. Initially, DC will speak to the site agent

Action: DC

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2017 . All welcome