

**CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS AND PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT GELLET HALL, LIMEKILNS ON 30th JANUARY 2018**

1. **Present:** Alex Hill, Sue Hamilton, Callum MacInnes, Lesley Scott, Alistair Campbell, Martin Mulube, Rob Thompson, Mandy Littlewood.
2. **In Attendance:** Tom Leatherland, Fiona Thompson, Jim Leiper, Anne Horne, Ian Cruikshanks, Gaye MacKay, Tracy Kelly, Cllr Orton, Cllr Steele, Cllr Verrecchia,
3. **Apologies:** Peter Curry, Lorna Wilkie, Geoff Cartwright, George Hipwell, Doreen Kempself,
4. **Minutes of the meeting of November 28<sup>th</sup> 2017.** Proposed Lesley, Seconded Callum
5. **Matters Arising from meeting of November 28<sup>th</sup> 2017.**
  - a) Bins at The Cairns. Following a site visit of a Fife Council officer and the delivery of a letter to each household, it seems that cars are being parked more thoughtfully on bin days, and the bin lorry is getting through.
  - b) Charlestown Playpark. Clair Lovett had been told of the Community Council decision to just seek replacement of the swings, but has been slow to respond. Cllr Steele said that there is now an 'improve and remove' funding package, and that a workshop is to look at funding allocations on 1<sup>st</sup> March. She will enquire who is invited.
  - c) War memorial path works. Has been well tested by rain in the last few weeks. More stone to be purchased. A cheque for £400 has been received from West Fife Rotary. Alastair suggested it is worth asking the Lodge for a contribution too. Cllr Orton suggested there might be a need for a fence to stop children falling down the bank on Remembrance Sunday. Meeting did not think this was necessary.
  - d) IFLI (Inner Forth landscape Initiative) stone markers for Limekilns Pier. We have been reassured that we will get these before the IFLI project winds up in September. In view of possible progress with pier repairs, Alex will speak to Russell about the timing of their installation.
  - e) Promenade Railings. Neat replacements for the rustiest railings have been installed.
  - f) A new sign for Halketts Hall has been installed.
  - g) Community Action Plan. Martin thanked members for their feedback which he will incorporate in an updated version.
  - h) Secretary's enquiries continue about the non-functioning eastbound variable sign.
  - i) Lynn Burn. Cllr Steele reported that Ross Vetriano, Fife Council convenor for Environment, was in touch with Sott Fraser of Scottish Water and sewage issues at Lynn Burn were being addressed. (We'll see!)
6. **Police.** No report from the police and no issues raised by residents. Public survey on the Policing plan had been circulated
7. **Airport Noise Forum (Edinburgh Noise Advisory Board).** Tom Leatherland reported on the most recent meeting where new Terms of Reference were agreed. These would be circulated to CC members. The group is funded by Edinburgh airport. It was emphasised that the group is not opposed to development, but want to see that any change is accompanied by the least possible new noise anywhere. There is a particular issue with how the civil aviation Authority measures noise – as a 16 hour average. It's not the average noise over many hours that wakes people, it's peaks of noise that are disturbing. There is also concern over the possibility of a greater number of night flights. We may also find that flights are nudged nearer to us in order to avoid larger population centres.

## **8. Broomhall Estate.**

- a) Charlie Reid Thomas is back from his sabbatical year in New Zealand and had phoned the Secretary to give George Hipwell's apologies

## **9. Fife Council Waste Reduction Strategy.**

- a) There are big changes ahead about how Fife deals with waste (now to be viewed as a 'resource'!). You are invited to register for a workshop that is being held at the Carnegie Conference Centre on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 7 – 9pm. To book a place, contact [carolynm.bell@refsol.co.uk](mailto:carolynm.bell@refsol.co.uk) by email or phone 03451 555 555 x 440240
- b) There are new rules about how much can go to landfill, so there will be more emphasis on recycling and reuse.
- c) Fife currently prides itself in high 'recycling' rates, but residents need convincing that streams stay separate and are actually recycled. Apparently, China has been the destination for our plastics, but we don't know the extent to which recycling happened when they got there! (And now China doesn't want any more!)

## **10. Secondary Schools Catchment Areas**

- a) The close-knit group of twelve P7 pupils at Limekilns school who are due to transfer to high school in August, and their parents, have been subject to serious stress by successive proposed schemes to redraw catchment areas.
- b) All 12 had begun a transition programme to Woodmill.
- c) Just days before Christmas, the 5 pupils without siblings at Woodmill received a letter saying they would transfer to Inverkeithing.
- d) Senior Education officers and the Head of the Education Committee had recently met the parents of affected pupils. Councillors had not been invited.
- e) There is now a waiting list of 95 for Woodmill, and the five Limekilns pupils would be numbers 91 to 95 on that list based on the application of the Fife Council admissions policy which applies distance as the final criterion.
- f) Everyone agrees that treating such a small group in this cavalier way is unacceptable.
- g) The Councillors are deeply concerned about the handling of this situation, and Cllr Steele, as a member of the Education Committee has, been speaking out. She has also called on MSP Shirley-Anne Somerville to intervene.
- h) Cllr Orton proposed that he convene a meeting of Education Officers, affected pupils, their parents, the Councillors and the MSP to seek a resolution to this unacceptable impasse for this P7 cohort. The Community Council was pleased to accept the offer that Councillors set this up
- i) The Fife Council solution is to offer counselling to affected pupils to help them deal with the stress!!!
- j) Fife Councillors agreed with the CC that the Admissions Policy should be amended to include provisions alongside the distance criterion to preclude discrimination against rural communities and indicated that they would be taking a resolution to full council to achieve this.
- k) An updated proposal to amend catchment areas will be taken to the Education Committee in the next few months. We should watch closely what it suggests.

## **11. Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Nature Conservation Group**

- a) Jo Macfarlane has started this group to bring together folk who are interested in nature conservation-related projects and ideas in the villages
- b) The most important thing is that this group is about having fun, being sociable and, most of all, taking action for nature! Anyone who might like to be involved, can contact Jo at [joannamcfarlane12@gmail.com](mailto:joannamcfarlane12@gmail.com)
- c) The next meeting is at 8pm on Monday 19th February at the Ship Inn.

- d) There will be a village beach clean on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- e) There is a Citizen Science project called Capturing the Coast which people might like to volunteer for.

#### **12. Treasurer's Report.**

- a) New signatory mandates are being arranged.
- b) Cheque for £35 signed Data Protection registration
- c) A cheque for £400 for materials for the War Memorial had been received.

#### **13. Secretary's Report.**

- a) Red Row Potholes. These are sharp-edged and getting bigger. Alastair knows about getting the right number of bags of cold tar and how to use and get access to a 'whacker'. Householders to be asked to make a modest contribution to the cost.
- b) Reporting Potholes in Fife. It's very easy, and it helps the council to know where bad potholes are developing. Go to Fifiedirect/ Report/ Report a Road Fault and then zoom in to the map to pinpoint the exact location, click 'Select', describe the problem and Submit.
- c) Broken manhole cover by bus shelter on Limekilns Green. Council had been slow to make it safe, and say it will have to wait till the new financial year to be repaired.
- d) Lorna Wilkie had offered her resignation from the Community Council, as her new job as an Environmental Clerk of Works on the A9 means her days are long and evenings virtually unavailable. Secretary had suggested she stay on, on the understanding that attending meetings will be difficult, and she reviews the situation when CC elections are held in November. The meeting agreed that we value her expertise and the hard work she does on behalf of our community.
- e) Grit bin allocation. Secretary has questioned why we have two grit bins at Haven's Edge.
- f) School parking. Parents parking at, or very near to the entrance to North Loanhead are causing a hazard by severely restricting the view oncoming vehicles for drivers exiting from North Loanhead. Mrs Marsh will put out a note to parents.

#### **14. Councillors.**

- a) The Ward Community Planning Fund stands at £54,000.
- b) Cllr Orton will contact the Estate about Pattiesmuir potholes.

#### **15. AOCB**

- a) Rob Thompson volunteered to contact the Estate to see if they could help with moving seaweed accumulation in anticipation of the beach clean in March.
- b) Breakfast Dip 2018 had 147 participants and raised £2,200 for Pier repairs. Thanks Alex for all the organisation!
- c) Cross Row residents are concerned about the depth of 'their' potholes. Residents are also worried about the safety of trees in Double Row where large branches have fallen in strong winds.
- d) Rob Thompson reported that the West Fife Villages Community Council Forum has called a meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> March when it will be proposed that the organisation be formally wound up. CC members agreed that working with other Community Councils is valuable when they have a shared issue, when joint meetings can be called. In the meantime it is to be proposed that the remaining Forum funds be transferred to the West Fife Heritage Group.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 7.30pm. Gellet Hall.