

Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Community Council

Minutes for Community Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 25th June 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Queens Hall, Charlestown

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions of council members and attendees
 - i. Council Members
 - Geoff Cartwright - Chairperson ▾
 - Mandy Littlewood - Vice Chairperson ▾
 - Lex Dunko - Secretary ▾
 - Sue Hamilton - Planning ▾
 - David Blyth - Community Council Member ▾
 - ii. Other attendees:
 - Dr Abdul Haydee - Ahmadiyya Muslim Community representative/local resident
 - Andy Jackson - local councilor
 - Peter Wilson - Playpark Committee/local resident
 - Jean Smith - looking to move to the area + 3 friends
 - Brian Goodall - local councilor
 - Jo McFarlane - Nature Group/local resident
 - Tom and Beryl Leatherland - Airport noise advisory board/locals residents
 - Lesley Scott - local resident
 - Mike Coughlan - local resident
 - Mr Steve and Mrs Carol Williams - Premier Homes Scotland Ltd

2. Apologies for Absence

- Peter Hutchings - Planning ▾
- Broomhall Estate - Tess
- Paul Byford - Treasurer
- Jane Kilgour - Minutes Secretary ▾

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Review and approve minutes from the last meeting
 - i. Error with the timings - started at 7pm not 730pm.
 - ii. Proposed by Geoff and seconded by Mandy - previous minutes now approved.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- David Blyth - Kilns site is looking good and being maintained. Footpath not being completed and needs around £600. David enquiring about funds to pay west field woodlands to put up sleepers as steps and bannisters
- Keep the Harbour on the agenda as it is always going to be an issue that requires reviewing.
- Speeding issues in Charlestown has not moved forward as yet.
- Playpark initiative - Peter
 - i. £1200 raised from successful Scarecrow Festival event (and more still coming in)

- ii. Wider fundraising ongoing with some challenges being faced in completing forms which seek evidence of a fully matched funding package. Additional fundraising signs will shortly appear at the playpark. The playpark group will be present at the Gala to talk about their plans.

5. Interim Secretary's (Sue Hamilton) Report

- Green Freeport -
 - i. Nature side has been raised by Jo. Met with senior staff from NatureScot.
 - ii. Brian Goodall has seen information but has to remain confidential at the time being.
- Giant hogweed at the park and ride that needs reporting.
- Scottish water meeting - good conversations and will be chaired by Mandy Littlewood. 4 visitors from Scottish Water coming: 3 are sewage catchment area staff and 1 from corporate. A small contribution was requested from attendees to help pay for hiring the church.

6. Community Police Report

- Update on local crime report. Only real point of note is Police are aware of the youths on Dirt Bikes riding illegally. This is a common issue across many villages in the fife area which the police are looking to improve on. Nothing else of note to report within the Limekilns area.

7. Councillors' Reports

- Reports from local councillors on relevant issues and developments. This will be attached separately.

8. Community Projects and Events

- Updates on ongoing and upcoming community projects and events
 - i. Floral Group - trees - David Blyth
 - Involved in Kilns path
 - Looking for projects to help with - if anyone has any Floral/Nature help needed, message the Community Council and David will be in touch!
 - Planting trees in Upper Wellhead - apple and plum trees - 5 each!
 - ii. Nature Group - Jo McFarlane
 - Nature Group is almost a charity! Will be registered with Companies House and OSCAR.
 - Beach clean on 14th July
 - MOD adopting Iron Mill Bay as beach guardians
 - New community manager from MOD
 - Looking at water run-off in village
 - Still doing fresh water sampling - 2 sites currently and looking at further up the burn and Pittencrief park.
 - Given further funding by FFI Coastal communities network fund. Going to get a website and have a biodiversity ID gallery alongside scientific data on that.
 - Engaging the ecologist and developers team who have a biodiversity plan for Kingswood and will be meeting with ecologist.
 - School garden has come to life! Poppies and wheat growing. Almost got funding for someone to come in a few hours a week to work on the garden over summer/rest of year.
- Dr Abdul Haydee - Ahmadiyya Muslim Community presentation - slides will be provided

9. ~~Treasurer's Report~~ - N/A Treasurer absent

10. ~~Planning Matters~~ - N/A Planning Head absent

11. Environmental Issues

- Open floor discussion on any local environmental concerns and initiatives
- Someone tried to empty chemical toilet onto the Limekilns carpark garden area, however member of the public caught them in time.
- Campervans are coming to the shop etc as not sure where the public toilets are - potentially signage needed in the car park.
- The sign for Limekilns at the war memorial damaged - corroding/danger
- Postbox at the bottom of the Brae is corroded.
- Phonebox opposite Bruce needing repainted and a local neighbor has offered to do this - there is £100 in the kitty to do it. Agreed by council this can go on. Lesley will let this neighbor know it can go ahead and they can contact the Community Council for the money from the treasurer if needed.
- Rusty lamppole on Charles Way needing replaced - Andy reporting.
- Facebook message and Estate response - local neighbor raised concerns about the campervan on West Harbor. Estate have mentioned it has already been referred to the police, but action is slow and if there are any further issues, locals should be sure to contact the police first.

12. Public Participation

- Open floor for community members to raise issues, questions, or suggestions.
- No comments.

13. Any Other Business

- Additional topics for discussion not covered in the agenda
- Carol and Steve Williams from Premier Homes Scotland Ltd attended the meeting to discuss their housing development in Pattiesmuir. At this point, Chairman Geoff Cartwright will not make any comment or be involved in any discussion regarding this item, and Vice Chair Mandy Littlewood will take over as Chairperson. Mr and Mrs Williams are not resident in our Community Council area, but Mrs Williams asked if she could read to the meeting a letter that she had written, addressed to the Community Council. She was invited to do so. The letter provided the views and perspectives of Premier Homes Scotland on their development at Pattiesmuir.
 - Despite compliance with planning conditions, they faced significant local resistance, including police incidents and harassment.*
 - They highlighted the negative impact of this hostility on the community's reputation and property values.*
 - They urged the Community Council to help find a resolution that benefits all parties and emphasized the need for constructive dialogue.*
 - An appendix detailed their mediation efforts, which were mostly declined.*

In the following discussion, Mrs Williams was asked if they had done any work on plans for replacement bungalows as a resolution? She said they had not, as it might not resolve anything so wouldn't submit this without agreement from the local village. Mr and Mrs Williams are asking the Community Council to survey the residents of Pattiesmuir to get sentiments and to help find a

way forward. Mandy, in her role as Chair, stated that it's not in the Community Council's remit to be involved in these kinds of matters.

To provide extra context, it should be noted that there is ongoing litigation between a number of residents of Pattiesmuir and Premier Homes. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Community Council to be involved with this situation. We have advised Premier Homes that if they wish for the local residents to be surveyed and/or engaged in mediation, they should do so at their own time and expense. Of course, any resident of Pattiesmuir is very welcome to attend Community Council meetings to raise any concerns - as is any resident in Charlestown and Limekilns.

- Double Yellow Lines request for outside the Limekilns Pier Car Park. This is a request to add double yellow lines to the left and right of the entrance/exit to the car park to allow drivers to see left and right more clearly. It is not for the full length of the road. According to Brian Goodall, this is not yet at committee stage with the council yet, but has been submitted.

14. Date of Next Meeting

- Confirmation of the next meeting date and location
- Last Tuesday of July - 30 July 2024.

15. Closing Remarks

- Chairperson's closing comments - none!

Note: Community members are encouraged to participate and share their views during the Public Participation section. Please submit any topics for discussion to the council secretary (Lex Dunko lexdunko@icloud.com) prior to the meeting.