Minutes

The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council

Monday 27th July 2020 7:30pm via Zoom | Meeting called to order by Andy Peddie

# In Attendance

Community Councillors: Andy Peddie, Gillian McLaren, Lorna Jones, Daryl Wilson, Lindsay McKinstray, Susan Gay, Gail Sorley, Neil Anderson, Louise McEwan, Ali McLeod

Councillor Holt, Councillors Porteous & Councillor Docherty

Graham Marchbank – Planning Aid Scotland, Janice Laird – Fife Council

4 members of the public

Apologies: Kelly Scott & Sean Blake

# Approval of Minutes

Treasurers Report should read end of May instead of end of April

Approved by Louise and seconded by Lorna

# Questions from Members of the public

No questions

# Input from PAS

AP introduced the guest speakers and commenced with Janice Laird from Fife Council. Janice received minute from public meeting hosted by CC in respect of the proposed demolition of RNLI Shed in advance of the Place Standard event due to be hosted by CC with input from Janice’s team to be held on 22nd March, however was cancelled due to COVID. In the meantime, she has met with local councillors to discuss the progression of our public meeting. She agreed the main points from the meeting were unequivocal support from the community to build new lifeboat station, community preservation of existing RNLI shed and bus parking essential for the tourism and business needs of the town. There is a real desire for FC, RNLI and the community to work together to ensure the best outcome for all and there is uncertainty regarding the submission of the 2 separate applications and if they are linked/dependent on each other. Janice contacted PAS for assistance to engage with all interested parties as minuted at the public meeting and anticipated a further stakeholders meeting. PAS wished to meet with individual stakeholders initially to establish common ground then facilitate group discussions. Julia Frost from PAS has now spoken to a considerable number of key stakeholders, PAS remain a neutral agent to bring the stakeholders together.

Graham Marchbank introduced himself as one of over 400 volunteers with PAS who operate from offices in Edinburgh and have a paid staff group of 8-10 employees. PAS run advice services across Scotland on all planning matters and offer free advice to many Fife residents. They have a history of engaging with Community Councils, Local Authorities, hard to reach groups etc. The organisation is funded from central government who rely heavily on their advice service, impartiality is vital to their services.

CC members asked when CC were to be consulted? Janice listed several individuals and organisations who have already been consulted and those yet to be contacted. At this stage it is imperative that any interested party is consulted on the proposed use of the shed.

Cllr Docherty suggested Senior Waid pupils should also be consulted on the matter. Cllr Porteous is keen to ensure that consultation takes place before the planning applications come before committee.

Andy Peddie suggests that the 2 planning applications are dealt with as separate entities to ensure the new build could progress whilst ongoing consultation, planning and delivery takes place regarding the 2nd application to demolish the shed. He suggests an assurance from FC to give the community time (18 months) to carry this out.

Cllr Porteous states his feelings of frustration that FC did not consult with the community at any stage of this application and feels it is far too an important issue to not be given the time requested. AP has spoken with RNLI and they will not withdraw the application without an assurance from FC.

Graham (PAS) answered Cllr P’s concerns by stating the application is deemed a local application (small sized) and therefore there is no statutory need for the applicant to carry out a pre-application consultation.

Janice will follow up with FC the proposal to determine the 2 applications on a separate basis, although acknowledges there may be implications regarding the parking proposals, and this would need to be explored further. The period for third party contributions on the planning applications have now expired, although we must explore all possible alternative uses as we cannot wait to undertake this after a decision has been made. Community Asset Transfers can take up to one year, although it may be that the building could be used for commercial ventures. PAS identified the need for further exploration on technical objection e.g. bus turning point, actual number of potential lost car parking spaces. Janice acknowledged that despite parking issues within the town, the feeling at the community meeting was saving the shed prioritised over additional parking.

Janice will liaise with Fife Council transportation, harbours and planning departments to establish if it is feasible to pause the demolition application without prejudicing the new build application.

Cllr Holt has previously written to the case officer who confirmed both applications could be treated independent of each other, and potentially one could be approved, and one refused. The best option however is to work alongside planners and appeal for time to consult and arise at best use of space for community before the application goes before Planning Committee.

CC member asked how PAS consultation ties in with the work of Community Share Scotland who attended our previous CC meeting? Graham was unaware of this group but said the advantage of the PAS report would allow such organisation a thorough background to the needs of the community.

Andy thanked Janice and Graham for attending the meeting, at which point both left the call.

# Secretary’s Report

Public contacted us re Bankie Park Roundabout – Ali checked it out all ok and Bankie Park grass cutting. Press states communities to be consulted re wild grass and decreased cuts, to date no information received by our CC.

Pittenweem Recycling Centre reduced hours reported in press, again no information forthcoming from FC to CC. Contacted local councillors who were given brief explanation of decision taken – how do we progress?

Reported levels of increased littering across the area on social media posts and by members of public contacting us. Emails between FC, Councillors, CC and delighted they have added additional capacity refuse containers on folly and added additional evening collection of refuse.

Planning Matters – to be discussed. No members of the public have contacted us regarding any of the outstanding planning matters this month.

# Treasurer’s Report

Bank statement end of June: £69,166.94

Paid out: £862.01 for Covid-19

Paid in £1,301.61 for Covid-19 £195 for floral donations, £8.29 bank interest and

£1801.85 donation from Twinning Association

Margaret Smith has collected £593.72 in floral donations. £310 has been banked but £48.72 cannot be banked at Post Office as coins are not being accepted at present.

Other donations coming in by PayPal and bank transfer.

St Andrews University has sent a remittance advice to advise that £1,000 was paid into CC account on 14/07/2020

I have applied to FC for annual CC grant for 2020-21 of £906.88

Anstruther Twinning Association has donated £1,801.85.

# Councillor’s Report

Cllr Porteous has reported the graffiti on Mayview flats and asked for urgent action to remove. Mr Anderson who is now in charge of street cleaning has good local knowledge and understanding of the area and welcomes his recent intervention in response to increased litter. FCCT are also now opening and closing the public toilets, however, are required to seek additional funds to carry on with these duties and are actively seeking further funding from the Scottish Government. As the visitors to the area increase as anticipated, Cllr P advises all to remain alert to the risks of COVID-19.

Cllr Docherty advised all public toilets should now be re-opened and parking charges are to recommence from Monday 3rd August.

Cllr Holt advises parking enforcement will also resume from 3rd August. She has also been recently alerted to fact you can attend the recycling centres by appointment more than once per week now – email to be circulated. Email also to be circulated regarding grass cutting proposals. However, it appears there will be no wide public consultation with the community. CC member queried this and asked how we can engage our community as many have already been in touch regarding the matter and we have advised we will roll out consultation upon receipt of any information. Cllr Holt agreed this is not an acceptable method of consultation and AP stated it differed greatly from the very positive meeting we held with the Service Manager for Park, Streets and Open Spaces. Cllr Holt expressed again the power of community action versus the power the elected members have.

Cllr Docherty expressed concern over long grass and increase in tics and potential health problems for animals and humans. CC member advised she has already had a tic in her leg further to regular dog walking. All CC members agreed the current cutting of Bankie Park is unacceptable and CC will write further to Service Manager to establish how we can engage our community with meaningful consultation on this matter.

Cllr P stated the reduced hours of Pittenweem Recycling Area and the combined hours of Pittenweem and Cupar and his fear they will further reduce the opening hours. CC member stated evidence used to justify FC recent cutbacks is not relevant as statistics taken from period of lockdown when many people cannot use the centre due to inappropriate vehicles (e.g. family car being disallowed as is deemed a truck), restrictions on what waste could be taken to centre, inability for those without internet access to book a slot, inconvenience of booking slots etc. CC to write to REFSOL expressing our concerns.

# COVID-19/ENCEPT RESPONSE

All CC efforts alongside that of ENCEPT were stood down at the end of June with all recipients being referred to other services to ensure their meets continue to be met. The ENCEPT telephone number remains active for anyone requiring emergency help. Andy thanks all for the great community effort.

# Community Policing

Cllr Holt recently wrote to Police Scotland regarding the constraints our local community police officers face. A meeting was arranged with our elected members and the Police Commander, who explained that due to continued funding cuts, whenever additional resources are needed for events, demonstrations etc. the community police are pulled from their duties to attend. All agreed this does not encourage developing relationships between community and police and Commander acknowledges without this relationship they are struggling to gather evidence to get warrants to properly tackle the ongoing crimes they know are occurring, especially with regards drug misuse. A strong case could be made to Police Area Committee for additional funding for community policing. Local Councillors will continue their plight to highlight this and action future funding and CC will assist wherever possible. There are drug problems across the East Neuk and due to lack of policing the issue continues to go unchallenged.

Daryl read report from PC Stecka regarding stats for June and police activity regarding community speedwatch. DW to follow up with PC Stecka re speedwatch volunteers.

# Planning Matters

Andy Peddie declared his interest in an application and asked if his application could be discussed at the end of the meeting, whereby he could leave the Zoom call prior to discussion, all agreed, and Andy handed over to LMcK.

Lindsay detailed the applications to be discussed and offered background to each and invited comments from all CC members and members of the public.

41 LBP – Comments included the scaling back of application, squaring off land, does not encroach on park area and concerns include the principle of change of use from public open space to private garden ground, worry of setting precedence. Further photos of site to be circulated and all comments to be in writing to Lindsay by end of week for formation of CC comment prior to deadline of 7th August.

27 LBP – Members of public highlighted this land due to the destruction and removal of several trees, regardless of comment made by CC the removal of the trees remains unresolved.

Comments and concerns include unofficial access to building from ground adjacent to Primary school, summerhouse, or habitable house? What determines a habitable house, is it connected to sewerage system? Question needs clarified by planners prior to submission of CC comment. Users of said summerhouse increasing parking in the vicinity. LMcK to follow up prior to deadline of 10th August.

East Green Application – Daryl advised planning officer now returned to post, further to a bereavement and has advised it is his intention to reject this application and due to number of supporting comments there is no need for the application to go before the Planning Committee.

Ladywalk – Cllr P advised all Cllrs been in talks with FC re the feasibility of integrated housing within a care home setting considering the recent pandemic.

No members of the public have approached CC with any concerns re any outstanding planning matters this month and all CC comments will be publicised when submitted.

# Feedback from other groups

FLORAL

LMcK reported watering ongoing and additional baskets added. Plan to thank all supporters over next couple of weeks. Also approached by couple keen to take on display near Silverdyke, all support welcomed and encouraged.

MURRAY LIBRARY TRUST

Lots of interest in the vacant studio, hope to have tenant very soon. Hostel set to re-open with restrictions on 1st August.

SLC

Hoping to meet again in September. In meantime Ian Wilson at Fife Council intends to fit new Mirage Swing and slide at Cellardyke Park, hoped this will be complete in next couple of months.

Cllr Porteous wishes to acknowledge all the great work carried out by the late Mr John Brown as he was instrumental in the Cellardyke Information Board Project.

MULTI USE PATH

AMcL reported land and legal negotiations have re-started for the remaining sections between Pittenweem Road to Queens Gardens, and from Metaflake to the Coop. Funding for next year should be confirmed shortly. Also, an East Neuk group have approached SUSTRANS for funding for investment of path between Elie and Pittenweem, if this proceeds it should assist with the impasse currently at Pittenweem.

# AOCB

SPACES FOR PEOPLE

Further to much discussion within our community, CC forwarded our proposals to Fife Council at the beginning of June for SUSTRANS funding for these temporary emergency restrictions to assist the community with social distancing and safety. To date only 50% of the project has been undertaken and this was only implemented after many emails between FC, CC and elected members and FC stated it was temporary and not funded via the Spaces for People programme. When can our community expect this initiative to be put in place? Cllr Porteous to follow up, AMcL to forward our original proposal to Cllr P.

BURNSIDE TERRACE

The area is proving to be used as a place to park cars, on both sides of the road and often on double yellow lines, in bus stops, at angles etc. As this is the main bus route and due to timetabling, the buses often meet on this stretch and members of the public are concerned re safety of all. Buses having to reverse into Mayview Road to try and pass each other. This level of parking cannot continue – Cllr P to follow up.

COASTAL INN

Members of the public have expressed concern to CC regarding anti-social behaviour outside the pub and questioning the newly opened beer garden to the rear. CC are pleased to see the wall has eventually been reinstated along East Forth Street, however a gate has now been installed (not like for like) to allow for customer access during COVID-19 for customers to use the new garden area. CC to investigate how the new licensing is operating as we understood that whilst we cannot comment on applications specific to COVID-19 we should be notified of changes. No notifications have been forthcoming for this business premise. It is understood there are large numbers of rubbish bags left outside the premises on bin days. Business premises should have a trade waste contract and cannot use residential uplifts, CC advise neighbour’s to report this direct to environmental services should this continue.

Andy Peddie left the meeting at this point

PLANNING

LMcK explained AP had submitted a planning application to demolish an existing cottage and build new home on the land. All agreed plans in keeping and caused no concerns.

Gillian advised we hope to meet in person at next meeting on 10th August pending permission from FC to allow us to meet up again indoors, thanked and closed the meeting at 9.30pm