Minutes

The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING - Monday 11th May 7.30pm | Meeting called to order by Andy Peddie

# In Attendance

Present: Andy Peddie Gillian MacLaren, Daryl Wilson, Lorna Jones, Susan Gay, Lindsay McKinstray, Ali McLeod, Sean Blake, Neil Anderson, Kelly Scott, Gail Sorley, Louise McEwan, Cllr Porteous, Cllr Holt

13 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Docherty

# Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April meeting were approved by Susan Gay and seconded by Louise McEwan. No matters arising were reported.

Andy welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for the unexpected need for a password, this has caused some problems with accessing meeting, hence delayed start of meeting. Andy explained the large number of public in attendance has altered the agenda and he will begin with “Re-allocation of Road Space “discussion.

# Re-allocation of Road Space

Our Multi-Use Path Group worked up potential proposals to improve social distancing in line with the Scottish Government “Spaces for People” programme. They produced detailed proposals for the Community Council to discuss in a very short space of time.

It was explained this issue has been highlighted on social media without the consent of the community council has raised many concerns locally (in part due to anti-cyclist slant it was aimed at). The paper was intended for cc discussion before any consultation were to take place with the wider community, however it has pre-empted this and has afforded us a wide audience to present to.

Ali presented the paper for discussion – The purpose of paper is to increase space for walking and cycling as a direct response to social distancing. Fife Council have approached various community groups to try and identify how the government programme can assist our communities for the duration of this crisis with a focus on public health and physical distancing. There are currently many communities exploring this same issue as part of the COVID-19 Spaces for People Government programme. These proposals for discussion were solely intended as a starting point for community council to discuss and were in no way final proposals.

The proposals were based on the criteria required for the programme – essential to protect people and focused on routes for essential journeys only e.g. health centres, pharmacies, post office. The proposals are to be low cost, quick to implement and temporary. Presently the roads are not busy, and this is seen as an opportunity to reallocate the unused road space to assist pedestrians with physical distancing where it otherwise would not be possible.

Ali presented the 5 sites that the multi-use path group identified as meeting criteria.

Community Councillors were afforded opportunity to discuss each site on its merits and concluded.

Site 1 Crail road to Peter Howling Place – No requirement as pavement on both sides of road so public can cross to other accessible pavement.

Site 2 St Andrews Road to Crail Road to Station Road - As per site 1

Site 3 March Place – Very quiet street, no need for any further measures

Site 4 – Part 1 – Rodger Street – Response from pharmacy received to advise they require parking for their numerous daily free deliveries throughout the crisis and for customer use. Suggestion parking could be moved to opposite site of street but then deemed unworkable. Recommended no further intervention required as pavements on both side of the street.

Site 4 – Part 2 - Shore Street – Received comments and objections from some business owners and on consideration community Councillors felt area from TK Brown chemist to Anstruther Fish Bar is a potential area for intervention to assist businesses with adhering to social distancing measures and public with staying safe when trying to walk along the shore or whilst trying to shop at essential location e.g. chemist and post office. Absence of alternative pavement causes public to walk onto road to remain physically distant from existing queues. Disabled bay in front of community notice board could potential be unchanged? Accessible parking could be prioritised at opposite end of bay (e.g. in front of Boathouse). Identified this area as requiring further investigation from relevant businesses with intention to propose temporary suspension of parking bays for duration of social distancing.

Site 5 Hight Street East – Presently for deliveries and access only, no requirement to intervene.

At this point the public were invited to voice their opinions on the presentation and community council discussions. Cllr P thanks Ali for putting proposals together upon request at short notice and member of multi-use path group welcomed opportunity to have this discussion and appreciates opportunity to try new measures to aid social distancing.

Business owner voiced huge concern that as lockdown eases more people will travel, more cars in area, more businesses opened. As car parking free, concern shopkeepers will park in car park and removal of spaces will impact on visitor’s ability to park locally. Businesses require all parking to be available and need assurance this would only be a temporary measure. AP spoke on behalf of CC to offer assurance that proposed changes would only be temporary to serve a purpose.

Member of public agreed with above re increased traffic and volume of people in town as lockdown eases, and advised businesses can only open if and when it is safe for them to do so, he welcomed opportunity to create more space for public to safely social distance whilst this also helps business with their ability to keep customers safe.

AP advised one local business accepts the need for the proposed change, however, is concerned that is does not become a longer-term measure.

Business owner reiterated above concerns and fears for longer term pedestrianisation of street as evidence shows this kills business on high streets – again AP reassured this was a proposed temporary measure only. Concern raised that free parking will be used overall by staff and residents, could other measures be considered for this group e.g. current taxi rank parking, pier parking for staff and business owners?

Online comments were read aloud to meeting, primarily concentrated on disabled, accessible parking.

Member of public invited to leave meeting if they desired at this point.

Further discussion which agreed for further paper to be written based on above discussion, taking forward recommendations by community council and further discussions to be held with business owners in affected area before any proposal is submitted to Fife Council.

# Secretary’s Report

* Council Briefing received 29/4 RE: Spaces for People Programme - Multi Use Path Group discussion
* Academic Research - Post Graduate Edinburgh Uni student seeking assistance with research for final dissertation.- Research project aims to understand the impact of conservation on the communities of the East Neuk of Fife, with analysis of both the physical fabric of the area, as well as the opinions attitudes and approaches of the local population to conservation and development in different villages. Requires online survey participants, discussions with other local projects, knowledge of ongoing developments etc. Require volunteers to move this forward. (4th May) – Lorna to ask Glenn if he would be interested in following up
* Testing, Tracing and Isolating (TTI ) approach now adopted by Scottish & UK Government, Fife has been chosen as pilot site for Scottish Monitoring of the COVID 19 Programme which will be run by Health Protection Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Govt. The OOHS await information currently to determine the involvement of local volunteers. If volunteers required, they will be back in contact with CC. Re: OOH St Andrews, now open every night 6-12 and all weekend. All services rearranged due to covid and St Andrews is regarded as a green zone, so after careful telephone triage patients can attend the local centre when considered essential to do so. All patients with any coronavirus related symptoms are triaged by hub in Glenrothes and if they need to be seen will be directed to a red zone at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. (7th May)
* Complaint re dog walking at playing fields (front pitch) beside Astro at Waid Campus. Parent has spoken with dog walker who states Fife Council previously investigated this area being used for dog walking and FC and dog wardens agree no law being broken and exercising dogs in that area is permissible providing no persons are using the pitch area and dog owners clean up after their dogs. All agreed Daryl to clarify this position with Fife Council and local dog wardens to ensure the matter is properly dealt with.

# Treasurer’s Report

 Bank statement end of April: £66,231.42

Paid out: £19.50 to ENCT for hall hire, COVID-19 £1182.46

Paid in: COVID-19 £847.44

Accounts for 19-20 completed and sent to Fife Voluntary Action for verification

# Councillor’s Report

Cllr Holt advised anti-social behaviour incidents continue to be on the rise, however both Fife Council and Fife Police have been dealing with incidents in an effective and efficient manner. Still reports of tourists staying in the East Neuk, if members of public wish to report this they can do so by calling 101, or if they wish to report holiday let businesses for breaching guidelines this can be done by emailing; covid19.enforcement@fife.gov.uk

Cllr Porteous keen to see the great community spirit continue, he applauds all in the area for uniting to show great community strength and support.

# COVID-19 CC Response / ENCEPT

From 20th April Community Council have undertaken:

45 grocery shops

27 dog walks

4 domestic cleans

Supplied 4 families with 2 printers and 3 tablets to ease access to home schooling

Posted letters and paid utility bills

Further to application to North East Fife Anti-Poverty group we were successfully awarded £1000. The aim of the funding is to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our community by providing a working model of assistance to meet needs of our constituents to enable them to stay safe and stay home. New initiatives will be rolled out as and when the pandemic requires the need for every changing response.

Application submitted to University of St Andrews Community Fund 29/4 for £1000 for above project. Ali suggested he also contact the University to establish if their IT department have any excess used stock that could be used for this Its initiative.

ENCEPT – Soup and sandwich service is progressing well, with 57 deliveries across the East Neuk last Saturday. Free food bags are issued every Wednesday to 40-50 households. ENCEPT also concerned at barriers to education and will feed into the funding the Anstruther CC has received to purchase and supply IT products as and where these are deemed to be the issue. Email been sent to all feeder primary schools with information and referral forms.

KS asked if there was another organization also issuing food bags, AP confirmed FC have contract to provide food bags to shielded group and a private contractor is working on their behalf to carry this out. Any duplication/excess can be reported to ENCEPT who will ensure their clients receive only as and when required.

Report of Coop being extremely busy one day last week with person feeling unsafe. They felt unable to report to staff who were extremely busy, long queues at till and in aisles. AP to discuss concerns directly with store manager.

Community Councillors reported the use of a google app to determine the level of custom at any business before deciding whether to shop there. This could be more widely publicized as an aid to assist public when social distancing.

# Planning

Cllr Porteous has written to Planners (30/4/20) to check there are sufficient comments received on RNLI proposals for application to be considered before committee. To date no response received. Cllr Holt to find out the dates the Planning Committee plan to meet in May and June. AP will write to all on committee prior to meeting with our concerns over the proposals for the RNLI demolition.

LMcK happy to report Communities Share Scotland keen to engage with all interested parties who wish to use the shed, they happy to host a zoom meeting to discuss how community can work together.

# Feedback from other groups

FLORAL – No Beautiful Fife judging this year however remains strong community effort to maintain the floral displays. CC donated £50 towards community effort to plant area at Haven. Hanging baskets to be filled at the end of the month. Usually a social media appeal would be undertaken to seek support with financial donations for the baskets, despite current situation all agreed important to try and continue with the baskets and the appeal to benefit the community and retain its appeal. DW raised issue of several homeowners in Cellardyke being issued with letters re obstruction of footpaths caused by planters. All agreed the planters are an asset to the area and help deter parking on the narrow pavements. Pavements in said locations are so narrow a pram, wheelchair etc. would not be able to travel uninterrupted/without obstructions due to the width, stone steps etc. along the route. Local Councillors to follow up with FC. Cllr Holt has already been in touch with Ian Jones and has asked for a site meeting with residents, Councillors and community council.

MURRAY LIBRARY TRUST – Studios and hostel remain closed

SLC – No meetings held

# AOCB

SG provided an update on work of Oorspace Project. Many clients experiencing social isolation and negative impact on mental health due to ongoing crisis. With no meetings taking place alternative social distanced walks have been arranged and small items purchased to improve mental wellbeing.

Cllr Porteous wishes to share his parties experience of working with Fife Council at this present time. They have struggled to get information from the council on a variety of subject matters and feel a poor level of service has been on offer from them throughout this crisis.

Darker Skies project proposer has emailed to ask if we can discuss this issue again. Agreed to check on previous minutes and write back accordingly, Cllr P can also follow up.

KS advised a local man has been released from Victoria Hospital following a lengthy battle with COVID-19, CC wish to extend their best wishes to Mr Herd.