

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

1. **Present:** Alex Hill, Sue Hamilton, Callum MacInnes, Geoff Cartwright, Lesley Scott, Peter Curry, Martin Mulube, Rob Thompson,.
2. **In Attendance:** Tom Leatherland, Fiona Thompson, Cllr Orton, Cllr Steele, Cllr Verrecchia, Charlie Reid Thomas, Doreen Kempsell
3. **Apologies:**, Mandy Littlewood, Lorna Wilkie, Police
4. **Minutes of the meeting of February 27<sup>th</sup> 2018.** Proposed Lesley, Seconded Martin
5. **Matters Arising from meeting of February 27<sup>th</sup> 2018**
  - a) Charlestown Playpark. Meeting scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March was snowed off. It happened yesterday and provided a bit more clarity about the Council's thinking. Copies of the working papers were provided by Cllr Orton. We will arrange a meeting with Alistair Mutch to discuss funding for the Charlestown swings. Council is aware that Limekilns will need refurbishment as it ages. (Secretary was recently informed that one of the spring animals has been removed from Limekilns, due to old age.)
  - b) Red Row Potholes. Neither Alastair nor Jim Leiper were in attendance to progress this project.
  - c) Secretary's enquiries continue about the non-functioning eastbound variable sign. More senior engineers are now aware of the problem. Meeting agreed that if Amey are discussing the problems with Transport Scotland, we should be invited to participate in discussions. Resurfacing works on A985 causing three overnight road closures from tonight.
  - d) Airport. Tom has joined a sub-group of the Noise Management group to thrash out issues of concern. They are currently looking at the effect of 'vectoring' (where planes and pilots divert from designated flight paths). Edinburgh can make its own decisions about night flying because it is not a 'designated' airport.
  - e) Community Showcase event. Limekilns Church 21<sup>st</sup> April. Opportunity for organisations to publicise what they do. Community Council should have a stall. Secretary will book. Alex and Martin volunteered to put something together. Secretary will help with material, but is not available on the day.
  - f) Community Council Elections. These will be in October. Secretary has put information about suggested changes to the election process in the drop box.
  - g) Mobile Post Office. The mobile office has failed to appear for four successive weeks. The lady operator is as frustrated as the rest of us. There is only the one vehicle that operates over a large part of Fife and it is fully committed. If the vehicle is out of action for any reason, then all the communities it 'serves' get no service. Secretary has spent a considerable time chasing up the reasons and pleading for a service at Charlestown.
  - h) 'Battle's Over' Beacon Event. Andrew Mitchell and the scouts are interested in hosting a beacon.
  - i) Fife Waste Strategy. The new Fife Council Waste Strategy has been approved by the full Council. Tom L had received a response to his request for information about the current destination of recyclables. He will forward it to the Secretary.
  - j) Red alert. The village response to the heavy snow was magnificent. All residents and businesses to be congratulated on their response. Access to the village was blocked by an abandoned car, meaning no emergency vehicles could have got in. Always stay with your vehicle until you are sure that the emergency services know where and how you can be contacted. Both John Hutcheson and Jocky Wilson, our neighbouring farmers, did sterling work in letting us all out! Andrew Mitchell suggested there is work to be done in restoring fence, wall, and hedge windbreaks, so that we don't get such deep drifts. Fife council looking to nominate snow champions. We'd nominate the whole community!

## **6. Secondary School Catchment Area.**

- a) Officers said they had misunderstood the Councillor invitation to the meeting with parents and children.
- b) Education committee has published a new catchment strategy to be consulted upon. It apparently proposes that all Rosyth pupils go to Inverkeithing.
- c) Cllr Steele had, this very evening, received an email saying that the 'Limekilns Five' will, after all transfer to Woodmill in August. GREAT NEWS!
- d) This year's situation may now be resolved, but we still need to ensure that the distance criterion is not given such priority – as it will effectively always disadvantage rural schools.

**7. Police.** Brief report from the police. They seem to think we're still in Ward 1!

## **8. Broomhall Estate.**

- a) Trees in Double Row. Foresters still to inspect.
- b) Potholes at the Soapworks. Stone will be delivered imminently.
- c) Change of staff in the office. Gillian Ferguson to replace Romy.
- d) Flooding at Charles Way. The ditch had generally performed well, and accommodated most of the water when the snow melted, but the bund does need to be raised by a couple of feet at its western end near the wood.

## **9. Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Nature Conservation Group (CLPNCG)**

- a) Village beach clean on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March had been a great success. 60 volunteers. 63kg rubbish. Beach clean leaders now trained. A school class is to do a follow-up clean. Grant from Community Council had allowed purchase of clip boards, litter pickers, gloves, and sharps boxes.
- b) Signs still to be put up to discourage dog fouling on the beaches.
- c) Members of group to become Recycling Champions.
- d) Maybe there's a way of organising regular glass bottle collections – particularly in Charlestown?.
- e) Plastic-free Community status maybe achievable for us. Surfers against Sewage's methodology is worth looking at. <https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Plastic-Free-Coastlines-Community-Toolkit.pdf>
- f) Next meeting, 8pm 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Ship Inn.

## **10. Planning**

- a) Secretary had been contacted by residents at Hilton Farm and steadings, concerned about a planning application to build two houses south of the steading development. (Planning permission for two similar houses as been refused before and taken to appeal, which failed.) The application had been on the agenda for the West Area Planning Committee meeting in March, but councillors on the committee said they were not sufficiently familiar with the site and issues without a site visit. A site visit will be held before the April meeting.
- b) Planning is the one area where Community Councils have a statutory role.

## **11. Treasurer's Report.**

- a) Community Council approved a grant of £105.94 to the CLPNCG for purchase of equipment as detailed in 9(a) above.
- b) Signature changes have been delayed because the bank is still sending paperwork to Kat!
- c) Year-end accounts to be prepared in anticipation of AGM in May

## **12. Community Action Plan**

Martin Mulube reported on his further work on the plan. The topic proposed for this meeting was 'Health, Wellbeing and Community Engagement'. Various strands discussed, including new GP contract, 'community led support', the encouragement of exercise, walking routes, green gym, nature conservation activities etc.

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

- a) Inner Forth Landscape Initiative are planning a 'Hands on Heritage' day at Charlestown Green on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. They had asked Secretary about borrowing tables, gazebos etc. Rob is content to be the contact person. Secretary will pass his contact details to the organisers.
- b) A resident had reported a temporary bus stop behind the wall at the top of Charlestown Brae. Secretary had passed the information to Scott Blyth.
- c) Steps at Peggy Bell's Brae. Richard Fleming had kindly volunteered to re-apply white paint at the edge of each step. He is investigating what paint will stick!

### **14. Councillors.**

- a) Most matters have already been raised and discussed.
- b) Rosyth Flooding. A public meeting is to be held in the Park Gate Centre in Rosyth on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### **15. AOCB**

- a) Lorna Wilke had reported a fuel leak from a vessel in Charlestown Harbour to SEPA. They have attended and removal of contaminated seaweed is being arranged.
- b) Flooding following the melting of the snow at the beginning of the month had resulted in a huge amount of sanitary debris on the banks and tree branches at the Lynn Burn. Scottish Water 'will arrange a clean-up'.
- c) West Fife Villages Community Council Forum has been wound up. It was agreed that Community Councils should still work together when they faced a common issue.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018. 7.30pm. Gellat Hall.