

**CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS AND PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE GELLET HALL, ON 27th NOVEMBER 2018**

1. **Present:** Martin Mulube, Sue Hamilton, Callum MacInnes, Rob Thompson, Geoff Cartwright, Martin John Callanan, Don Briggs
2. **In Attendance:** Cllr Orton, Lorna Stewart (Broomhall Estate), Tom Leatherland, Fiona Thompson.
3. **Apologies:** Lesley Scott, Fiona Philp, Andrew Aldous, Mandy Littlewood, Paul Byford, Cllr Steele, Cllr Verrecchia
4. **Resignation:** Mandy Littlewood has also tendered her resignation in light of her recent appointment to the Childrens' Panel.
5. **Minutes of the meeting of October 30th 2018**
  - a. These were approved: Proposed by Geoff, Seconded by Callum.
6. **Meeting Etiquette**
  - a. In order to ensure that time spent at the meetings is as productive as possible, all agenda items will be clearly identified with the purpose and expected outcome of each topic.
  - b. The general expectation is that for an item to be included onto the agenda it will be to agree the next action to be taken on the CC's behalf or to set a policy for the future. The intention is to increase productivity of each session and to maximise the output of the CC.
  - c. Each agenda topic will be led by a named individual and will ideally be based on papers or discussion points that have been shared in advance.
    - i. Noted that effort should be taken in the meeting to ensure that discussions are presented in such a way that everyone in attendance, who may not be party to advance papers, is able to understand and exchange with the issue under discussion.
  - d. To facilitate this type of discussion more than one person talking at a time will be avoided, ideally in a conversational style, however, the chair reserved the right to ask people to indicate they wished to speak if that became necessary.
  - e. If during the discussion it moves to an off-topic but relevant area, this will be parked and dealt with on a future agenda
  - f. Mindful that because of the strong volunteering spirit within the community, members and those in attendance are frequently involved with other organisations. While this is not a conflict of interest, the chair asked if those speaking could indicate if they do have a relevant association to ensure that everyone in the room is aware of their specialist knowledge.
7. **Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration.**
  - a. The Scottish Government's consultation on the environmental and business/regulatory aspects of fracking closes on Dec 18th 2018.
  - b. Rob Thompson had prepared a draft response to the Scottish Government consultation.
  - c. All present agreed that the text reflected their views that the ban on exploration for Unconventional Oil and Gas (the 'Moratorium') should be made permanent.
    - i. It was agreed that this response would be submitted by Rob subject to review by relevant experts within the village community without a requirement to finalise the draft again with CC members.
  - d. In response to a challenge that a full consultation would be required, before submitting that response, the meeting agreed that, as a democratically elected body, our unanimous decision represents a likely community view, without the necessity of consulting everyone.
    - i. The meeting was reminded that attendees at a village meeting some two years ago had been strongly against further exploration
  - e. The meeting agreed that we should also sign up to the joint Community Council submission to the consultation, initiated by Community Councils in Falkirk Area.
    - i. Agreed that the Chair would write to indicate our support for the joint submissions
    - ii. They are asking for funding to facilitate QC support for their submission, the meeting agreed not to provide any financial support at this time and to review in subsequent meetings

- f. The meeting also agreed that we should join the Broad Alliance of opposition to further exploration.
  - i. Rob Thompson to write to confirm that the CC wishes to join this alliance

## **8. Community Council Purpose.**

- a. Context
  - i. The meeting agreed that local authorities have been underfunded for a significant period and aren't likely to receive increased funding in the future.
  - ii. And that relative to other areas within the region, our communities do not score highly on deprivation / need scores for funding.
  - iii. However, the CC does still need to ensure that the provision of services and quality of life is maintained and improved.
  - iv. It was agreed that in addition to continuing to deliver strong representation of community needs to Fife Council, the CC would seek to take a more active role in developing plans to identify and fulfil those needs.
- b. Vision and purpose
  - i. In order to shape that more active role a draft vision statement and goals were tabled as a starting point for that discussion. These were:
    - 1. To create an environmentally sustainable community which celebrates its history and sea front; creates great places to live and spend time; and delivers the local services we need at hand or easy to access through great transport connections.
      - a. Living: Places where people can live their lives and spend enjoyable time – great homes, places to shop and to eat and drink, things to do
      - b. Moving: When people must leave there are great transport connections – access to buses, well maintained paths, cycle tracks, and good roads
      - c. Helping: The services that people need are present or easy to access – post offices, doctors, dentists, social care, youth provision
      - d. Celebrating: That makes the most of what makes it special – historic buildings, industrial heritage, vibrant community and great beaches
      - e. Sustaining: That contributes to leaving a better, healthier world – environmentally sustainable, energy self-sufficient
    - ii. A number of amendments and suggestions were made including a greater emphasis on including people and to think about sustainability in all senses not just environmental.
    - iii. The meeting agreed that the CC would continue to work on a draft to incorporate these and other feedback and bring back for further discussion at the January meeting.
      - 1. Martin Mulube to co-ordinate this piece of work.
    - iv. Concern was expressed at how this would interact with Fife Council plans for the area. It was noted that Fife Council are in the process of developing local area vision and plans and a CC plan would need to interact and engage with this plan.
      - 1. Consultation on the Fife Council plan is open until early Jan, CC members were invited to respond individually
    - v. A presentation on the Fife Council plan is scheduled in for the January CC meeting to ensure that this is the case.
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- c. Timescales
  - i. The meeting agreed that creation of a draft document would take a few months to complete and that this would then form the basis of a consultation process with the wider community.

## **9. Update on outstanding Community Council Actions.**

- a. War memorial path works.
  - i. The CC expressed its thanks to all who have helped complete the upgrade of the eastern access path.
  - ii. Further work to be done would be to fix coping stones on the wall – under the guidance of the Lime Centre – is planned for next spring
  - iii. The meeting voted against the idea of flood lighting the War Memorial, and of purchasing and installing War Memorial benches.
  - iv. It was noted that the Primary School have painted memorial pebbles which will be distributed around the villages to be discovered.

- v. And that the Primary School has an art project in mind and is considering using some of the space at the base of the war memorial as a temporary exhibition space.
- b. The response to the complaint against the Community Council had been sent to the complainant on October 5th. The deadline for taking the complaint further has now expired.
- c. Inner Forth Futures.
  - i. With regard to the quality and finish of the display on the pier, there has been some remedial work which has not addressed the fundamental concerns.
  - ii. The meeting noted that as the IFLI project is moving into its legacy phase and therefore, there is unlikely to be any ability to have this work significantly changed.
  - iii. Agreed that the Secretary will enquire what funding allocation has been made for maintenance of the totems and stones on the Pier.
- d. Bench Location
  - i. The spare black bench from the Pier has been relocated to the grass to the west of the War Memorial.
  - ii. Sylvia McLaren's family are content to place a plaque here in place of that which was on the old noticeboard at the Church. (The Sylvia McLaren Memorial Album of historic village photographs is now kept in the Church.)
- e. Mugshots
  - i. Within the context of a wider communication and engagement plan in January, the Community Council members are to provide their own photographs for compilation on a poster for the village noticeboards

#### 10. Broomhall Estate

- a. Red Row. Jim is on the case with the eroded cement parapet at Red Row.
- b. Cross Row potholes.
  - i. Absence of street lighting here means that negotiating the potholes is particularly hazardous. Pattiesmuir unmade road is a continuing issue.
  - ii. Lorna from the estate will accompany Martin Callanan on a tour of the potholes.
  - iii. Agreed that Martin Callanan will co-ordinate a list across the community of significant potholes and will work with Lorna to create prioritisation criteria and a plan as to how these might be repaired.
  - iv. Monday mornings are a good time for Lorna.(email: lms@drrural.co.uk)
- c. Trees at Double Row. Appropriate permission still being sought from Fife Council.
- d. The plywood 'door' in the wall opposite The Wellheads is on the work schedule.
- e. Landscaping of land in front of the Kilns. Gillian is dealing with IFLI over this.
- f. If necessary, the beacon and pole could be stored in a shed on the Estate.
- g. Braces of pheasants are available from the Estate. Ring the office (872344).
- h. Lorna left the meeting at 9.15pm.

#### 11. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Cheques have been signed and sent in payment for: Remembrance wreath (£29), Beacon pole contribution (£120), Gellet Hall rent (£24), College Club rent (£10).
- b. Balance after these have cleared will be £3366.55. It was noted that this level of resources needs to be addressed for the year end to ensure compatibility with the grant funding rules of Fife Council
- c. Loan of £450 to Conservation Group has been repaid.

#### 12. Secretary's Report.

- a. Pitliver.
  - i. Following the distribution of the October minutes, Secretary had received an email from Bill Pike expressing the view that the Community Council was ignoring the interests of Pitliver residents vis-a-vis Broadband reception in particular.
  - ii. Secretary had suggested that Bill remind other residents that they could ask to be added to the email circulation list, and also that there is a welcome for them at Community Council meetings.
  - iii. Meeting agreed that Secretary would contact Brian Clark to see whether he had any advice about Broadband.
  - iv. Rob would use his contact at Pitliver to try to source a grit box for the junction of the unadopted road with the A985.
- b. Airport Community Liaison Officer

- i. Secretary had received a letter from Louise McIntyre, the new Community Liaison person for Edinburgh Airport, who asked to attend a Community Council meeting so that she could tell us about her role.
    - ii. The meeting agreed that we should welcome this type of engagement from the airport and that the Secretary had sent her the dates of our meetings.
  - c. Letter received from the ongoing research project into the activities of Community Councils, saying it would be another while before they published the findings.
  - d. Planning Communication
    - i. The meeting noted that both the Bistro and the Broomhall 'planning permission in principle' applications will be coming before the West Area planning Committee on Weds 5th December (2pm in the City Chambers).
    - ii. The Community Council has previously communicated our views on the impact of building so many houses on prime agricultural land and the landscape and emphasised the importance of ensuring that road and waste water infrastructure is in place before houses are built due to its impact on current residents.
    - iii. The meeting welcomed the opportunity that moving to the next stage in the planning cycle represents to start working with the Estate and the developers on more detailed plans.
    - iv. Noted that Cllr Orton is dealing with the concerns of residents of Grange Road.

**13. Councillors.** Nothing further.

**14. AOCB**

- a. Tom Leatherland reported good feedback from an attendee at the Dementia support group.
- b. Tom also reported that the UK Secretary of State would not be 'calling in' the Edinburgh flight path application, which means that a future consultation on flight path realignment will have to be carried out under CAP 16 rules – which are much more prescriptive about community engagement.

**15. Date of Next Meeting: Tues 29th January 2019 7.30pm: Gellat Hall.**