

CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS AND PATTISMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
7 PM 27TH FEBRUARY 2024, QUEENS HALL

1. Present:

Sue Hamilton, David Blyth, Jane Kilgour, Jo McFarlane, Lesley Scott, Mike Coughlan, Beryl and Tom Leatherland, Councillor Andy Jackson, Councillor Andrew Verrecchia, Councillor Brian Goodall, Eric Axford, Douglas McFarlane

2. Apologies:

Mandy Littlewood, Geoff Cartwright, Paul Byford, Lex Dunko, Moira Adams, Tess Gibson (Jury Duty), Peter Hutchings, Peter Wilson

3. Minutes:

Minutes of previous meeting of the 30th January, 2024 were approved. Proposed by Tom Leatherland and seconded by, Lesley Scott.

4. Matters arising from minutes of 30th January: Generic CC email address (the.clpcc@gmail.com). We now pay annual subscriptions to APRS (£25) and Planning Democracy (£20)

5. Broomhall Estate:

- Gabion repair has been carried out and a good job has been done with appropriate materials.
- No update on arrangements for maintenance of the kilns by the Estate, or the need for a footpath to Broomhall entrance from the Limekilns junction
- The path up to the Inn from West Harbour Road is of concern as it is very slippery and needs maintenance carried out. David has had conversations with Ian Wilson who volunteers for West Fife Community Woodlands
- The state of the car park by the Queens Hall was mentioned as being an important concern. The entrances at either end have pot holes and the surface/drainage needs repairing. The car park is used by the general public as well as local residents. Brian Goodall suggested that there might be a small budget from the council and he will put in a request
- The laurel hedging at the end of the car park near the hall, is over grown and is obstructing the lights. Hopefully the Estate can deal with this.

6. Interim Secretary's report:

- Sue had attended two on-line events. The first was for all Community Councillors in Fife. Lots of discussion of issues of common concern; still await minutes.
- The second had been called by the Scottish Forum of Community Council to discuss 'Democracy Matters' a Scottish Government Consultation. General impression was that there won't be change in the status of Community Councils anytime soon.
- **'King's Portrait Scheme'**; Halls and organisations in Scotland are now eligible to apply for a portrait of the King to hang in their premises.
- **Charlestown Toilets.** David Blythe has done a magnificent job in removing ivy from the southern end of the toilet building. Access to the west side is blocked by a locked gate. Sue tracked down a very helpful Scott Nisbett (facilities Co-ordinator, Janitorial Maintenance and Industrial Support) who will instruct his team to remove the remaining ivy and to replace a missing slate which David had noticed.

7. Treasurer Report: None

8. Police Report: No report from the Police.

- Matters to bring to the Police attention; several complaints of speeding through both Charlestown and Limekilns, primarily from The Inn. It was suggested that the speed bumps at this point could be full width as this is in an area where children catch the school bus and pedestrians cross the road to the Surgery.. We could ask the Police to come and check speeds. Also to obtain Police cardboard cut out. Speed trap signs with volunteer speed watch. Ask the Police to attend a Community Council meeting.

9. Playpark:

- We will soon launch our local community awareness campaign. A design board of the new park has been created which will be displayed for consultation. A display sign with fund-raising measure (showing the growth of funds (hopefully) will also be placed visibly in the village. We are also starting our fundraising writing efforts to grant awarders. Wish us luck!

10. Planning Group

- **Kingswood Development**, Following the January CC meeting, Sue visited Stirling Development's office at Halbeath. (We last had contact with them in 2016). She was greeted enthusiastically by name and with coffee by Neil Beswick, Ray Kirk, and Peter Stirling. She was asked if we had received the email from Stirling Developments, asking if they could attend a CC meeting. They had used our dead email address. They now have the email and they will attend the March CC meeting.
- **Fife Local Development Plan**; no more information.
- **Pattiesmuir**; No further correspondence re the complaint.
- In the **Weekly List**, Premier Homes have submitted a new planning application requesting change to Condition 16 which states that Visibility Splays at the junction with the A985 must be provided 'before the occupation of any of the dwellings'. They wish it to be amended 'before the occupation of the third dwelling'. The provision of visibility splays has always been a key condition of any housing development at Pattiesmuir and the residents strongly object to this application.
- **Parliamentary Event**: Geoff and Sue had attended a Parliamentary event on the 20th January, organised by Planning Democracy, and arranged to launch the report on 'A Community-led Study into the impact of NPF4 biodiversity policies'. Geoff was among inputs from a dozen community representatives. Ray Kirk of Stirling Developments had accepted an invitation to attend the event, so he met Geoff and has been well-reminded about Biodiversity and NPF4. It seemed that our CC should take the initiative of establishing a Biodiversity monitoring group for the Kingswood development. Sue tracked down a John Ford who is Fife's Biodiversity Officer and works with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. Nature Group to start making links and join the Fife Bio Diversity Partnership.

11. Nature Group

- Beach clean on Sunday 3rd March between 10-11 am, register on: clpnaturegroup@gmail.com
- Nature Group becoming a charity with a focus on long term sustainability and legacy. New beach guardian scheme now in place.
- Community Garden celebrating its first year anniversary event at Easter with community volunteers and the school. Get in touch if you want to be involved: clpnaturegroup@gmail.com
- Visit to Limekilns seagrass meadow in Brucehaven Bay in March with CLP Nature group seagrass team and Lyle from Ecology Centre to discuss further opportunities for restoration, conservation or engagement.
- Fresh water pollution sampling on Lyne Burn starts again in March if anyone would like to get involved, email: clpnaturegroup@gmail.com

12. Councillors Report

- Reported poor repairs at eastbound bus shelter in Charlestown; requested further repairs or replacement.
- Reported and addressed fallen trees in Limekilns park; completed tree surgery work.
- Collaborating with Fife Council Area Manager to fund small local capital projects; seeking to prioritize projects at upcoming Ward meeting.
- Planning application for new high school in Rosyth approved; seeking clarifications on road safety and pupil access.
- Emphasized community participation in the review of the Fife Local Development Plan Evidence Report.
- Supported new strategy on Allotments and Community Growing; recommended a 6-month review.
- Requested consideration for double yellow lines near Limekilns Pier Carpark.
- Confirmed start of additional parking bays at The Cairns and addressed uncommunicated road closure in Charlestown.

- Highlighted A985 roadworks and advocated for pavement extension to Broomhall Estate entrance.
- Informed Brucehaven Tennis Club about free defibrillator offer from the British Heart Foundation.
- Noted planning change request by Premier Homes for Pattiesmuir development.
- Conducted community surgeries and announced next sessions.
- Fife Council agreed to freeze Council Tax but did not support the freeze of other council charges or extra funding for infrastructure issues.
- Sought updates for local councillors on Kingswood Development outside Fife Council Ward but within Community Council boundaries.

13. **AOCB** Councillor Andy Jackson is a trained singer and would be willing to give fund raising performances in aid of Limekilns Pier.

14. **Date of next meeting:** 26th March at 7.00 pm in the Gellet Hall. The hall has been booked.