

STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present L. Walker, J. Houston, L. Jess, K. Topping, B. Lawrie, A. McArdle, E. Saunders, G. Brown. Fife Councillors A. Verner, A. Clark, J.A. Liston, R. Lawson.

Apologies L. Meyer.

Minutes of meeting of 7th December 2023 Approved by G. Brown, seconded by A. McArdle.

Matters Arising Councillor Clark reported that Scottish Water are still looking into the problem with the vertical overflow pipe in Ms Suter's garden in Main Street.

Springfield Homes

S.75 funding: Mrs Walker and Mrs Houston met with Parks Officers Clare Hill and Iain Wilson on 15th January to discuss ideas for developing the playing field. There is no funding available for maintenance of a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) so this will not be included in the design plan. The officers recommended consulting with pupils at the school on their ideas for the play area, and Kate Balsillie has been invited to discuss taking this forward.

Mrs Walker asked whether the affordable housing is still going ahead. Councillor Liston received a reply during the meeting from the Head of Housing, who advised that 15 houses have been confirmed and a further 15 have still to be decided, depending on financial viability.

Discussions are ongoing between the Community Trust, Springfield and Fife Council about the wildflower meadow, and Councillor Clark will follow this up.

The enquiry about the fenced-off steps from Bonfield Park up to the playing field is with the Planning Enforcement Officer.

Standing Items

Treasurer's Report The balance at the end of December is £947. The annual grant from Fife Council has been received.

Policing There has been no progress on whether the Community Council's Public Liability Insurance also covers non-Community Councillors undertaking Speed Watch activities. However, Fife Council have just advised that the current insurer is to withdraw cover for Community Councils after 31st March. The Council is reviewing how the insurance arrangements will operate in future and will provide an update in due course.

Village Infrastructure

Proposed street sign for The Pleasance: Councillor Lawson has not yet received a reply about the feasibility of a sign on Main Street with an arrow indicating The Pleasance around the corner. After further discussion it was agreed that Councillor Verner will go back to Kathleen Scott in Roads & Transportation to pursue this.

Fife Council has agreed to move the lighting column which is obscured by overhanging trees near the steps at Bonfield Park, before the end of this financial year.

Councillor Lawson has reported the damaged chevrons at the double bend near Kincapple.

The large pothole on the Craigtoun Road past Denbrae Farm has been repaired.

The owner of 62A Main Street has reported repeated flooding in his garden and in his next door neighbour's at 62B, and provided photographs to demonstrate the problem. Councillor Lawson will press Planning for a response to his earlier enquiry about the provision for drainage from Springfield Homes' site.

Traffic and Transportation Discussion took place on the suggestion of a one-way traffic system in Sunnyside as a solution to the problem of buses being impeded by parked vehicles, particularly near the entrance to Pettycruick and The Glebe parking area. There was no consensus on this suggestion. It was agreed to continue to record incidents to provide evidence of the problem, and to pass these to Fife Councillors.

Community Trust Report Mrs Lawrie reported that Mr Bilson has met with the Council's Tree Protection Officer regarding mature trees on Bonfield Road. The officer is raising Tree Protection Orders for some of these trees, which will take several months. Several flower tubs are to be removed due to disrepair and lack of volunteers to maintain them. There will be a talk in the Village Hall on 17th March on an Oak Tree art project. Mr Topping suggested that the Community Council might consider funding the replacement of three benches at Bishop's Wood which have rotted away. Ms Saunders offered to discuss this with Henry Paul, Chair of the St Andrews Men's Shed, as a possible project.

Correspondence Fife Council is consulting on its draft Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan which sets out a 10-year vision for a network of routes that enable people to walk, wheel and cycle more easily and safely within and between Fife's communities. Community Councillors expressed strong disappointment that this document does not include a cycle/footpath on the High Road to St Andrews, which has been discussed over many years. Mrs Houston will respond on behalf of the CC and all Community Councillors were encouraged to reply individually. **The closing date is 25th February.**

A number of Community Councils have raised concerns about the amount of the annual grant from Fife Council, and also a perceived lack of support from Council officers. A Zoom meeting has been arranged for 13th February for Community Councillors to discuss these issues, and Mrs Houston will attend.

AOCB

Ms Meyer continues to make good progress with the new website. She has invited suggestions on new content as well as revisions/updates of the content on the current site. In particular she would welcome new photographs of the village.

An informal ceremony has been arranged to plant a flowering cherry tree in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles. This will take place on **Tuesday 13th February at 10.00am** at the play park, next to Church Road. Pupils from the school have been invited to take part, and Community Councillors are also invited to attend.

Discussion took place on the proposed village welcome sheet for new residents. It was agreed to achieve this via the CC website, with links from the community Facebook page, rather than in a paper format. Ms Saunders will liaise on this with Ms Meyer.

Condolences It was noted that Sandy Black, who had previously owned The Tavern, had died very recently. Councillors expressed their condolences to his family and friends.

Planning Applications Details of recent applications had been circulated and there were no comments.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall