

CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS & PATTIESMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM TUESDAY 29th APRIL 2025

Present: Geoff Cartwright, Sue Hamilton, Lesley Scott, Peter Hutchings, Paul Byford, Mandy Littlewood, Moira Adams, Craig Lindsay, Malcolm Hamilton, Tom Leatherland, Cllr Brian Goodall, Cllr Andy Jackson. Karen Grant, Mr and Mrs Williams

2. **Apologies:** Jane Kilgour, Jo McFarlane, Alex Lodge, Lesley Laird, Tess Gibson, Peter Wilson, Cllr Verrecchia

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting were approved:** Lesley Scott, Peter Hutchings

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

a) Playpark Report from Peter Wilson: We received £350 from Dunfermline Round Table; and £500 from Rotary Club of West Fife (who also donated prizes for the Scarecrow Festival). We await decisions on grants from the SW Fife Area Committee (£15000 requested), and Edinburgh Airport Community Fund (£7000 requested).

Three amazing community events have together raised over £3000: The Baby and Toddler Group Coffee Morning, the Men's Group/Bruce Arms Quiz and the Scarecrow Festival each raised over £1000. The Playpark Group would like to thank everyone who has made these events such a success. As we approach our target, arrangements are in place to work with the Headteacher and children of the Primary School to discuss equipment selection. Meanwhile, fundraising will continue as we still need to find around £50K to achieve all our objectives.

b) Toilet Signage: Signs still awaited

c) War Memorial: Still no commitment to a date from Fife Council

d) Village Link: A May edition is being compiled. Deadline for contributions 7th May.

e) Double Yellow Lines: Promenade: Cllr Goodall distributed plans approved by SW Area Committee for which there will now be an extended consultation period. Old Orchard junction: Secretary shared the response she had sent to Fife Council's Lesley Craig. Brian Goodall reported his subsequent conversation with her. It was agreed that the next step would be for the Community Council to draft and hand deliver a letter to all relevant properties indicating that the Community Council was considering what measures might be taken to reduce hazard at the junction, and inviting residents to contribute their ideas.

f) Defibrillator in phone box? Secretary had determined that an organisation called 'Community Heartbeat' provides comprehensive advice about adoption of a phone box and repurposing it as a Defibrillator station. There is quite a lot to be considered, including the raising of necessary funds. It was suggested we write an article in Village Link, seeking one or more volunteers to lead on this project. Geoff volunteered to contact the Surgery to seek their views.

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

a) The timeline for submitting ideas for changes in The Scheme is the 24th March to 16th May 2025.

b) Today, we received a copy of Crail's response. Although they suggested it might have wider relevance, they were really wanting to regain the sort of autonomy that Crail and other sizable settlements had when they were Royal Burghs.

c) It may be an opportunity to alter boundaries in view of big housing developments. Does Kingswood stay with us, or would it be better hived off, or might we expand west to take in Crombie?

d) We would like a clear statement of a Community Council's status as a statutory consultee. It seems that Fife's requirement that we register for each application does not happen in other authorities. Sue will draft a response

6. **Community Council Web Site www.clpvillages.com:** Need to keep submitting information to Alex.

7. Charlestown Harbour

Lesley has been working hard! Meeting of key stakeholders rescheduled for May 2nd *'to build a common understanding of the issues/ roles and responsibilities and potential solutions'*. More than 20 people have accepted an invitation to attend. Progress on 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 in end of August or early September

8. Broomhall Estate. No Report

9. Street Lighting Plans.

a) **Main Street.** John Anderson from Fife Council suggested a site meeting. Secretary contacted a dozen or so residents whose email addresses she had, gave a fortnight's notice of the meeting time and date, and also attached a document which provided the inconsistency with which street lighting design has been handled in the villages over the years. She received one reply. Two people attended the meeting. Additional lighting columns are planned for the area to the west, around the Coorie. We asked for the No Entry signs to be better lit. There are already two modern columns in the Main Street, and the ones in the streets abutting Main Street are also the modern design. There still has to be a period of public consultation because the Main Street is in a Conservation Area.

b) **Muir Homes Houses.** All households received a hand-delivered letter stating that there would be a 'Road Closure' for the month-long period required. The 50 or so households of the effective cul-de-sac were not amused! A slightly softer statement was issued to put most minds at rest. Because it is not a Conservation Area, there is no consultation about this project. The Secretary is particularly annoyed by having no say at all about the planned location of an additional column located in the centre of the main outlook from her home.

10. **Village History:** There was further discussion of funding and designing a plaque like the one beside the lime kilns, keeping a similar design theme and with QR codes for folk to obtain further information on a variety of topics, such as war memorial history, people and places of interest. A preferred site would be on the grass area of the Pier beyond the camper van parking bays.

11. Twinning

On behalf of the Twinning work group, Malcolm requested that the Chair of CC call a public meeting to set up formal twinning group. Chair agreed to do this. We will then need to draft a constitution and elect officers

12. **Treasurers Report:** All good. Funds movement have been associated with the Playpark fundraising. Notice had been received today that the Community Council insurance has been paid by Fife Council.

13. Planning:

a) Kingswood. Haven't yet re-established contact with Stirling Developments since bio diversity discussions. Latest 'Extension of Time Request' by Fife Council takes us to May 19th. Many new documents are being posted on the planning portal – largely to do with contours of the site and surface water flow. NB. Permission granted on 2nd May 2025.

b) Orzel memorial. A planning application in Rosyth for a memorial for the crew of the Polish Submarine, the Orzel (Eagle). Well worth watching this film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGXPeYLyw2w> ;

The planned memorial garden is on land between Castle Road and Ferrytoll Road (where the Sailors Rest building used to be). Details of plan are here:

<https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/25107561.fife-council-plan-remember-orp-orzel-castle-road-site/>

14. **CLP Nature Action:** Tom reported that a key river monitoring activity this month had been sampling at 3 sites on the same day. The sample from Waulkmill was of poor diversity (no stoneflies or Heptagenids) - below a threshold set on the basis of last year's results and suggesting a potential pollution problem. Repeat sampling two days later by a different team had almost identical results, so this was reported to SEPA as a potential pollution incident for them to investigate. There was unpleasant algal scum along the stream edge, and a high phosphate concentration probably from a farming or sewage source.

15. **Police Report** – none in time for the meeting, although one received the next day mentioned some sort of youth disturbance around the Kilns in Charlestown.

16. **Councillor Report:** Cllr Goodall's report not yet available. Andy Jackson happy to take up issues. He wants better publicity for his surgeries. We should put the information in Village Link

17. **A0CB:**

- a) The footpath through to the beach at the foot of Charles Way has some dangerously raised slabs. Not sure how we get this addressed. Cllr Goodall suggested that Robbie Blyth be approached.
- b) The Western end of the Promenade is of concrete construction. There are cross-carriageway joins in the concrete slabs which are becoming potholes. Cllr Goodall will investigate
- c) 24th July. Concert in the Church by members of the Royal Marine Band, performing in various combinations of instruments and styles.
- d) It seems that Network Rail might be looking to divest themselves of the railway line from Crombie depot. All sorts of safety and maintenance issues for any new owner!

Date of Next Meeting: 27th May 2025