

**CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS AND PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT PATTIESMUIR ON 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. **Present:** Alex Hill, Lesley Scott, Sue Hamilton, Callum MacInnes, Alistair Campbell, Peter Curry,
2. **In Attendance:** Doreen Kempself, Barbara McKenzie, Peter Hutchins, Anne Steele, Malcolm Hamilton, Ellyan Gold, Vanessa, James, (and Daisy) Gallagher, Cllr Orton, Cllr Steele, Cllr Verrecchia,
1. **Apologies:** Geoff Cartwright, Martin Mulube, Rob Thompson, Lorna Wilkie, Mandy Littlewood, George Hipwell, Police
2. **Minutes of the meeting of August 29th 2017.** Proposed Lesley; Seconded Alex.
3. **Matters Arising from meeting of August 29th 2017.**
  - a) Street name signs. Church Place signs have been erected and look good Halketts Hall sign still awaited.
  - b) Janice and Jimmy. After the last Community Council meeting, we counted the money from the collection. £75 was used to pay for a cake and flowers, and £2,400 was presented to Janice and Jimmy at a low key event in the Tea Room on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Secretary had, today, received a touching thankyou note:  
*We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend our "Low Key" farewell at the Tearoom on the 13th Sep. Talk about sardines in a can!! Didn't realise just how popular we were or maybe some wanted to make sure we were leaving? We would personally like to thank Sue Hamilton for her splendid oration of the words & comments from all our well-wishers. Funny sensation being pleased & slightly embarrassed at the same time. We must remember not to retire again. Seriously though, we had a very enjoyable afternoon and the cake was to die for. The villages collection totalled £2400 which left us totally gob smacked. Certainly an afternoon we both will remember. Also a very big thank you to the many customers who dropped off cards, flowers. chocolates and bottles at the shop. And finally without the loyalty of our customers that have supported us throughout the years, many still with us, sadly many that have passed away, we are eternally grateful and blessed to have shared in your lives.  
Fondest Regards, Janice & Jimmy.*
  - c) Mobile Phone Mast. No further communication with the company. Could it be that our villages will never get coverage? Cllr Orton volunteered to be a go-between between landowners, the community and the company.
  - d) Painted kerbs at the junction. Still no progress. Secretary will write again.
  - e) Defibrillator promotion. Secretary had made enquiries about the availability of CPR training which we might promote in the villages. She has discovered that Dunfermline Fire Station has a full training kit, which they lend out. Peter Curry said that the half day First Responder training that all Scout leaders have to do is excellent. Queen's Hall is, apparently planning to acquire a defibrillator for Charlestown. Alex will put an enquiry on Facebook to see what demand there might be for First Response training.
  - f) Urgent Care Review. Malcolm Hamilton provided an update of the process which is seeking to find the best way of providing effective and affordable out of hours care. He reported that concerns about Mental Health out of hours services had been raised at the workshop and confirmed that it is part of the Urgent Care Review noted.. The final meeting of the group is on 29<sup>th</sup> September. The intention is that this meeting will produce a list of costed options.
  - g) Promenade Railings. Missing rail still missing. Secretary will remind Fife Council again.
  - h) Fence in Limekilns Park. Secretary had been assured this morning that the fence had been fixed. She checked it later and found that nothing has been done! Cllr Orton observed that there probably needs to be some sort of access to the burn to service the culvert, and that some sort of gate is really required. Cllr Orton will follow this up.
  - i) The Estate has carried out a repair to the pothole in Brucehaven Road.
4. **Police.**
  - a) Police reported 11 calls to 101 from this area in past month. No recorded crimes.

- b) The police have been aware of an abandoned car at the foot of the Waggon Road. It is being gradually stripped of useful spares!
- c) Callum had phoned 101 to express his concern at the door to door sale of quiz books where the vendors appeared to have no bona fides. He received no follow-up from Police.

## **5. Post Office Services**

- a) One part of the Post Office does not seem to know what the other part is doing. On two separate occasions this month, Post Office 'men in suits' arrived – first to 'upgrade the Post Office computer system' and secondly to deliver bags of cash to the non-existent Post Office.
- b) Both the Bruce Arms and Rakhee and Solomon have registered an interest in running a 'Post Office Local' on their premises. The only response they seem to have received thus far, from the Post Office is that it's a long and complex process!
- c) Rob had drafted a letter of concern from the CC to the PO, asking why consultation had not been carried out before closure. He has received an acknowledgement..
- d) It doesn't appear that there will be any moves to have a Mobile Post Office in Charlestown until the 'Post Office Local' options have been assessed. The Mobile PO is programmed to stop on Limekilns Promenade between 2.15 and 4.15pm on a Thursday. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August and the 14<sup>th</sup> September it did not appear. The driver said that regular customers had been informed. This was just at the time when a lot of new people were looking to use the service! There is now a system in place for placing a notice in the window of 4a The Promenade if the Post Office will not be there that day.
- e) Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP had paid a visit to the Post Office after receiving a letter from the Post Office, informing her of the 'Temporary closure' of Charlestown Post Office.

## **6. Charlestown Playpark**

- a) Callum MacInnes emphasised that he and Deborah are still happy to work on getting the swings back, they are not in a position to lead a bigger playpark development project. Callum reminded Secretary that he had sent her the application form filled in with the information he could provide.
- b) Martin Mulube, in his note of apology for this evening's meeting, indicated his willingness to gauge support for a bigger project. He will contact Callum.
- c) The Playpark rebuild in Limekilns had been the outcome of a project led by a group of parents, who were concerned that Fife Council had gradually removed older play equipment on 'safety' grounds, until there was little left to play on. Cllr Orton said that a group of parents at Crombie had raised £5,000 towards the cost of their £70,000 facility.

## **7. Giant Hogweed Eradication Project**

- a) Following the article in the Dunfermline Press, Lorna reported that several individuals had contacted her with reports of the various invasive species – some of them from outwith the designated area!
- b) She had yet to receive a response from any of the Community Councils she had contacted.

## **8. Broomhall Estate.**

- a) Secretary had passed to the Estate, information about overhanging branches that were causing concern to members of the public.
- b) Vanessa Gallagher said there were still some branches that needed attention at the back of The Cairns, but had been told that the Estate 'cull quota' had been reached. Alistair Campbell explained that no Felling Licence is needed if landowners do not exceed a felling quota of 5m<sup>3</sup> per quarter. The next quarter begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 'Culling' quota does not include lopping of overhanging branches. (Permission has to be sought for work on or felling of a tree on which there is a Tree Preservation Order.)

## **9. Airport**

- a) Secretary had attended a final meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September of the 'Stakeholder Reference Group', (community representatives invited by The Consultation Institute to comment on the consultation process). At this meeting, we were told which flight path changes the airport had proposed to the Civic Aviation Authority. Community Councils (including our own) had been invited to a meeting a week later, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, where they would be given the same information. Secretary had sought,

and been granted, permission to use the information she had heard on the 19<sup>th</sup> to inform our Community Council about the proposed changes at this meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, it was announced that the CAA had put on hold the assessment of the new flight paths for technical reasons. There will now be a pause of unknown length. (The CAA had not begun to look at the quality of the consultation process whose many shortcomings have been widely reported)

- b) Malcolm Hamilton reported on his attendance (in lieu of Tom Leatherland) at the first meeting of the Airport Noise Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> September. This proved to be an introductory meeting to discuss the Terms of Reference of the forum as suggested by the airport. No minute of the meeting or any further communication has yet been received from the Interim Chair. Any further information received will be shared with Tom Leatherland and the Community Council.

#### **10. Treasurer's Report.**

Draft accounts have been examined by Sam Burton. Treasurership is now ready to be handed to Martin Mulube.

#### **11. Secretary's Report.**

- a) Minutes / recording of meetings. Following the last meeting of the Community Council, Rob Thompson had suggested that the task of taking minutes might be shared among members. Secretary had floated this idea to members. Rob, and one other, had expressed their willingness to take a turn. Two members had said 'no'. No one else responded. It appears there is little appetite to move to such an arrangement. The merits, or otherwise, of making a digital recording of meetings were discussed, but it was decided not to do this. The meeting agreed that there was no reason to change the way in which Community Council meetings are currently minuted.
- b) Fife Council communication channels. Secretary is trying to discover who it is who might manage the way in which Community Councils are informed about such things as 'Doors Open' days, and publication of 'What's On'.

#### **12. Councillors.**

- a) Cllr Orton reported that the Ward meeting had approved a grant of £5,000 to the Queen's Hall, and £460 to the Tennis Club.
- b) Cllr Steele reported on the matter of alterations to High School catchment areas. There seem to have been a number of different proposals, but the one fixed point seems to be that Limekilns pupils are destined to go to Dunfermline High. Three new/replacement High Schools are needed. No-one seems to know who will pay for them or when.

#### **13. AOCB**

- a) Vanessa explained how difficult the absence of dropped kerbs at key locations made her access to east-bound buses. Cllr Steele will follow this up with Ian Jones.
- b) If bins have not been uplifted, fill in the on-line form: <https://www.fifedirect.org.uk/lagan/missedBins/>  
Cllr Orton says, leaflets can be distributed if it is a parking issue that prevents uplift.
- a) Floral Display. Both villages got Gold Awards!. Furthermore, the villages were jointly awarded 'Best Small Village in Fife'. Congratulations to all involved. Pattiesmuir will try and send representation to the Floral Display Group AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October. With reference to 'wild flower' (with thistles) planting at the entrance to the village, Secretary commented that it was maybe time to revert to mowing!
- b) Campaign for Equal Right of Appeal in Planning. 'Planning Democracy' is campaigning for inclusion of an equal right of appeal to be included in the new Planning Bill. (The Developer only Right of Appeal was one reason why Councillors apparently felt disempowered in speaking out on behalf of Pattiesmuir residents at the recent planning meeting.) Sue Hamilton has cards for concerned individuals to send to their MSPs, if they wished to do so. Barbara will make sure they are passed on.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. 7.30pm. Gellat Hall. Apologies from Lesley.