Minutes

The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council

VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM Monday 8th June 2020 7:30pm | Meeting called to order by A Peddie

# In Attendance

Community Councillors: Andrew Peddie, Gillian MacLaren, Daryl Wilson, Lorna Jones, Susan Gay, Sean Blake, Kelly Scott, Neil Anderson, Louise McEwan, Ali McLeod, Lindsay McKinstray

Cllr Holt, Cllr Porteous, 6 members of the public, Toby (Community Share Scotland)

Apologies: Gail Sorley & Cllr Docherty

# Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Chair welcomed all along to Zoom meeting. Minutes of last meeting were approved by LMcK and seconded by SG.

Matters Arising - Lorna has contacted University Student re research on area and Burgh Collection also been assisting with her research.

Open Spaces application was submitted to Fife Council who are submitted their proposals to SUSTRANS today (8th June) for funding decision. Cllr Holt suggested AMcL also email proposal to Martin Kingam at FC who is responsible for supply and design of temporary measures re social distancing. If funding successful, community floral groups could be invited to enhance area with pots etc. A second tranche of funding from Scottish Government is to open within 8-10 weeks and has been increased from £10M to £30M.

Declaration of Interest: Noted by DW re application of 41 LBP due to family members residing in area (as per previous email discussion)

# Planning Application – 41 Lindsay Berwick Place

In recognition of public attendance Andy brought this matter to top of agenda and invited LMcK to offer a timeline to the Community Council involvement/comment.

LMcK as planning convenor for CC advised CC were initially approached by a member of the public on 13th May 2020 regarding their concerns for this application. This contact highlighted fact the neighbour notification letters were only received that day (13th) despite being dated 1st May. As a direct result the CC applied for statutory consultee status as area in question is public amenity space and also requested the neighbour consultation date was extended to compensate for the late notice given. Request was also made for comment date to be extended beyond the CC next meeting date so it could be discussed openly at the meeting. Fife Council agreed to extend the neighbour consultation date, however statutory consultee request and extension of time beyond the CC meeting was denied. (Community Councils have 7-day period to apply for Statutory Consultee status from date of application – as CC were unaware of application within this 7-day period we were unable to meet this deadline)

As a result of timescale, LMcK liaised with CC members via email to determine our collective response to the application. The decision was made to object on grounds of retention of greenspace aka public amenity space, public open space. These spaces are valued assets within a community and planning obligations require greenspace within developments. Herein lies issue, whereby greenspace can be resold and become something other than greenspace/open amenity land. LMcK explained the implications of this type of land sale could potentially in the future affect other developments, e.g. Silverdykes Playpark if planning regulations did not protect it. POPS (Privately Owned Public Space) is a national issue whereby public open spaces can be privately owned; however, our focus remains on the loss of greenspace for our community. As a CC we have championed the retention of greenspace, publicly with Bankie Park and more latterly with the area at Mayview. We therefore object to this application on basis of the value of retaining what little greenspace our Burgh has (currently way below average for Fife) and is not aimed personally to the owners of the land.

Andy invited Councillors to speak – Cllr P announced as the application will now go to Planning Committee, he nor other Cllr’s can pass any comment on the matter at this present time.

Andy invited members of the public to comment – Dr Clark queried the status of CC as statutory consultees and was advised we had missed deadline, however due to number of comments (in support and in objection) it will go forth to planning committee and CC will be kept informed of developments as per procedure. Dr Clark would like to re-iterate CC views regarding removal of greenspace and the long-term public interest in retention of such spaces and the precedence any planning approval would set regarding the future value of such land. AP stated there is clear criteria in place for any change of use from public to private land and he does not feel this application meets the criteria, the planning process is the protection of public land and this will be a test for the legislation.

A McConnechie thanks LMcK and the CC for the work undertaken and queried timescales. Cllr P answered by stating due to FC recess it is unlikely the application will come forth before committee until Aug/September. He will alert CC when it is on Committee agenda.

AMcL queried the future maintenance of such POPS, DW stated the area has always been maintained to a high standard throughout the private ownership.

# Secretary’s Report

Email circulated to all re Fifeplan which will be agenda item at future meeting

Email to member of public re Darker Skies project, advising we would support if he proceeded with it and Cllr P on offer to advise also.

Emails from public re 41 LBP application

Email from public re East Green application and subsequent correspondence with planning dept re progress of outstanding planning applications and enforcement notices

Email correspondence re excess sand issue between CC, Cllr Holt and Fife Council. Initially reported on 10th March as a high risk for falling from height, Fife Council assessed as safe as the road was passable. Suggested to Cllr Holt by CC member we shovel sand ourselves to make area safe – email forwarded to FC. (Cllr Holt absent from meeting at this point of discussion), all agreed to give FC one more week to remedy situation. Upon Cllr Holt joining meeting, it was argued FC have had ample time to remedy situation and make safe and a photo opportunity at the site may well spur them into action, agreed for photo to be taken 09/06/20.

# Treasurer’s Report

LJ advised accounts for 2019-2020 have been independently examined, signed and returned from FVA.

Bank statement at end of April: £66, 722.17

Paid out: £50 for plants in Cellardyke and £1,272.09 for Covid-19 related activities

Paid In: £1,812.84 for Covid-19 related activities, including £1,000 grant from Fife Council.

AMcL queried funding from St Andrews University Community Fund. LJ advised CC were awarded £1,000 from the fund, however as we operate with bank statements only, she will not be able to report this income until it is shown on statement next month.

AP asked LJ to cancel cheque for £500 paid to ENCEPT member as ENCEPT re-imbursed. All payments to and from ENCEPT will be calculated at the conclusion of our emergency response.

LJ queried lack of grant application for Community Council from FC – Cllr P to follow up.

# Councillors Report

Cllr P wishes to note the positive action taken by Murray Library Trustees to enable the studios to re-open. He also wishes to highlight the need for Fife Council departments to work alongside local businesses to assist them with re-opening as each phase is introduced, he acknowledge a leniency with use of roads, pavements, timing of licenses etc. will all be crucial to enable our local economy to begin again. Essential there is cooperation to ensure the future of our retail and hospitality industries.

# COVID-19 Response

DW reported since last meeting held (11th May) CC and volunteers have carried out.

53 grocery shops (total of 141)

4 domestic cleans

Daily dog walking of 2 dogs

Telephone buddy service (2 recipients currently on list)

Various post office tasks – paying bills, posting letters etc.

IT – 4 families in our Burgh and 13 families in cluster area all been in receipt of IT hardware

£1000 received from St Andrews Uni Community Fund, (no excess stock from Uni available)

Still receiving new referrals for people who are shielding , recovering from virus etc., whilst appreciate the need to wind down response service there is a recognition that some level of service will need to be retained to assist those who remain vulnerable.

AP advised the Rotary are aiming to raise funds via Exercise for Education campaign to support IT access issues for Waid pupils. DW sought advice on level of service we can offer to Waid based on our current funding and funds spent. Agreed to issue 5 tablets, DW to order more.

Many requests were received last week for It support as new emerging issue concerns parent’s returning to work and taking laptops etc. with them or using for their job. Referral system in pace via all schools, GMcL designed referral form and it offers schools and families a good level of confidentiality whilst also ensuring the needs of the families are met.

Certain query raised re accessing data on mobile issues, various options have been explored, present situation appears best solution for family to pre-pay and CC re-imburse. Suggestion to try giff gaff and possible BT open broadband (e.g. sharing with neighbours).

Andy reported ENCEPT are now seeking to wind down the level of services on offer as immediate emergency is passing, hope is reintroducing Fife Council staff and previous cleaners, carers etc. whilst also ensuring all needs are met. Cllr Holt acknowledged the level of service that has been provided by ENCEPT and Community Councils locally has been exceptional and worries Fife Council will now rely on our agencies to continue with our efforts rather than implement new services themselves.

# Planning Matters

LMcK discussed 7-day issue of applying for statutory consultee and seeks advice from Committee moving forward … should CC apply for statutory consultee for all local applications to avoid the situation whereby we are too late should issues arise? AP stated he felt to date the CC has managed successfully to identify and act on relevant cases and this was unfortunate isolated application that we have missed. Cllr Porteous stated a generic request for every future application to planning would create additional work for Fife Council. Cllr Holt argued despite the additional work, it was a sensible idea moving forward to ensure we are in a position whereby we can object should issues be raised locally that require a comment from CC. If CC were statutory consultees and pass comment contradictory to that of planning department, the application would be required to go before planning committee regardless if any other parties had lodged any comments. Members to consider their thoughts on this query and will address at July meeting.

AP explained that due to the nature of Fife Planning Department changes, whereby comments are no longer published in advance of closing date online, we as a community council will publish our comments on relevant applications online and on the local notice board in the interests of transparency for all concerned.

DW updated the progress from FC on current live applications as follows.

East Green – Remains allocated to absent planning officer therefore case not progressing at this time

RNLI – Portal appears to show Fife Council asking applicant for an extension of time and applicant agreeing to such request, however official update from planners state they are awaiting further information from applicant before progressing further. AP to follow up directly with RNLI contact.

Enforcement Notices – Wall at East Forth Street no progress again this month, ongoing since 2017

LBP – landowner has agreed to submit retrospective plans for outbuilding in garden.

Toby from Community Shares Scotland joined the meeting to provide an overview of their organization and how they could possibly be of assistance to the community when seeking to save the RNLI building.

They offer free advice and guidance to communities who wish to take ownership of various buildings, businesses etc., examples of grocer’s shops, local pubs/distilleries, community halls. Essentially a legal model of community owning and running building. This model of ownership is highly attractive to additional funders and capital in shares can be from 5%-100% of total funding required. Shareholders can be individuals or organisations and regardless of level of initial shares, each shareholder receives one vote each. Shares are non-transferable and do not change in value. Registered with the Financial Conduct Authority, the model rules govern the ownership and management of project. Cost approx. £200-£500 to set up a community share and takes approx. 15 days to legally set up. There is limited liability for shareholders, and it can have charitable status. Can be set up alongside other community trusts.

Community Share Scotland can offer practical hands on support for interested groups and provide all early stages of advice required prior to community engagement plans, business plans, governance documents and share offer documents being in place. A small grant of up to £5K can be sourced to assist with associated set up costs.

AMcL queried the level of funds that could be expected from such a project, Toby stated it is very variable, last 5 projects all reaching around the £70K mark with most individual investors investing £300-£500 but there is not set minimum / maximum it would be dependent on project and community. DW asked if all shareholders could all be community organisations? Toby confirmed a project could indeed be set up this way and geographical area for shareholders would be determined at the offset by the community. Initial set up of such a project was queried and Toby stated it would take minimum of at least 3 committed individuals to drive the project forward as initial founding members/directors. He cannot underestimate the level of voluntary work required to get such a project up and running, however once groundwork established it is then relatively straightforward exercise.

Cllr Holt advised at recent meeting with Janice Laird (Fife Council) she made it clear the community have a clear mandate to save the building and could special rental agreement be put in place? Planning Aid Scotland may be of some assistance to the community and another avenue worth exploring further. Cllr Holt to follow up. AP re-iterated that CC are more than happy to facilitate local groups to explore routes for them to own/rent/manage building, but long-term community council do not wish to be involved. Questions were raised regarding the linking of the 2 applications for the RNLI station with Cllr P insistent applications need to change to remove parking element from the build programme to ensure we have better chance to save building whilst Cllr H refutes this as being an issue.

# Feedback from other groups

FLORAL –hanging baskets are now at Pathhead to be filled and they will be hung by our volunteers in next fortnights. T Swankie agreed to undertake task of watering all floral displays this year, including 3 planters on folly as per M Dibley’s request.

M Smith asking for donations of plants for filling boats etc. on social media, as no budget been forthcoming this year for floral group as collection tins unable to be collected, usual funding streams not in place. K Anstruther to approach Coop fund

MURRAY LIBRARY TRUST - Studios are open for tenants only following a thorough clean and rearranging of furniture/procedures. Advert for new tenant will be published in July.

SLC – No report

MULTI USE PATH – New SUSTRANS officer for Fife Council in place, hopeful group will meet with his soon. AMcL explained group have been trying to create a bike swap project and space has been sought from SFM and FC for storage and maintenance of bikes. It would come under CC therefore insurance implications will require to be explored – DW to follow up. Cost neutral to CC as volunteers led and funding could be sought from elsewhere.

Approx. 6 solar lights have been stolen from the path through Bankie Park – extremely disappointing that this act of vandalism/theft has taken place and new lights will need to be sourced.

# AOCB

Recurring giant hogweed at Dreelburn. Cllr Holt advised Fife Countryside Trust working alongside REFSOL are to tackle hogweed near to Pittenweem Recycling Centre. It travels downstream and this initial intervention could be start of long-term plan to eradicate the plant.

Councillor Porteous and CC have heard lots of concerns re lack of queuing system for local coop. Whilst recognizing the hard work and the risk that staff have undertaken, unfortunately we also need to acknowledge the concerns that shop is appearing extremely busy at certain times and overcrowding is a concern. AP has already spoken with the local manager; however, all agreed a letter to him would be next step before contacting Head Office. DW to follow up.

SG reported the high number of discarded creels and ropes, general rubbish and dog mess up Anstruther Pier, this was also supported by Cllr Holt who herself has witnessed this – Cllr Holt to follow up with Harbours.