

Saline and Steelend Community Council

Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday 28 October 2014

Saline Community Centre

Present

David Chisholm (Chair), Marie Crane, John Crane, Morag Aitken, Jean Morris, Jim Currie, Peter Ball, Joan Featherstone, Roger Featherstone, Irene Wardell, Helga Corp, Isobel Menzies, Muriel Philips

Apologies

Cllr Kate Stewart, Kay Jackson, Donald Murdoch, Dave Quinney

Chair's introductory remarks

Community Council elections: DC reported that seven people had stood for election to the Community Council and had been duly elected. They would take up their positions at the inaugural meeting of the new Community Council in November. In the meantime the current members continue in office. The constitution allows for up to ten councillors so the new members will be able to co-opt three further members.

Welcome packs: DC suggested that this item is included at the beginning of every meeting so that attendees can pass information on to JC about new residents. Details of two new families were passed on to JC.

Action JC

Declarations of interest: DC referred to the Standards of Conduct expected of Community Councillors and in particular the requirement to declare any personal interests when speaking for or against any issue.

Additional Items for the Agenda

Flooding

Japanese Knotweed

Minutes of previous meeting

MC clarified that the signs for which funding had been obtained, referred to in item 7), were for Cowstrandburn and Kinneddar Park. The minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed by JH and seconded by JF.

Matters Arising from Previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Community Council constitution: DC would contact Alan Fowler about updating of Community Council constitutions.

Action DC

North Road Play Area: No progress to report.

61 Easter Craig Gardens: Now occupied. No further concerns.

Former hotel site: DC to contact owners to determine their intentions.

Action DC

Vacant site on Main Street: DC had emailed Cllr Clelland asking him to confirm ownership of the vacant site on Main Street, and if still in Council ownership what are the intentions.

Police Matters

Police not present. It was noted that the police had not attended a church coffee morning as previously proposed. Next liaison meeting 13 November at 7.00pm in Oakley. Anyone can attend.

Councillors' Reports

Not present

Treasurers' Report

No change since previous meeting

Secretary's Report

Planning application for single storey rear extension at 5 Oakley. No action required.

Other Reports:

SSCDT: DC reported that the principal project for the Trust at present is the Friends and Neighbours initiative being led by Liz Harvey and Marylla Ferguson.

Main Discussion Items

Bus services:

After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council should continue to press for a meeting with Fife Council and Stagecoach.

Action DC

Speeding, parking and congestion problems in Saline:

It was acknowledged that the introduction of speed bumps on Oakley Road and north had had some benefit in terms of reducing vehicle speeds. However, inconsiderate parking on Oakley Road near the junction with Craighouse Place at school drop off and pick up times still creates problems for residents. DC read an email from the Head Teacher stating that locking the school gates on Oakley Road and using the rear access would breach Health and Safety regulations. Ms Stewart also explained what steps the school has taken to get parents, staff and other visitors to park more considerately. It was acknowledged by most people present that the school is doing all that can reasonably be expected of it and that the problems are caused by a thoughtless minority of car drivers.

It was suggested that the vacant site opposite the shop might be used as a car park but others felt it was better used for housing or a community garden.

Double yellow lines along Oakley Road had also been suggested but they are unattractive and unlikely to be respected or enforced. They would also disadvantage people outside of school

dropping off and pick up times. Railings along Oakley Road were also suggested but it was likely that this would lead to children getting out of cars into the road.

Several people felt that the long term solution is to acquire part of the field adjacent to the bus turning circle and create additional parking, a drop off point, and a new path through a garden up to the back of the school. This idea is supported by the school.

Action DC

Housing

Affordable housing:

After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council should continue to press for the inclusion of a proportion of market rent and shared ownership homes in the KHA development. This would create opportunities for people already living in Saline to acquire homes. KHA have stated that they are providing what Fife Council require but DC pointed out that that the Housing (Scotland) Act, which received Royal Assent on the 1 August this year, gives social landlords 'more flexibility in the allocation and management of their stock'. The Community Council argument should be that the foundation for a stable and sustainable community is the promotion of multi-generational family life. Young people should have the opportunity to remain living in the area where they grew up and grand-parents can play a key role in providing child care. Those that have had to leave to find housing they can afford can return to play a part in look after aging parents.

Action DC

Kinneddar Steadings

Scrutiny by the planning consultant appointed by some the residents in the Steadings, and by others, suggests that Fife Council guidelines have not been followed in the development of proposals for additional housing on the land around Kinneddar Steadings. The Community Council has written to the Planning Department asking for consideration of the application to be halted until these concerns have been investigated.

Steelend Football Ground

A number of people, including several in Steelend, support the possibility of housing development on the former football ground site owner by the Squair family. This would take some of the pressure for new homes off Saline and act as a catalyst for the improvement of amenities in Steelend. It was acknowledged that the car park site between the football ground and the road is in Council ownership but it was hoped that if the community supports the housing development the land could be acquired.

Self-build housing opportunities:

It was also suggested that the vacant site on Main Street and the former hotel site on West Road could be suitable for a community-led self-build project.

Post Office:

There was further discussion about the closure of the post office for two days and other problems related to having only one person able to provide post office counter services. It was also reported that it is no longer possible to collect prescriptions from the post office as the pharmacy and surgery do not consider the arrangements for storing and distributing prescriptions to be adequate. However, the pharmacy will deliver prescriptions to individual homes if it is not possible for them to be collected from Oakley. DC to contact the Post Office.

Action DC

Blair House Open Cast

A meeting had taken place at the beginning of October between the new owners of the site and the liaison committee but no information on what had transpired was available. This was deemed wholly unacceptable and DC would again write Thomas Docherty MP to ask for his assistance in arranging an open public meeting.

Action DC

AOCB

Flooding: Several people raised the problem of overflowing drains and flooding around the centre of Saline. DC would clarify which authority is responsible for clearing and maintain drains and contact them.

Action DC

Japanese Knotweed: Jim C drew attention to an article in the Sunday Post stating that under new legislation homeowners who fail to control Japanese Knotweed in their gardens could be 'fined thousands of pounds'. There are several places around the area where the plant is present.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 25 November 2014 in Saline Community Centre