Minutes

The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council

Monday 12th April 2021 7:30pm | Meeting called to order by Andy Peddie

# In Attendance

Present: Andy Peddie, Gillian MacLaren, Neil Anderson, Lorna Jones, Sean Blake, Susan Gay, Lindsay McKinstry, Ali McLeod, Louise McLeod, Daryl Wilson, Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr John Docherty

Apologies – Gail Sorley

# Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes approved by Louise McEwan and seconded by Neil Anderson. Daryl enquired re progress with memorial benches, to follow up with Cllr Porteous. No further matters arising.

# Questions from the public

No members of public present.

# Planning Matters

Lindsay advised of change of use to public open space at Lindsay Berwick Place that we submitted neutral comment on, has now been approved. This land naturally fits with owners’ residential garden and is not used by the wider community.

Daryl and Cllr Docherty declared their interest in the matter of complaint against Fife Council submitted by Annie Harrower Gray with regards The Wee Chippy. Brief overview of letter received from Ms Harrower Gray was offered and follow up view from Wee Chippy. DW to forward email to all Community Councillors. Action DW.

Lindsay explained she spent some time reviewing the matter and can confirm the curtilage area she refers to is not applicable as it cannot be ‘open, public or unenclosed land’ and the conservation aspect of the building is referenced to the masonic panel on the front exterior of the building (listed in 1972 and states much altered). Lindsay advised internal layout of the building has been changed many times in the past 20 or so years. This property is a long-term commercial premise. It was agreed cc will respond to letter. LMcK to action.

# First Responders – Lifting Team

Andy made CC aware that Fife Council’s lifting team are dispatched to addresses whereby a person is reported as fallen. Response time for East Neuk if often 3-4 hours and this often results in more serious injury. East Neuk First Responders offered to assist with this matter and Fife Council agreed. Equipment was purchased by the charity and training undertaken. However, now Fife Council will not insure the charity to work on their behalf. The First Responders are fully qualified and have first aid training and for the past 8 months have been unable to offer this service due to legalities with Fife Council. Cllr Holt has offered to assist the First Responders with meeting Fife Council Chief Executive to try and resolve this matter to the benefit of our wider community.

Cllr Docherty also raised issue of Ambulance Service not calling on our First Responders for the area and referenced lady in Crail who suffered unduly due to the call handler not alerting them of the incident. Unfortunately, this is another long-suffering issue that affects our rural communities.

Ali asked if there are any statistics for the area regarding falls and calls to the lifting teams? Andy suggested Cllr Holt will have these prior to meeting Fife Council and if no resolution we will use the statistics and go to the press.

# East Neuk Now - Internet

Cllr Holt was in touch with organisation further to their impressive Cupar Now programme. The programme connects all households who do not have fibre with superfast broadband. No need to wait for BT to install the fibre. Scottish Government and Fife Council support this project and the Cupar initiative has been hugely successful.

Simon met Linda and similar initiative was mooted for the East Neuk. There has now been sufficient interest in the area to proceed with this. There is also a £22M level up fund for Fife (for certain purposes) and it would seem this project could benefit from this fund. It would then be a case of a Community Trust would own the network and local people subscribe. It would be priced similar to BT’s cost’s; however, the network would be owned by the community trust.

It could result in everyone in North East Fife and the East Neuk having access to superfast broadband and having a local network and the community trust owning a valuable asset. For past 10 years the government have promised rural areas better broadband, however reality is many outlying areas are still not connected with no immediate government plans for this to happen. This is an opportunity to build this network and asset within a relatively short time (2 years).

We require Fife Council to support this project as worthy of inclusion for the levelling up fund (requires approx. £3M). It could also benefit free Wi-Fi for all community halls and buildings, free Wi-Fi in town centres etc. At this stage Cllr Holt requires Community Councils to write a letter of support for this project – all members agreed we should do this. AP to undertake.

AMcL did mention there was a previous project possibly called Coin that tried this, he will try and establish previous efforts as there maybe useful information that could benefit East Neuk Now.

# Floral Beds Milton Crescent / St Andrews Road

Lindsay met with James (Fife Council) at St Andrews Road site this week – plants appear to be dying due to spray off the roads. Suggested they returf the semi circles closest to the road, also health and safety issues for replanting close to road. Fife Council willing to clean out the boat, redo edging, provide bedding plants for the boat area and extra plant stock for the Haven area. AP stated some people may not be happy as there was some effort taken to get the beds installed initially, however if the plants are not surviving it is counterproductive. Lindsay verified the small hedging and the flowers all at front have not survived and this has been case for some time. Possible suggestion for poppy seeds, wildflowers instead? Lindsay to suggest this to Colin

Milton Crescent will be getting bee friendly shrub planting and hanging basket trees x 2 where previous flower beds were, as negotiated with CC. Once planted it is then CC volunteers to maintain. (Many volunteers came forward further to social media plea). New Fife Council representative been extremely helpful.

# Skinfast Haven Initiative - Cellardyke

Lindsay advised mix of residents, Oor Space and Men’s Shed all got together to discuss and agree plans for the site at Cellardyke. Back wall now painted and Men’s Shed have made 3 benches, and some planters. There is ongoing work by volunteers, and it is hopeful by end of April there will be structure in place with regards plants, seating etc. If any decorative aspect needed, residents are to undertake (e.g., sails etc.).

Lindsay asked if funding could be provided by CC – AP agreed £100.

Susan asked if planters were to be re-instated at former Police Station? AP advised there are 3 planters in total and suggested one to be returned to former police station and 2 to new community initiative on basis there are volunteers there to tend to the planters.

Cllr Holt reminded all that there are plant/seed sharing groups on Facebook and worthwhile using this site for free seeds. LJ also stated there are additional planters at Pickford Crescent that possibly could be relocated. AP praised the community effort and the Murray family for the use of the land in the interim.

# RNLI Update

Andy advised we have appointed consultants to carry out the feasibility study as result of tender we issued. SKS, Colin Duff is our chosen consultant and work will cost approx. £12,000 this includes architectural costs. Next stage is to apply to Scottish Land Fund to pay for these costs and Andy has submitted the relevant application and it is anticipated it will go before the board in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Holt offered her praise to the Community Council for progressing this to date and acknowledged without the intervention the building would have been demolished.

# Transport Consultation

Andy sought comments from members who were in attendance. Ali enjoyed the consultation and again re-iterated the professionalism of Planning Aid Scotland who facilitated the event. Lindsay stated the consultation has provided much chat within the community which is great for further intervention and community engagement.

Next consultation is in one week and we need to get more business owners to attend and agreed we can use Facebook to encourage attendance.

DW explained the next steps in the process and how a draft action plan can be devised offering short, medium, and long-term solutions.

GMcL explained we hope to involve Waid pupils with the consultation by providing a survey monkey/written response to engage pupils, Cllr Holt emphasized importance of working with Waid and encouraged us to approach Mrs Smart.

AP thanked all for their attendance at the initial consultation and encouraged others to attend next week.

# Janice Laird - Retiral

Janice is the link for Community Council and Fife Council and retires on Friday. She has been a great support to our area and a valuable wealth of knowledge. All agreed to offer our thanks with a card and a local gift. AP and DW to follow up. Cllr Holt suggested we work together with other local organisations who have also worked with her, e.g., AIA Harbour Festival, East Neuk Centre with providing our thanks.

Donald Grant is replacing Janine in her role.

# ENCC Forum Feedback

Neil and Andy attended the meeting last week. A couple of matters already covered further matter was discussion to turn the East Neuk into a National Park. Andy felt overall, there was not much support for this idea.

# Secretary’s Report

Emailed/report excess seaweed at Castle Street beach and liaised with harbour master to get it cleared. Also reported broken bus stop at Williamson Place – this will be added to list of repairs at new financial year. Enquired to FC as to purpose of new signs erected at Cellardyke Bathing Pool – Scott Clelland could not afford an explanation and would enquire and respond. Discussion re emergent popularity of pool and Cllr Holt meeting with Fife Council at the end of April to discuss the use of these pools and insurance/risk/liability.

Email received to advise the demolition of the flats commencing 29th March 2021 for duration of approx. 20 weeks.

Burntisland CC wrote to all Fife Community Councillors regarding the service offered from community policing. Cllr Holt - Important to respond to state the inadequacy of the service. Fife is quite exceptional in that they retained community policing which was abolished by Police Scotland. They (community police officers) are not present in communities and this is extremely detrimental to gathering local evidence. Communities miss this service, do not feel safe, intelligence is not forthcoming, and presence is nil. Councillors have worked hard with St Andrews Police to impress importance of this issue and request copies of email. DW will respond accordingly.

# Treasurer’s Report

Bank statement end of March: £70,646.92

Money i: £60 for 3 subscriptions to anstruther.info

£8.78 bank interest

Money out: £71.95 to DW for Zoom costs

£106.48 to DW for Wix.com costs

# Councillor’s Report

Cllr Docherty requests community councils advise him of any road signs that are damaged and/or in need of repair. He is also pushing for a telephone number from Fife Council for booking a slot at Pittenweem Recycling Centre.

Cllr Holt covered issues previously on agenda.

# Representation from other groups

MLT - Yann is hoping to open the hostel at the end of April when hopefully restrictions will be

lifted. Jen McBride – Bear and Bee Photography - is now the new tenant in studio 4.

MULTI USE PATH GROUP – Ali advised there has been some progress with regards the requirement from SUSTRANS to undertake a further consultation regarding the section between Pittenweem and Anstruther. Hopeful a consultation can be undertaken by late June. Disappointing that 5 years of work based on initial consultation is now being disregarded by Fife Council. Also path from Queens Gardens to Pittenweem Road will also now be included in the consultation. Andy has written on behalf of CC to Allan MacLean to advise that any consultation must provide all information regarding land ownership to members of the public, previous work undertaken etc. so general public are aware that one path is good to go, and any other option will again take a good few years etc.

SLC – Bankie Park bench and picnic tables are now in place.

Replacement slide and disabled swing seat should be in place at Cellardyke park by mid-May. Delay caused by weather conditions earlier in the year.

Dreelside Play Area is being retendered with an updated equipment design.

The steps at the war Memorial in Cellardyke have been sprayed and are now ready for pointing.

Nets have been ordered for the Bankie Park goals.

Glenn Jones has drafted updates regarding the spending of the last tranche of the section 75 money and Daryl Wilson has posted them on the SLC website. The last date for submitting a proposal is 1st July 2021.There have been many suggestions on Facebook for spending the money, but no proposals had been submitted at the time of the meeting.

Date of next meeting – 8th July 2021

Daryl advised no response has been forthcoming from Muirs re the list of action points raised by community. All agreed to write again to Muirs and Cllr Docherty happy to support, DW to write and cc all Cllr’s.

# AOCB

Ali advised the Anstruther Skatepark Group are now an ‘official’ group and are to set up a bank account. Letters ready to be sent to Fife Council re use of Bankie park and to Community Council and SLC.

Ali also held initial meeting regarding an East Neuk Woodlands Group, looking into tree planting in and around our communities as part of a wider Fife Communities Action Project. Cllr Docherty keen to be involved.

Meeting closed 8:59