

**Minutes of the 411th Meeting of Crossford Community Council held at 7.15pm on Monday, 13 May 2024 in Crossford Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

D Hay Chairperson

A Rintoul Secretary

J Lauchlan Treasurer

E Fearn

A Hibbert

R Baxter

R Brougham

S Gibbons

S Ballinger

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Boubaker-Calder Fife Council

Linda Harris Crossford Allotments Association

PC Colin Lynch

2 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence had been received from J Matson, E Fearn, D Quarm and Cllr Glen.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February and previously distributed, were agreed to be an accurate record, proposed for adoption by R Baxter and seconded by J Lauchlan.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

Gala Insurance

The meeting was joined by a representative of the Gala Committee, Brian, to discuss insurance for the Gala. He had discussed with the Chairman, D Hay, whether the Community Council insurance also covers the Gala Committee events. To do so would require the Gala Committee to be recognised as a sub-Group of the Community Council, and they would need the agreement of the Community Council that this was the case. It was the view of long standing members that this was indeed the case, and a proposal was put to the meeting that the Gala Committee be recognised as a sub-Group of the Community Council, and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman, D Hay, confirmed that he had had a discussion with Linsey Duffy on whether the Community Council insurance covered the Gala’s events. She will discuss with Fife Council’s insurance expert.

S Gibbons asked whether it was still the case that the insurance was valid for a maximum of 500 attendees, and this was confirmed by D Hay. In such circumstances, the Council must agree a higher number with the insurers, and this would certainly be necessary for the Fireworks event.

Brian will report back to, and discuss with, the Gala Committee. It was noted that they have until around October to sort out this issue.

S Ballinger asked why Fife Council are finding new insurers. A Rintoul responded that the current insurers, Zurich, are pulling out of providing this type of insurance to local authorities, and will do so next year, and an alternative insurer will have to be found by Fife Council.

Brian asked on behalf of the Gala Committee when the next issue of the Chronicle would be issued, and the Editor, S Gibbons, confirmed that it would be in the next few weeks.

Police Report

Our Community Police Officer, Colin Lynch, attended the meeting and provided a Report on policing in Crossford.

The Secretary, A Rintoul, had informed him that they preferred the more detailed report providing local information, and had also informed him of our three main concerns. He provided the local information.

In February, there were 38 calls to either 999 or 101 regarding events in Crossford. Of these, 2 crimes were identified, and both were resolved. One was an act of public indecency, and the other a very minor assault.

In March, there were 18 calls, and again 2 crimes were identified. One was a minor assault, and the other a theft, through an unsecured rear door.

There were no community impacts for any of the crimes noted above.

PC Lynch noted that it was always important for householders to ensure that doors were locked.

He also reported back on Safety Camera deployments in Crossford. Between 31 January and 5 March, these were deployed on 12 separate occasions, each time for a few hours. When asked why the periods were so limited, PC Lynch noted that most offences are within the first 10- or 15-minute window, after which cars have frequently found out about the deployment, often from other motorists flashing them. However, even in these circumstances, the deployment still has the desired effect, as motorists have slowed down to within the speed limit.

On these twelve deployments, on nine occasions there were no speeding vehicles, and on the other three, a total of ten were recorded. It was, he said, no coincidence that all of these were between 16.30 and 19.00, when motorists are often returning home from work. All ten received a fixed penalty notice.

D Hay noted that there would be a proposal at Committee in Fife Council to reduce the speed limit between Crossford and Cairneyhill to 40mph. Cllr Boubaker-Calder confirmed also that they would consider reducing the speed limit on Cairneyhill Rd, Main St and Waggon Rd to 20mph. Although the 40mph had the support of the Community Council, the 20mph limit did not, and indeed we had decided in considering the Local Place Plan not to include that.

D Hay also asked about the issue of youths burning bins. PC Lynch confirmed that this happens in several settlements, and suggested that it is best if bins can be kept out of sight, and brought in as soon as they are emptied, and if necessary secured.

It was noted that youths often meet at the old stables near the golf course clubhouse, sometimes in large numbers. If they are causing a nuisance through noise etc, then we should contact Police Scotland, although it might take some time for them to respond. It would have to be more serious anti-social behaviour for them to respond quickly. PC Lynch noted that youths causing trouble are often from outside the area – a common problem now, as they use the free bus passes to travel and cause trouble outside their own area. He noted that his Community Inspector is meeting Shirley Anne Somerville MSP to discuss this, and some officers feel that this has made their job more difficult and needs to be reconsidered.

PC Lynch was thanked for coming along and providing us with his report.

Pitconochie Proposal

There was no further information available on this proposal.

Carnegie’s Way

A Hibbert reported on recent discussions. The discussions are now at a fairly delicate stage, with talks to be held between the landowner, the farmer and Fife Council soon. He assured members that the proposals were moving forward, and that we had the support of Sustrans. Other options and costings had been looked at, and this had delayed the projected timetable. It was felt that we should be in a position to provide more information at the next meeting.

Ukrainian refugees

There was no further information on this. D Hay and A Rintoul had held a meeting with the Keavil Manager, Jason Doga, and had learned that the contract expired on 31 March, but to our knowledge there were still a number of refugees in the Keavil, and our understanding is that they will be moved out to more permanent accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

Footpath repairs

It was noted that the Rights of Way funds were being kept for possible additional expenditure concerning the Milesmark (Targate Rd) Right of Way, rather than general footpath repairs. The discussions on that footpath are in abeyance for the moment.

Traffic Management Survey and Assessment:

The proposals going before the Dunfermline Area Committee are for a 40mph limit between Crossford and Cairneyhill, and for a 20mph limit on Cairneyhill Rd, Main St and Waggon Rd. The 40mph speed limit was agreed with the Community Council, and received very substantial support from residents in the Local Place Plan consultation, but the 20mph limit was not considered in that Consultation because there was insufficient support for it within the Community Council. This was put into the Area Committee discussions by Council officials, we believe, as Cllr Boubaker-Calder did not ask for this to be included.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Lesley Craig now and make it clear that, whilst the Community Council is very much in favour of the 40mph limit, we are not in favour of the proposed reduction to 20mph. It is our view that the 40mph reduction should be done first, and our main concern is the enforcement of the 30mph limit. We can then reassess whether a 20mph limit need be considered, once we see how effective the reduction to 40mph has been.

It has been made clear that if the vote at Area Committee passes, then there will be a public consultation on it, and we will be able to respond then as a Community Council, and as individuals, but it was decided that we should make our view clear at this early stage.

Woodland Walk seat

D Hay confirmed that he had spoken to Fife Council regarding taking back the seat.

Meeting re MUGA with Shirley Melville:

D Hay has still not managed to meet her regarding the MUGA lease, and the lighting. We had received a response from Philip Blair of Legal regarding their view on Community Councils owning property. He said that their concerns about Community Councils acquiring heritable property is essentially one of continuity. Elections for Community Councils must take place every four years. However, if the number of nominations is less than half of the number of vacancies the Community Council will not be established at that time. This means there is no guarantee any Community Council will continue to exist from one term to the next. This is problematic when one is considering the acquisition of heritable property rights which **will** extend from one term to the next. If heritable property is acquired, but the Council is not re-established at the next election the outgoing officers will find themselves the proprietors of heritable property as trustees for a Council which no longer exists. Their title to the property and their responsibilities as owners will not “evaporate” with the dissolution of their Council; leaving them with liabilities for maintenance and public risk.

 For these reasons, Fife Council do not regard Community Councils as an appropriate legal vehicle for the sort of long-term rights and responsibilities which come with the acquisition of heritable property, and they recommend that Community Councils form SCIOs (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations) to hold property.

As a Community Council which has never failed to find sufficient members, we don’t think this is applicable to us, but although the Fife Council rules state clearly that we can own property, we need Fife Council’s approval to do so. Thus, we need to decide on a course of action.

The Chairman, D Hay, suggested that as the only legal interest, since CREATE folded, is now with Fife Council, we just allow them to deal with the MUGA in the same way that they are responsible for other play equipment in the park, without the Community Council being involved as an intermediary.

J Lauchlan raised the point that we would have to be sure that Fife Council would continue to look after the property in the way they do now, as we would not, for example, want to see them close the MUGA for lack of funding. It was agreed that we would need confirmation in writing from Fife Council that they would continue to carry out the responsibilities listed in the CREATE lease.

Cllr Boubaker-Calder is meeting Stephen Duffy, and will raise this possibility with him at that meeting.

We will also look at the cost of larger “No Dogs” signs for the MUGA, as members of the public sometimes allow their dogs there, A Hibbert will investigate this.

Katrine Dr culvert:

Cllr Glen has spoken to Stephen Duffy. The culvert has been cleaned (although we believe it was done by a resident, rather than Fife Council). However, that still leaves the damage to the culvert to be sorted out. A Hibbert has provided Cllr Glen with photos to pass over to Stephen Duffy so that he can see where the remediation work needs to take place. Cllr Boubaker-Calder is meeting with Ground Maintenance on the 9th April, and would raise the issue then.

Keavil House Hotel

D Hay and A Rintoul met with Jason Doga, Manager of the Keavil, on 20 February. He was happy with the proposals for improving the footpaths, including that on the Keavil’s land.

He noted that the Keavil now has CCTV trained on their bins, to discourage any youths taking them, and has secured them too.

Regarding the Ukrainian refugees, the contract was to run out on 31 March, and they are being gradually moved to more permanent accommodation, but at the time of the meeting, there was still a number of rooms with refugees occupying them.

He raised the cutting of the hedge between the Keavil Drive and KGV Park, which had, he thought, been done very badly. We agreed, and D Hay discussed this with Paul McLelland of Fife Council’s Ground Maintenance; work has since been carried out to plug some of the gaps which had been left by the work.

He had also raised the large pothole on the pavement at the entrance to the Keavil Drive, and this has been raised with Ground Maintenance. Cllr Boubaker-Calder is meeting Grounds Maintenance and will discuss this.

Also, although one tree which had fallen onto the wall between the Keavil and the KGV Park had been removed, there was another, and this also needs to be removed. The Secretary will email Jason Doga and ask him to deal with it.

Dog Waste Bin at Keavil Steadings

D Hay will meet Linda Harris at the location to agree where the new dog waste bin should be located.

Footpath through Wetlands

A Hibbert has looked at the site. He confirmed that it would be better to move the planned footpath onto a slightly different route, and provided D Hay with a plan showing a potential route. D Hay will discuss with Peter Duncan, who is managing the project, to discuss this potential relocation. It would also have to be discussed with Mr Wylie, but the relocation should have less impact on his land.

Banking Co-signatories

J Lauchlan confirmed that he had that day emailed A Rintoul and D Quarm, asking for the necessary personal details so that they can become co-signatories.

King George V Park

D Hay updated the meeting on the numerous matters regarding KGV Park, which he had discussed with Paul McClelland. He noted that:

- French Drains next to car park – to be repaired autumn/winter

- Bench to be relocated – Completed

- Crown lift trees next to Community Garden – Completed

- Fill in gap areas in hedge – partially completed

- Path needing minor repairs – to be repaired Spring; the subsidence on the pathway between Katrine Drive and the south end of the park needs rectified and soakaways need installed at two points next to the garden area to help surface water drain away

- Remove tree fallen over wall – contact Keavil House Hotel

- Entrance to Keavil House path repairs – to be done Spring

- Replacement bin far end of park – Completed

- Car Park resurfaced – to be done Autumn/Winter

- Grass seed edges – to be done Spring/Summer

Flooding at Urquhart Bridge: Cllr Boubaker-Calder has contacted Fife Council regarding the drain here, and has also contacted SEPA. A Hibbert believes that the problem arises because of a build up of silt, being washed down the road to the drain, entering the drain and blocking it. Fife Council need to clear out that silt on a weekly basis if the flooding is to be dealt with. Cllr Boubaker-Calder will speak to Fife Council Transportation regarding this.

Flooding at Lundin Rd

D Hay had discussed with farmer, who said that the problem was not a broken field drain, but a blocked culvert, which was the responsibility of Fife Council. A Rintoul took a video of the water issuing up, and forwarded it to both Cllr Glen and Cllr Boubaker-Calder, asking that they get Transportation to investigate.

Flooding at Knockhouse Rd

This has been an issue for some time, and the flow of water was again very substantial during the heavy rains. A Rintoul took a video of the water flowing, and forwarded it to both Cllr Glen and Cllr Boubaker-Calder. He also sent it to Scottish Water, who said that they would have an engineer look at it within 24 hours, and he is currently awaiting the response.

Pothole at Hunt Place Cllr Glen had raised this within Fife Council, and it had been dealt with. There was, however, another pothole forming.

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**3. LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

A Rintoul reported that the matter is underway.

**4. COMMUNITY RECOVERY SCHEME – ALLOTMENTS**

Linda Harris of Crossford Allotments Association reported that work had started on 12 March, but had later ceased due to wet ground conditions. The contractors are working on four sites within Fife, and going between them all. The site has been cleared of rubble, and water supply has been installed to the site, but the contractors are waiting for the ground to dry, and they will then put the topsoil in. It is therefore still some way from completion.

What has become clear is that it is an awkwardly shaped site, and there are a few issues regarding the wall which have been revealed, and fitting the allotments in is not going to be an easy task. It may be that there are only 15 additional allotments formed, but there is still much work to be done in planning these. She confirmed that Fife Council had agreed that preference would be given to those on the waiting list from Crossford.

It was also confirmed that the £60,000 allocated to the Crossford Allotments and wetlands park project is being held by the Community Council. The Allotments Association cannot legally hold such funds.

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**5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

D Hay reported that, regarding LCP Funding, he had requested the following:

- £1,500 for floral enhancements

- £1,500 for path repairs

- £250 for MUGA lighting

- £750 for Chronicle

Thus, a total of £4,000 for Community Council matters.

He had also asked for the following sums for the Gala Committee:

- £3,500 for Gala Day

- £3,000 for fireworks

Thus, a total of £6,500 for the Gala Committee, and an overall total LCP Funding request of £10,500.

**7. PROPOSED COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE**

The Treasurer, J Lauchlan, reported that this was nearing completion. He will send links out to Community Council members.

**8. PROPOSED FIFE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

A Rintoul informed the meeting that a further meeting was scheduled for the following evening, 9th April, to which he and the Chairman, D Hay, would join.

The letter to Fife Council, which the Secretary had forwarded, concerned some members, and A Rintoul confirmed that neither he nor the Treasurer had agreed to the content of that letter, which suggested that the proposed Association could speak on behalf of all Community Councils. It was felt that we would prefer to retain our right to an independent view, in the interests of Crossford residents. This would be mentioned during the meeting on the 9th (note – post meeting, this was changed to the 23rd)

**9. EDITOR`S REPORT**

The Editor, S Gibbons, had previously stated that the Spring edition would be out in the next few weeks. This would be the last edition which she edits, as she is stepping down from the Community Council, after which we will need to find another Editor.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. FVA Newsletter 230224
2. Weekly List.250224
3. FCE Equalities digest.260224
4. FVA Children’s etc.270224
5. FVA Newsletter 010324
6. Weekly List.030324
7. FCE Newsletter.040324
8. Amey newsletter (roads).040324
9. Weekly List 100324
10. FCE Weekly Digest.110324
11. FVA Children etc.120324
12. FCE Equalities Monthly.150324
13. Weekly List.170324
14. FCE Weekly Digest.180324
15. FVE Newsletter.220424
16. Weekly List.240324
17. SEPA re recycling etc.260324
18. SEPA re illegal dumping.270324
19. FVA.Children etc.270324
20. Foth Estuary Forum newsletter.250724
21. FVA Weekly Newsletter.290324
22. Weekly List.010424
23. FCE.weekly newsletter.010424
24. SEPA PVA Consultation.010424
25. FVA Weekly newsletter.050424
26. Dunfermline CPT re Police attendance.050424
27. Weekly List.070824
28. Equalities digest.080424

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Applications registered*

Date Reference Proposal Address

22/02/2024 24/00369/FULL 1 storey extension to front, 28 Knowehead Rd

. dormer to rear, garage extn

19/0132024 24/00607/FULL Porch extension to front 11 Katrine Dr

27/03/2024 24/00679/FULL Dormer extn to front 21 Keavil Fm Steadings

29/03/2024 24/00691/FULL 2 storey extn to side 26 Lundin Rd

*Applications Determined*

Decision Date Reference/Decision Proposal Address

None

*Work Commenced*

Reference Date Commenced Proposal Address

None

*Work Completed*

Reference Date Completed Proposal Address

None.

**12. AOCB**

i) A Hibbert suggested that we look at improving the R671 Footpath (behind the wall at Waggon Rd). This was agreed, but we would need to obtain agreement of Jim Wylie (who owns the woodland strip) and Greenspace, who own the green area at the north of this.

ii) A Rintoul brought the SEPA Public Consultation on PVAs (Potentially Vulnerable Areas) to the attention of the meeting. The Consultation is open until 24 June. He suggested that members look at the plans, for which links had been provided, as there was certainly some relevance for Crossford for both the risk of flooding from both rivers and surface water, albeit the implications for Crossford were not particularly serious.

iii) The Chairman, D Hay, noted that the next meeting, on 13 May, would be the AGM. The Secretary, A Rintoul, would check the Fife Council Guidance on Community Council AGMs.

**13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**.

The next meeting for Crossford Community Council will take place on **Monday, 13th May, 2024 at 7.15pm in Crossford Village Hall, Crossford**

**Additional Action Points**

1. the Secretary, A Rintoul, to write to Lesley Craig now and make it clear that, whilst the Community Council is very much in favour of the 40mph limit, we are not in favour of the proposed reduction to 20mph, and think the priority should be policing the 30mph limit.
2. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to discuss with Stephen Duffy the possibility of Fife Council taking over all responsibility for the MUGA, as it does for all other play equipment in KGV, removing Crossford Community Council from any part in it, with Fife Council confirming that it will continue to meet all obligations present in the lease to CREATE.
3. A Hibbert to investigate the cost of larger “No Dogs” signs for MUGA enclosure
4. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to discuss the Katrine Dr culvert with Stephen Duffy, particularly the need for Fife Council to clear it regularly, and the need to repair those parts which are crumbling.
5. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to raise the pothole at the entrance to the Keavil Drive at her meeting with Stephen Duffy.
6. The Secretary, A Rintoul, will contact the Keavil re the fallen tree currently leaning on the KGV wall
7. D Hay to meet Linda Harris on site at the Keavil Steadings to agree on the best location for the new dog waste bin.
8. D Hay to meet Peter Duncan to discuss relocation of path through proposed wetland area, and also to discuss this with Mr Wylie.
9. A Rintoul and D Quarm to provide personal details to the Treasurer, J Lauchlan, to become co-signatories for the bank account.
10. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to speak to Transportation re flooding at Urquhart Bridge, to get them to clear out silt much more regularly
11. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to speak to Transportation re flooding at Lundin Rd, to get them to investigate cause, and repair.
12. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to speak to Transportation re flooding at Knockhouse Gdns/Knockhouse Farm Rd from Manhole cover.
13. The Treasurer, J Lauchlan, to send links to website to all Community Council members
14. D Hay and A Rintoul to join meeting on 9th April (note – now delayed until 23 April) of proposed Fife Association of Community Councils, and to make point that they have concerns over the Association representing their views
15. Members to look at SEPA PVA Consultation plans for next meeting
16. Secretary, A Rintoul, to check Fife Council Guidance on Community Council AGMs