

Culross Community Council

Minute of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 4th November 2019

Held in The Stables, Culross

Present:

Lynne Smith, Chair
Lora Hall Graham, Vice-Chair
Robin MacKenzie, Treasurer
Diane MacKenzie, Minute Secretary
Sandy Tippet, Member
Tom Cosgrove, Member
Martin King, Member
Louise Reith, Member

In Attendance:

Cllr. Mino Manekshaw
Cara Stewart, NTS Operations Manager, Forth Valley Cluster
Andy Elmer, NTS Manager
Louise Arnot, resident
Lindsey Porteous, resident

Apologies Submitted:

Cllr Kate Stewart; Clare Short, CCC Member; Angus Carmichael, Ash Lagoons Liaison; Calli Jones, Culross Primary School; Lindsey Marchant

The meeting started at 7.30pm following the AGM with Lynne Smith in the Chair.

1. Guest Speakers

Guest Speakers - There were no guest speakers.

Police - There was no Police Report.

Culross Primary School - There was no School Report.

NTS Report - Cara Stewart, Operations Manager Forth Valley Cluster, thanked the CCC for her welcome and advised her first month in post had gone well.

Work is due to commence on the garden of Wee Causeway House now the short term tenants have vacated and Louise & David, Palace Gardeners will look after the garden going forward. Confirmed requirement for NTS tenants to maintain the garden is stipulated in the lease and will be followed up on going forward.

Sandy enquired about NTS letting policy and the need for the village to have longer term lets with families being prioritised for larger houses in order to ensure school remains viable and Cara confirmed this will be supported wherever possible.

Care confirmed NTS would like to contribute towards the public toilet project and Simon Skinner, CEO, has agreed to support funding of £2,000 towards the new interpretation board for the Pier & Moat Pit.

Lower Nunnery - contractor's starting next week to check the flooding issue and assess future works.

No. 6 The Cross - new tenant moving in.

Bennet House - understands the completion certificate is outstanding and this to be prioritised.

Palace now closed until 1/4/20 after a successful season and huge thanks to all the staff and volunteers. Gardens will remain open during the week with Andy & Louise on site.

Future plans - include interpretation lighting, signage, increasing range of tours.

2. Approval of the Minute of the Previous Meeting

The Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 7th October 2019 was approved by Robin MacKenzie and seconded by Lora Graham.

3. Matters Arising from the Minute of the Previous Meeting

Village flooding - Mino advised investigations into the terrible flooding in the village on 10th August continue and meeting planned for w/c 11/11 with FC, Scottish Water, resident reps, local

farmers to understand issues and consider solutions. Mino has been working with Kane Smith FC and sink hole in Kirk St has now been repaired; he has met with local farmers who will attend mtg. Meantime, further concerns re build up of water behind wall at Slate Loan following drainage improvements in fields to the north; residents shared concerns about the impact of mine workings, water supplies to old wells, pressure on ancient walls especially those at the back of the Palace and supporting Erskine Brae Gardens. **[Action Mino]**.

Sandhaven Flooding - Lindsey Porteous has advised which drains blocked and delivered photographs to Town House to illustrate. **[Action Lora/ Lynne to locate]**

CCC requested Fire Service to inspect fire hydrants but received no response. **[Action Lynne to follow up]**

Residents are to be advised to check nearest water stopcock can be turned off in an emergency and winter checklist to be posted on notice boards, social media, email, shared with Seniors **[Action Sandy]**

Resilience Package - to be compiled **[Action Pending]**

NTS will ensure tenants have all emergency action information, fire & flood strategy **[Action Cara NTS]**

Impact of Tourism - agreed there are pros & cons to tourism in the village and it would be helpful to discuss how to better manage the impact on the local residents & environment.

Status of play park as 'local' not 'destination' will be raised, given high level of use and impact on repair/ maintenance. **[Action Lynne & Lora meeting Alastair Mutch, FC end November]**

Common Good Fund Abbey Church - Lynne wrote to Helen Law, Chair CGF, no reply **[Action Lynne to follow up]**

New Interpretation Board for Pier & Moat Pit - confirmation of NTS funding means this project is now able to progress. **[Action Diane/ Pending]**

Drinking Water - Kate contacted **Scottish Water** and Culross has been added to their list of potential places to have a 'Top Up Tap' installed. **[Action Pending]**

Improving visibility of public toilets - Lindsey spoken with local businesses who have all offered financial support to project. Meeting artist on Friday to discuss mural. CCC looking at improving access and signage. **[Action Lindsey/ CCC]**

Notice Board for West Fife Woodland Maps - Martin King undertaking this work. **[Action Martin]**

Car Charging Station - Mino advised FC Councillors voted for Culross to receive two intermediate stations and Alastair Mutch is progressing. **[Action pending]**

Gala Tent Damage - pending. **[Action Lynne & Tim]**

Stables Storage - pending. **[Action Robin applied for funds]**

Remembrance Day Wreaths - **[Action Robin ordered for CCC, Young Seniors & Culross Primary School, all invited to attend service at War Memorial at 10.45am]**

Polling Station - The Stables has been proposed as the new polling station for the village. **[Action Clare progressing]**

Hanging Gardens Walkway - condition of walls along the Erskine Brae garden boundaries believed to be a community safety concern and agreed CCC need to advise residents to look after their boundary wall to remove vegetation to reduce damage and avoid greater costs in the future.

[Action agreed Louise to advise]

Sale of the Stephen Memorial Hall - Lynne wrote to FC to ascertain what the proposed future commercial use might be, received no reply, chased response, still unclear, will raise with Alastair Mutch, Locality Manager **[Action Lynne]**

Community Payback - agreed to ask to build new steps from coastal path to toilets, maintain Strynd Vennel, spraying of weeds, new slabs Session Green. **[Action Lynne]**

Other environmental works - overgrown ivy on wall from St. Mungo's to Endowment **[Action Lora to contact Charles Bruce to remove]**; Assess bench repairs, notice board repairs, management of overgrown vegetation up steps to Hanging Gardens and any other areas concern **[Action Martin]**

Environmental - Louise Reith raised issue of flaring at INEOS and potential air pollution impact given Grangemouth petrochemical plants are in Fife of the top 10 top polluters. Sandy advised reporting to SEPA unusual flaring/ air quality concerns. Agreed Louise will research action group and potential of joining **[Action Louise]**

VE Day 2020 - Lynne advised keen to commemorate the 75th Anniversary and will provide further details when known. Meantime booked Glenbervie Duo to play. **[Action Ongoing]**

4. Chairperson's Report

No report. See Matters Arising & AOCB

5. Treasurer's Report

Robin MacKenzie advised:

Balance on General Account at 31/10/19 was £912.94

Environmental Account was £3,276 - including £261.65 Floral Grant & £1808.54 Fete Surplus

Donations paid to Culross Primary School, Culross Community Garden, Culross Young Seniors and funds set aside for improvements to Session Green area.

Agreed £100 donation to West Fife Woodlands in appreciation of the work they are doing on creating path network in local area. **[Action Robin]**

6. Correspondence Received

All CCllrs to read the Yahoo mailbox/ share correspondence of note.

See Matters Arising & AOCB

7. Fife Councillors' Report

Mino advised on behalf of Kate that the funding is now in place for the 'Witches Trail' from Culross to Torryburn via Valleyfield Woods along the coastal path to commemorate the 32 'witches' burned in Culross and those accused of witchcraft.

Mino advised Fife Council deficit over the next three years will be around £30 million resulting in a huge budget squeeze, particularly street cleaning, hedge cutting, maintenance etc.

8. External Meeting Report

West Fife Village Forum representative required and Lynne will pass details to Tom for his consideration **[Action Lynne]**

No Reports beyond Matters Arising & AOCB.

9. Planning

No Planning applications.

10. Any Other Competent Business

- **Christmas Trees** - Order trees for Town House & Community Garden **[Action Robin]**
- **Rotary of West Fife** - offering practical or financial assistance and felt Community Garden in need **[Action Martin to discuss with Rotary & Pat]**
- **Hedge Cutting** - Fife Council were contacted to cut the hedges at East Car Park and village Green and this was promptly undertaken **[Action Complete]**
- **New benches** - new bench pending for the village Green and Session Green.
- Jenny Morgan - former Culross Citizen of the Year sadly passed away one month before her 100th birthday, Service in Culross Abbey on 22/11/19 at 11.45am. **[Action Lynne to contact Jenny's son David to discuss tribute]**
- **Lindsey Porteous** - offer to NTS of musical instrument collection and potential for home to be living museum on his passing to be considered **[Action Cara NTS]**
- **Scottish BAFTA Award** - Congratulations to Pat Rambaut on her life time achievement award **[Action CCC considering cheese & wine February 2020 and to give appreciation]**

11. Date of Next Meeting & AGM

Monday 2nd December at 7pm in The Town House, Culross.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.