

**CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS AND PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT GELLET HALL, LIMEKILNS ON 27th FEBRUARY 2018**

1. **Present:** Alex Hill, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Peter Curry, Alistair Campbell, Martin Mulube, Rob Thompson, Mandy Littlewood.
2. **In Attendance:** Tom Leatherland, Fiona Thompson, Ian Cruikshanks, Cllr Orton, Cllr Steele, Charlie Reid Thomas
3. **Apologies:**, Callum MacInnes, Lorna Wilkie, Cllr Verrecchia, Geoff Cartwright, Liz Hutchings, Doreen Kempself, Karen Grant
4. **Minutes of the meeting of January 30th 2018.** Proposed Lesley, Seconded Martin
5. **Matters Arising from meeting of January 30th 2018**
 - a) Charlestown Playpark. In discussion with Callum MacInnes and the Secretary, Martin had produced a paper (appended to this minute)n outlining a set of principles which must underlie the provision of playparks in our community. The councillors will use this paper to advocate for our requirements at the workshop meeting on 1st March.
 - b) Red Row Potholes. Alastair had done a thorough job of surveying the pot holes and had dimensions and photographs of each one. He estimated it would need 15 bags of cold tar @£8.40 (£126 including VAT) and two tins of cold joint sealer (£41.08), making a total estimated cost of £167.08. Jim Leiper would be asked to seek 'crowdfund' contributions from each householder on Red Row. Alastair suggested the work could be completed by two or three able-bodied people in an afternoon.
 - c) War memorial path works. Nothing to report.
 - d) Secretary's enquiries continue about the non-functioning eastbound variable sign. A senior engineer seems now to have been made aware of the problem.
 - e) The additional grit bin at Havens Edge had been redeployed elsewhere.
 - f) Broken Manhole cover. Contrary to Fife Council's suggestion that this would not be repaired until the new financial year, it was fully repaired in early February.
6. **Secondary School Catchment Area.**
 - a) Officers had declined the Councillor invitation to a meeting with parents and children.
 - b) Councillor Steele and Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP had advocated for the children, to no avail.
 - c) It was suggested that legal constraints now preclude further progress until after 15th March, the deadline for placement requests.
 - d) It was unclear whether all the parents had received the letter of invitation to submit placement requests by 15th March.
 - e) Councillors will seek to arrange a meeting immediately after 15th March.
 - f) When this year's situation is resolved, we have further concerns about future years. In particular there must be a review and reform of policies, so that the distance criterion (which was introduced in consideration of walking distances) is not given such priority – as it will effectively always disadvantage rural schools.
7. **Police.** No report from the police. Graffiti has appeared in a number of secluded locations. All are asked to be vigilant of suspect behaviour and any additions to the 'gallery'. Thanks to the resident for removing the graffiti that appeared on the broadband box at The Wellheads.
8. **Broomhall Estate.**
 - a) The Estate Office will shortly relocate to North Cottage at the Brickworks.
 - b) Trees in Double Row will be inspected for possible dangerous branches.
 - c) Potholes in Cross Row and North Row back lane. If the affected individuals contact the Estate Office, the Estate will advise.

- d) Potholes at the Soapworks. These are becoming dangerous, and causing vehicles destroy the grass verge. Estate will inspect.
- e) Buckshot landing on roofs and gardens in Halketts Hall. Resident had spoken to the police. Estate is aware.
- f) Geese. Very loud gunshots had been used with the apparent intention to scare geese on an early evening in December. George Hipwell had not clarified who had been responsible for the proximity of this to houses.

9. IFLI (Inner Forth Landscape Initiative)

- a) Stone markers for Limekilns Pier. There is a revised planning application for the markers and beacons, which seems to work. There will be a series of boards encouraging visitors to take in different aspects of their surroundings, and the carved stones will form a pathway alluding to different users of the pier over time. (The earlier reference to fisher folk has been removed.)
- b) 'Insight' visits to the Kilns. A number of villagers enjoyed an excellent informative tour round the works going on at the Charlestown kilns. The works are nearing completion. Iron grills have been erected on most of the arches and there are special facilities for swifts and bats. The frontage of the kilns will be landscaped, and information boards erected.

10. Edinburgh Noise Advisory Board.

- a) Tom Leatherland reported that the group has grown in size as more Community Councils have joined. Edinburgh Airport's funding of the group will take the form of funds for projects which the group wishes to see undertaken, and of which the Airport approves. The group's first proposal is to hire experts to analyse the information in a vast spreadsheet that the airport has given them.
- b) Secretary has been sent a consultation document on an update to the Noise Action Plan. It is not an engaging document and seems to be a formality that the airport is required to undertake! This one is based on the existing flight paths. When new flight paths come into operation, the Noise Action Plan has to be rewritten and consulted upon!

11. Fife Council Waste Reduction Strategy.

- a) Secretary, Tom Leatherland, and Ken Walker had attended the workshop meeting on 15th February.
- b) There was a lot of interest in reducing plastic waste and what the pathways towards a zero waste economy might look like.
- c) We were disappointed at how little information was provided about the current destination of recyclable materials.
- d) A note of the meeting will be circulated.

12. Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Nature Conservation Group

- a) Group is interested in progress of Fife's Waste Reduction Strategy
- b) Village beach clean on Sunday 4th March.
- c) Training is being arranged for 'Capturing the Coast' Citizen Science project.
- d) Signs to be put up to discourage dog fouling on the beaches.
- e) May seek a grant from the Community Council for clip boards, steel bag hoops and sharps boxes for beach cleans.

13. Community-led Support

- a) Rob Thompson gave a brief resume of the report he had received following the 'Visioning Workshop' which followed the workshop he attended in December.
- b) There are a number of suggestions as to how organisations in a community might work together to form a network of local support for elderly and vulnerable people, and something of a grand vision of the outcomes of such a scheme.
- c) A number of working groups have been established to work out what to do

- d) Sadly, it seems there is no identified funding to kick-start any process of enthusing communities to build such networks or provide professional support to enable and strengthen them.

14. Treasurer's Report.

- a) Signature changes are underway
- b) No transactions this month.

15. Community Action Plan

- a) Martin Mulube reported on his further work on the plan. He has sketched out a calendar where different topic areas of the plan will be considered at future Community Council meetings.
- b) The topic proposed for this meeting was 'Community spaces and parks'. (The playpark element has been addressed at Item 5(a) above.) Following discussion at the meeting around footpaths, Limekilns Pier restoration, and 'growing spaces' the plan will be updated.

16. Secretary's Report.

- a) Mobile Post Office. The van did not arrive on 15th February. A belated message was sent (by text to a helpful member of the public) to say it had broken down in Newmills. A few days later, a message was sent to say that it would not be there the following week (22nd) because its tail-lift was not working. Callum had suggested we put in a complaint to the Post Office. Secretary did that on 23rd February but has heard nothing since. What we need more than anything is direct communication with the local manager of the Mobile van.
- b) Milesmark and Baldridgeburn CC had circulated information about the vulnerability of hedgehogs.
- c) 'Battle's Over' Beacon Event. This is part of a UK-wide programme of events to mark the end of the First World War. There was no interest voiced in hosting our own beacon event.
- d) 'The Villages of West Fife' booklet and e-book. The updated handbook will be launched at an even in Culross Abbey at 10.30am on 23rd March. There is some information about our villages in it but Secretary does not recall our having been asked about updates.
- e) Community Showcase Event. This is planned for Saturday 21st April when the refurbished church will play host to any and all village organisations which wish to share (and/or show off) what their organisation is and does.
- f) Parking Charges at Ferrytoll? The Council proposal to introduce charges could be a retrograde step in terms of sustainable travel options. Many Councillors have voiced their misgivings. Stagecoach has also voiced their opposition to the proposal.

17. Councillors.

- a) Most matters already raised and discussed.
- b) School parking. PC Kenny Bow has been made aware of this and other issues near the school.
- c) Community Council Election arrangements are being reviewed. Secretary should receive a consultation mailing from Mike Melville.

18. AOCB

- a) Peter Curry alerted the meeting to the Red Alert for snow from tomorrow. Please look out for each other and vulnerable villagers.
- b) Lesley Scott expressed her disappointment in the location of the Halketts Hall sign.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th March 2018. 7.30pm. Gellet Hall.

CLP Community Council – Play Priorities

Principles

Playparks should be kept as local as possible to support our goals around improving health, activity and building a vibrant local community.

If playparks are local, children and families are more likely to walk to them, both reducing car use, increasing physical activity for everyone and spending more time being present in the community.

Children are likely to use a local park much more frequently than one that they have to be taken to; and within villages they are soon able to take themselves increasing their independence.

As a result, we would ask the Council to deliver a strategy of keeping parks local for our children by maintaining existing amenities and replacing out of date equipment as it is required.

What this means for our Parks

Charlestown, currently 12th on the list

- Replacement of the swings only, but no other significant development at this stage due to concerns around increasing footfall and parking impacting on the residents

Limekilns, currently 13th on the list

- Replacement of the broken piece of equipment

Larger Redevelopment Schemes

If a larger investment scheme were possible we would be happy to work in the partnership with the Council to try and pull in funds from elsewhere to help off-set some of the cost. The Council would, however, need to ensure that there was sufficient resource to appropriately support local communities to navigate these processes.

Limekilns Park is already more of a destination park, so if a larger investment was available this is where we would support it. Refreshing or renewing the equipment in this park would be investing in the future of this park before the equipment falls into disrepair. This park is regularly used by the School so is a key part of their wider facilities for children.

Alongside additional/new equipment the principles that we would apply to this park would be:

- Ensuring that there is sufficient and specific disability access equipment so that park facilities are available for all children
- Access to toilet facilities that are already present in the football storage area to make it possible