

CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS & PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.20 PM TUESDAY 27th MAY 2025

Present: Geoff Cartwright, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Peter Hutchings, Paul Byford, Mandy Littlewood, Craig Lindsay, Malcolm Hamilton, Alex Lodge, Lesley Laird, Tess Gibson, Cllr Brian Goodall, Cllr Andy Jackson, Mr and Mrs Williams

2. **Apologies:** Lex, Jo McFarlane, Peter Wilson, Tom Leatherland, Cllr Verrecchia

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting were approved:** Geoff Cartwright, Mandy Littlewood

4. **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

a) Playpark Report from Peter Wilson: The Caterpillar Totaliser by the tennis courts shows £185,000. We have in fact reached £190,000 thanks to the fundraising activities reported last month, and the confirmation of £15,000 from Southwest Fife Area of Fife Council - Thanks to our local councillors for their support. Disappointingly we were unsuccessful with our application to the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund. One door closes as they say, and we are now involved in a bid for £15000 to the Fife Rural Development Fund. we have passed the Expression of Interest stage, and now need to complete a full application. One of the fundraising group has spotted an opportunity with the Ford Britain Trust, which we shall pursue. Lord Elgin has paid us his cheque for £10,000 which is now in the Community Council account.

Players from Dunfermline Athletic Football Club are coming to organise a community event in August, and have offered a 'bucket shake' at a home fixture in the new season - we hope this will raise additional funds.

Pupils from the school are involved in reviewing equipment choices for the new park and we will get their feedback later this week. On we go.

Members expressed their profound gratitude for the work Peter is doing.

b) Toilet Signage. Sign was erected on the Toilet building with Charlestown mis-spelt. It was rapidly removed. Direction signs are still awaited

c) War Memorial. Still no date from Fife Council, but £30,000 has been allocated in the budget.

d) Village Link. A May edition was compiled by Craig, Sue and Helen French, and circulated. Still seeking an editor.

e) Twinning. Geoff, as Chairman of the Community Council has called a public meeting at the Church on 12th June at 7.30pm, when the Twinning Project plans will be presented by the working group. Publicity is being distributed. A constitution is still to be drawn up, and sources of funding identified. Meeting has been arranged with Alastair Mutch, West Fife Area Manager.

f) Double Yellow Lines:

Promenade: Cllr Goodall said notices will be posted indicating an extended consultation period.

Old Orchard junction: A letter had been hand delivered to all relevant properties stating that double yellow lines were being considered and inviting residents to contribute their ideas. Responses indicated strong support for double yellow lines. Secretary will send them to Lesley Craig.

g) Defibrillator in phone box? An article had been put in Village Link, but had elicited little response from potential volunteers. Geoff had contacted the Surgery to seek their views. They did not think it necessary. Cllr Goodall will enquire from the St John Ambulance as to the recommended distances between defibrillators

h) Slabs on path at foot of Charles Way. Robbie Blyth is determining who might be responsible for maintenance.

5. A Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

- a) There is no move to alter boundaries.
- b) We will raise again the Community Council's status as a statutory consultee.
- c) A section entitled Liaison with Fife Council did not provide space for responses! Secretary had responded.

6. Charlestown Harbour

Lesley has been working hard! Meeting of key stakeholders was held on May 2nd *'to build a common understanding of the issues/ roles and responsibilities and potential solutions'*. More than 20 people attended. All agreed that resolution of the issues will require a structured, planned and consistent approach for improvement to be made. We will begin the process to identify actions that can be taken in the short, medium and long term – providing clarity of action and timescales for progress with the intention to reconvene the group on September 5th. Five work groups will be established:

- o Harbour Security
- o Audit of Harbour ('contents', walls, surroundings, risks.)
- o Exploring technology of moving boats, and plans for removal of boats.
- o Repurposing harbour
- o Funding

8. Broomhall Estate.

- a) A985 Cycle Track. Going to carry out a physical survey to resolve ownership issue.
- b) Piggery. Fencing is inadequate to deter determined youth. Recent fire had Fire Service and Police in attendance. It is a dangerous eyesore with asbestos and a cesspit. It has to be fixed, for everyone's wellbeing. Lesley advised that Tess contact Nigel Kerr of Environmental Health at Fife Council. A plan of action must be drawn up.
- c) Core Path Closure for RAF event in September. Tess had not managed to contact the Access Officer. Beryl advised.
- d) Charlestown School and site. The planning application for conversion of the building and houses is due to expire. The identical application is going to be lodged again.

9. Street Lighting Plans.

- a) Main Street. There still has to be a period of public consultation because the Main Street is in a Conservation Area.
- b) Muir Homes Houses. Work starts on 2nd June

10. CLP Nature Action:

- a) World Ocean day community beach clean Sunday 8th June 11.30-12.30 Volunteers needed! Email clpnatureaction@gmail.com
- b) Thank you to everyone who supported our partnership event on Limekilns beach with Beach of Dreams festival team
- c) Lyne Burn river pollution monitoring training with Buglife on Saturday 21st June if anyone would like to join this project. Meet in Charlestown. Email Jo on email above.

11. Treasurers Report: All good. Funds movement have been associated with the Playpark fundraising.

13. Planning:

- a) Kingswood. Permission for whole project granted on 2nd May 2025.
- b) Secretary's concerns and a Fife Council Response are appended in Addendum 1

15. Police Report

16. **Councillor Report:** Cllr Goodall's report presented, and an edited version is attached to this minute.

17. A0CB:

Date of Next Meeting: 24th June 2025

Addendum 1 re Kingswood planning process

- *Kingswood application was lodged in December 2023.*
- *During subsequent months, huge amounts of information in support of the application was posted on the Planning Portal (Ref: 23/03589/ARC)*
- *In February 2023, the new NPF4 (National Planning Framework) had become Scottish Government's guiding planning document. It has a particular emphasis on Climate Change and Biodiversity, the latter of which we felt was important for the local area.*
- *Sue Hamilton and Jo Mcfarlane of CLP Nature Action took particular interest in the 'Addendum to the Biodiversity Action and Enhancement Plan' (BAEP) lodged in Aug 2024.*
- *They received advice from RSPB and Planning Democracy in drafting a response, which was eventually submitted as an objection to the BAEP.*
- *They were thanked for the response, but told that it could not be considered as an objection as the Community Council had not registered as a Statutory Consultee for the application.*
- *The application made its way through all the necessary submissions and processes, until, on 2nd May, the whole application was approved.*
- *It happens that there is an o- line system called RAMPS with which one can register to be notified of any changes in the documentation of a planning application. We have found it invaluable for keeping track of what is going on.*
- *Just yesterday, we received notification that 30 documents had been added to the portal. (Rather a surprise, since the whole thing had been given final approval on May 2nd!) These were, evidently, not new documents, but old documents of various dates that had been restored to the portal, having at some time been removed.*
- *Of the 30 documents, three of them related to us, and one, in particular was the approval of our Community Council's request, on 31st January 2024, to be a statutory consultee.*

Cllr Goodall referred these concerns to Fife council and received the following response, which we have yet to analyse how it relates to our concerns.

Statutory Consultee Request – To be register as a statutory consultee, the Regulations require that a request is received within 7 days of the Community Council receiving the weekly planning application list. I understand that the Community Council's request was received 'in time' and that the Community Council was confirmed as a statutory consultee – which the email below suggests.

Subsequent Representation – Following this, a response outlining the Community Council's position on relevant planning considerations would require to be received within the relevant consultation period. This usually runs for a 3 weeks' period for applications of this nature. Any responses received outwith this period are usually not considered. I understand from the Case Officer that a letter should have been issued to the Community Council informing them of the deadline by which a response was required. This is a standard approach undertaken by the Planning Service in such circumstances. A response was not received from the Community Council

by this date, however, the Case Officer did consider the points raised within a subsequent joint response from the Community Councils received 'out of time'.

Relevant matters raised within the joint Community Council's response were therefore considered by the Case Officer, particularly those relating to biodiversity and other issues. See extract from p24 of Committee Report and the 'representations' section 4 summarizing this position.

2.7.10 CLP (Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir) Nature Action and Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council submitted a joint objection letter to this application which focused on matters of ecology and the BAEP; whilst it is noted that the objection was received outwith the statutory comment period, the Planning Authority decided to accept the submission.

Representations:

A joint representation was received (outwith the statutory timescales) from the CLP (Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir) Nature Action and Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir Community Council. This is addressed in the main body of the report.

The matters relating to documentation being included/removed from the file seems to be a separate matter, not related to this issue. I have asked colleagues to explore this in more detail but no new files were uploaded/amended. It may be that this is related to the external programme the Community Council use to monitor the status of planning applications?

I trust this provides sufficient clarity for the Community Council's forthcoming meeting.

If it would be helpful for the Planning Service to provide any specific training to the Community Council on this issue, please let me know and I can discuss with colleagues.

In the meantime, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Regards, Steve Iannarelli, Strategic Development Manager

Addendum 2 Cllr Goodall's report:

Battery Recycling Trial

Environmental Strategy Officer in charge of the scheme says 'Shops that sell batteries are meant to provide battery recycling facilities but a lot of batteries unfortunately end up in the landfill or recycling bins and this poses a risk to our staff, vehicles and facilities. The idea behind a kerbside collection is to give residents another outlet to recycle their batteries. Once the trial is underway, we hope to learn and make changes according to what works and what doesn't.'

Bins in Crombie

Broken bin at Crombie Community Centre. On the 4th of April, just one week after I made that request, the new bin was delivered and installed, it's a good sized one too and gull and crow proof.

Public Diners Event

In the evening on the 11th of April I attended a fantastic event at EATS Rosyth as part of the project looking at Public Diners, their history and options for the future. Fantastic work by the EATS Rosyth Volunteers, as always, and I loved the vegan options for dinner.

Giant Hogweed

On the 15th of April I had a report of Giant Hogweed growing near the bus stop on Hilton Road, Rosyth. It was sprayed that week and started to die back soon after.

Andrew Carnegie TV Series Presentation

On 15th of April at Andrew Carnegie House in Dunfermline, I attended a presentation and "sizzle reel" viewing from the team who are working on a possible Netflix TV series telling the story of Andrew Carnegie's life. Lots more discussions to be had on this but great that the creative team behind the idea want to see it filmed locally and for as many local folk as possible to be involved in its production.

.Rosyth Rivers Restoration Project Had a great online meeting about the Rosyth Rivers Restoration Project with various stakeholders including community groups, schools, SEPA and others discussing the opportunities for restoration works. As a member of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust's Board I've been working to bring this approach to Rosyth for some years now, and although the main focus of the project is around habitat, biodiversity and amenity improvements, there are very clear opportunities

to address local flooding issues as well. The Brankholm Burn and the Whinny Burn as they go through Rosyth were modified generations ago and the historic floodplains and wetlands have been erased. Restoring some of the more natural features of the water environment will improve natural flood management.

Caledonia is calling! New High School Named

From the results of the public vote, there was a clear preference for the name “Caledonia”, with this receiving almost half of all the first choice votes cast. There was also a first choice majority for “High School” over “Academy”.

Limekilns Playpark Renewal

At the South & West Fife Area Committee meeting on the 30th of April I was delighted to get agreement for the Council to contribute an additional £15,000 towards the Limekilns Playpark Renewal Project. The project volunteers, led by local resident Peter Wilson, have been doing a fantastic job identifying funding options and now have the majority of the £230,000 proposed budget in place.

Charlestown Harbour

On Friday the 2nd of May I attended a really positive meeting regarding Charlestown Harbour in the Queens Hall in the village. The meeting was organised by the local Community Council and included representatives from the Broomhall Estate, who own the harbour, Forth Ports, Fife Council, SEPA, FCCT as well as the local MSP, Shirley-Anne Somerville all there.

Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS)

In the afternoon on the 7th of May I attended a meeting of the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) as Fife Council’s representative. This committee hadn’t met properly for years so I’m pleased it’s now up and running again. My main contribution to the meeting was to ensure the terminology of “radioactive substances” remained in the group’s remit as there had been a suggestion of a change that would have just referred to “radioactive waste”. A lot of the radioactive material generated in Scotland is not classed as waste but is none the less hazardous, and so I feel this needs to remain within the scope of this committee.

Stephen’s Bakery

In the evening on the 8th of May I had a meeting with the management of Stephen’s Bakery. We discussed a number of issues including healthy and vegan food options as well as their proposal to develop a new site in Rosyth.

Rosyth Men’s Shed

I got some great news for Rosyth on Tuesday the 6th of May. There had been delays in determining Rosyth Men’s Shed’s planning application for their proposed new home off of Kings Road, Confirmation of approval came on the 9th of May and Rosyth Men’s Shed were then able to share the good news with their members and supporters. Most of all though, Rosyth Men’s Shed themselves are to be congratulated for all their hard work on this project and on countless other projects around Rosyth, and further afield, that have provided so much benefit to our community.

Forth Hedgehog Hospital

On Sunday the 11th of May I visited another brilliant fundraiser for the Forth Hedgehog Hospital. This time their event was held at their own premises in Rosyth and included the opportunity to see around their set up there and learn more about how the rescue so many hedgehogs each year.

Local Gala Funding

A limit on funding support for Community Galas in South & West Fife is to be reviewed following an intervention from myself and Andy Jackson. At the same Ward Meeting I was also happy to agree a grant of £2000 for the Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Gala Day that will be on August 16th.

EASYP Youth Programme

On 21st of May I was pleased to be able to join some of the local young people on the Scottish Government funded EASYP programme at Camdean Youth Hub.

They were hosting a drop in cafe as part of their work to get a Barista skills qualification. As part of their training they have to be able to prepare a range of hot and cold drinks, and the Americano coffee and Vegan Banana Smoothie they made for me were excellent. It’s also great that the young people have been researching issues like food allergies and Fair Trade products, as part of this work.

New Sign for Charlestown Toilets

There could have been some red faces at Fife Council on the 21st of May when I reported the misspelling on the new sign at Charlestown village toilets. Thanks to the villagers who alerted me

about it. The next morning I received a full apology from Fife Council's Facilities Management Head of Service, and the sign was taken down later that day. I'm told it will be replaced as quickly as possible.

Charity Fundraiser

On Saturday the 24th of May I completed a 5K round Arthur's Seat in aid of the SSPCA. Thanks so much for all the generous donations I've already received. You can still make a donation to this, my latest charity fund raiser, using this link...

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/brian-goodall-9>

Flooding Grant

Despite the dry spring we've had, the occasional downpours we've recently remind us that flooding is still a big worry for many people. to apply now for the support available. Don't wait for storms to hit — act now to protect your home. For information on our Property Flood Resilience Grant please visit:

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/environment2/flooding/property-flood-resilience-grant>

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Councillor Brian Goodall - SNP