

**Minutes of the 410th Meeting of Crossford Community Council held at 7.15pm on Monday, 8 April 2024 in Crossford Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

D Hay Chairperson

A Rintoul Secretary

J Lauchlan Treasurer

A Hibbert

R Baxter

R Brougham

S Gibbons

S Ballinger

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Boubaker-Calder Fife Council

Linda Harris Crossford Allotments Association

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**

Police Report

The Secretary had previously distributed the Police Report, in its new format. Our Community Police Officers had asked for comments on the new format, and had also asked us to say what our top three “Community Safety Concerns” were.

The general view that we did not see the need for us to receive a full colour brochure, as although we fully appreciate the good work carried out on our behalf by our Community Police officers, we would have been just as happy with the previous abbreviated Report, especially as that gave us local crime figures and trends, and these are omitted from the new Report. We would prefer to go back to the old Report and have that information.

Our three top concerns were:

1. Speeding
2. The spate of bins being stolen, most recently from the Golf Club, and prior to that from householders at the Keavil Steadings, and elsewhere
3. The need for local crime numbers, and trends in crime, if we are not going to get these from the Police Report.

The Secretary will report accordingly to the Community Police Officers.

Pitconochie Proposal

The Secretary reported that he had further exchanges of correspondence with the Council Planner, Jamie Penman, who had been helpful in providing up to date information. He had said, regarding the drainage issue, that:

“They advised that they have an agreed deed of servitude in place to route the infrastructure through the adjacent field to the west of the application site. They have also advised that after further review, they can implement the drainage permission without having to carry out any development on land to the west of Hilton Road. “

That would mean that they would not have to reach an agreement with Robert Forrester. The Secretary noted that he had told Jamie Penman that the Community Council would keep a close eye on developments, as would, no doubt, Cairneyhill Community Council, and hope to have a dialogue with the new developer, whoever that may be.

Carnegie’s Way

Discussions continue between Sustrans, Stantec and Fife Council on the proposed route. A meeting had been held on 14 February with Sustrans, Stantec and the Fife Council representative, attended by the Secretary, and he reported as follows:

1. Stage 1 had been virtually signed off; just waiting for a minor update on Monitoring and Evaluation, but they had given the go-ahead to move on to Stage 2 now.
2. There were no concerns about introducing the A994 routes into the Options at this stage.
3. We looked at the design options. On the SW side of the A994, there is a "pinch point", just as the road turns the corner, just around where the block of flats begins on the south side. There is just not enough room to have a cycle path and footpath adjacent to the road there, so they are looking at an option which goes behind that block of flats on the south side of the A994, using part of the woodland area next to the field, then going along the road in the parking area behind the flats, up the access road to the flats, and then it would again follow the roadway, as there is sufficient room there for a footpath and Cyclepath. It is still being investigated, but it looks like the best route. There are no additional issues with incline, as it is no greater than the alternative route alongside the road. I noted that they would have to ascertain ownership of the woodland area, as part might not be in Jonathan Hunt's ownership.
4. The other design issue is at the Crossford end. If they just go along the road to the Logie Gates, they would have to take down a number of mature trees, which they are very reluctant to do. Also, they don't want cyclists to have to cross the road at this point, or indeed at the top of the hill, as traffic going westwards is often going in excess of 40mph. They are looking at a design where the Cyclepath, on the south side, takes a detour through the trees, onto the Logie House access road (just to the south of the lodge house), then goes back up to the existing pavement and road. They will have to reach agreement with Jonathan Hunt, as additional land would be needed.
5. They are of the view that there really isn't a safe crossing point for cyclists once you get to the east of Lyne Grove, so if there is to be a crossing they will have to put it west of that.
6. I asked whether it would be possible for them to have a separation between cyclists and traffic. Stantec will look at that, and would prefer there to be a separation, but there is little room to play with.
7. We discussed Engagement Planning. essentially, the sequence will be

 - meeting with landowner 1 March

 - Project meeting the following week to discuss landowner talks

 - Stakeholder meetings last two weeks in March

 - Community Council briefings last week in March, to involve Crossford, Cairneyhill, Central Dunfermline. I said that to the best of my knowledge Milesmark and Baldridge CC was moribund, due to lack of interest

 - email briefing to elected representatives 1st week in April

 - Online survey 8 - 26 April

 - Crossford and Cairneyhill Primary School sessions mid April

Drop in sessions in Crossford and Cairneyhill, Crossford probably being on 13 April.

There was a question on whether it would be affected by the proposed Western Distributor Rd. It would be, but that could be many years away, its construction being dependent on houses being built by housebuilders to the northwest and south of this area, and developer contributions.

Footpath repairs

Knockhouse to Lundin Rd footpath: the bill for the materials has been paid.

Woodland Walk: The Chairman, D Hay, noted that Ronnie Collins of West Fife Woodlands Trust has supplied and fitted a bench in the Woodland Walk, where the log bench had been. He and his team have also completed the resurfacing of the whole of the Woodland Walk, including the part to the south of the wall adjacent to the Keavil drive. An invoice of £2,500 had been received from Ronnie Collins (slightly more than our agreed budget of £2,000) and it was agreed that the charge was reasonable and could be paid. The Chairman, D Hay, noted that as the supply of the bench by Ronnie Collins rendered the purchase of the other seat through Fife Council unnecessary, he would revert to Fife Council and see whether they would take that back and avoid further expense. The meeting agreed that this would be a sensible course of action.

Waggon Rd footpath: A Hibbert noted the very good job which Fife Council had done in constructing a new footpath to join Core Paths 671 and 670 with the Gallowhill Ridge footpath (core path 668). It has been completed in their standard “red tur” surfacing, used for all rural footpaths.

Gallowhill Path: The Secretary, A Rintoul, reported that he informed the Factor for Elgin Estate of the work done by Fife Council on Waggon Rd, and that they had also put materials over the access area to the Gallowhill footpath. However, no work had been done on the land underneath this, and the Secretary said that in his view it still needed to be subsoiled to improve the drainage, and suggested they continue to try to get NWS Rail to fix this.

Core Path down Waggon Rd plantation: A Hibbert noted that Ronnie Collins would be able to do a similar job on this as he had done on the Woodland Walk, and he would be asked for an estimate.

Regarding the Knockhouse to Milesmark Right of Way: This is on hold.

Traffic Management Survey and Assessment:

Cllr Boubaker-Calder had informed the Secretary that she had raised the matter of the speed limit at Area Committee, by putting forward a motion to get a report on reducing the speed limit. This was passed, and the report will be presented to Councillors in June.

She also noted that the road resurfacing between Crossford and Cairneyhill, and between the Urquhart Cut and Dunfermline, had been approved and were in the 2024-25 road programme.

Cutting back of vegetation and soil build up adjacent to footpath between east end of Crossford and Urquhart Cut: although this is apparently not the responsibility of Fife Council, but of the adjoining landowner, Cllr Glen has spoken to Transportation and it will be included in their work plan for 2024-25.

Meeting re MUGA with Shirley Melville: D Hay is still to meet her regarding the MUGA lease, and the lighting.

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 will provide Cllr Glen with photos to pass over to Stephen Duffy so that he can see where the remediation work needs to take place.

Eastbound bus stop, to east of Green’s: Cllr Glen has contacted Transportation to investigate whether a seat can be installed in the bus shelter, for the benefit particularly of those with a disability. They will look at it, but he is doubtful because of the lack of room and narrow footpath. He will suggest that they could also look at turning the bus shelter round to create more room.

Bowling Green at Links Park: The Secretary had investigated the cost and practicality of this. He had spoken to Graham Bratcher, who holds a number of positions in the bowling world, including President of the West Fife Bowling Association. Any green would also have to have a clubhouse, and the likely cost of both would be not less than £250,000. In addition, from his own experience, any club would have to allow £8,000 per annum for maintenance of the green, and there would also be a capital cost for providing bowls for visitors and beginners. With regard to demand, bowling has been under some pressure in recent years, and greens in Dunfermline have closed, and a few clubs in the area are in danger of closure due to lack of members.

In light of this, it seems likely that there would be insufficient demand, and that the capital cost would be too great for such a project to be viable, with the annual maintenance cost another substantial difficulty.

Access Road to King George V Park: The Secretary had checked the Titles, and it is clear that Fife Council own and are responsible for this. He has spoken to Stephen Duffy of Fife Council, who has now put resurfacing the access road into the 2024-25 work plan.

Insurance, Grant Funding and the Gala Committee: The Chairman, D Hay, reported that he is still to agree a date for a meeting with the Gala Committee to discuss this.

The Secretary, A Rintoul, noted that Fife Council have informed all Community Councils that Zurich Insurance will provide insurance services for a further year only, and Fife Council will have to find an alternative insurer from 2025-26.

Cairn Grove lighting: Cllr Boubaker-Calder had informed the Secretary that she had still to investigate the poor lighting with Fife Council. E Fearn noted that Fife Council had replaced two lighting stanchions recently, so less work needs to be done that previously, but parts are still inadequately lit.

Flooding at Urquhart Bridge: Cllr Boubaker-Calder still to investigate this.

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**3. LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

A Rintoul reported that a total of 43 questionnaire responses had been received, including both those sent online and hard copy.

The responses were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposals suggested, apart from that which asked whether there should be a more extensive traffic light controlled traffic management system to reduce speeds. There was only a narrow majority in favour of that.

There were also many comments and suggestions. These will be taken into account in writing the Local Place Plan, and all comments will be included in it as an appendix.

The only area where the Secretary felt that we were lacking in information was that regarding the proposed new Nursery School building. He felt that more information was required about what was needed, and about the problems with the current building. The Treasurer, J Lauchlan, will contact the PTA and will arrange for a meeting with them to discuss. The Secretary also said that it would be helpful to be able to look at the building when it is vacant, during the Easter holidays if not before.

**4. UKRAINE EVACUATION SCHEME REPORT**

Morag Prince and Moira Ramage met with Fife Council officials in January for an update. They are still unsure of the number of Ukrainian refugees remaining in the Keavil. They had been hoping to organise age-appropriate events but this isn’t possible without the necessary demographic information. They will contact Val Husband of Fife Council in April for a further discussion.

The Chairman, D Hay, and the Secretary, A Rintoul, are due to meet with Jason Doga, general manager of the Keavil Hotel, and will ask him for more information.

**5. COMMUNITY RECOVERY SCHEME – ALLOTMENTS**

D Hay reported that there had been a meeting with Peter Duncan in January. Work was supposed to start in February, but had, it appears, been held up by weather conditions. Linda Harris of Crossford Allotments Association (CAA) noted that it was her understanding that the firm contracted to carry out the work were also contracted to prepare new allotments at Spencerfield in Inverkeithing, and at a third site, but the weather conditions had held up work. The Spencerfield site, she understands, will have to be completed before they work on the Crossford extension.

The CAA have a small Working Group in place, but without any dates for completion of the work, there is no project plan taking place yet. They hoped to have a “buddy” system in place to help new allotment holders. The plots will be 50 sq m in size, and there may also be raised beds for those with a disability, and possibly some communal growing areas.

The main problem which the CAA have is that when people give up their allotments, it can take a year for Fife Council to reassign to another allotment holder. The waiting list is often out of date, and some only come off it when offered an allotment, so allotments can be vacant for some time.

She also thought that there might be a better route for the footpath through the proposed wetlands than the one in the current plan, and A Hibbert will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

D Hay noted that the original plan, which was to have it completed by the end of March, seems unlikely to be met. It was also noted that Fife Council have more allotments than most Councils, and Peter Duncan is putting together a new Allotments Strategy for the Council.

D Hay also noted that, following previous comments, the Community Council will ask for a dog waste bin in the hammerhead at the Keavil Steadings, and for better signage. He noted that Jim Wylie, who farms the fields nearby, had complained about dog waste in fields not being picked up, and this can be a hazard for stock in fields. Again, signage about this might help, and the Dog Warden might have a role.

**6. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

D Hay has agreed the same order for plants with the Allotments Association as last year.

All other matters are discussed elsewhere in these Minutes.

**8. PROPOSED COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE**

The Treasurer, J Lauchlan, reported that this was nearing completion. We agreed a free advert for the assistance Jared received from a third party.

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

A Rintoul informed the meeting that there had been an online meeting of a number of Fife Community Council representatives on 13 February. He summarised the discussion as follows:

1. **Engagement and Connection with FC**

-Some reported difficulties in getting FC officials to come to discuss things

-some felt unsupported by FC

-mixed experience generally – some happy enough, some not

**b) Support for CCs from FC**

-some officials have limited knowledge of the place of CCs in Fife

-suggestion that staff in FC need some training on role of CCs

**c) Funding and Annual Grant**

-Many thought Grant insufficient

-some have to pay FC for use of rooms for their meetings, which they shouldn’t have to do

-grant based on old census, but some areas’ population much higher

1. **Suggestion that Grant funding is derisory**

* proposal that Scottish Gov should adopt 1% of Councils’ budget for CCs

1. **IDs for Community Councillors**

**-**some felt this would be helpful at public meetings etc

**-**some CCs have produced their own

1. **Recent Training**

-too short notice, but timetable OK

-one on planning difficult for many; complex topic, some felt it was rushed through, and real need for the PowerPoints to be provided to all ASAP

-suggestion that might be better to have it through the Open University Training Portal

-little opportunity for discussion

1. **Community Council Elections**

-still need simplification: do they really need e.g. electoral number if we give name and address?

- could they be held at same time as Local Elections to stimulate interest?

-many had no actual elections, and 20 or so inactive

-need to do more to appeal to wider variety of residents

-better social media?

-frustration at not getting things done which they’d like to do

-lack of help for those with additional needs

-little provision for those who are not online

1. **Closer ties within Fife CCs**

-some LAs have CC Associations e.g. Edinburgh and Shetland

-would it benefit from doing this in Fife?

-any association would need to be output focussed – not another talking shop

-need to look at Best Practice elsewhere

1. **Next Steps**

* Will have further meetings, and draft letter to FC

J Lauchlan noted that charitable status had been raised at the financial training. Also, we can’t reclaim VAT, but work around this by doing things through Fife Council.

Cllr Glen noted that Community Trusts can reclaim VAT, but can’t get Council grants.

J Lauchlan also asked whether Community Councils were “Community Bodies”, able to acquire land under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. Both the Secretary, A Rintoul, and Cllr Glen confirmed that they were unable to do so. A Rintoul noted that Community Councils could set up a separate body to do so if it wished.

**10. EDITOR`S REPORT**

In the absence of the Editor, S Gibbons, no report was provided.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Weekly list of development applications.170124
2. Amey list of projected trunk road works to March.170124
3. Climate change workshop.190124
4. FVA Newsletter.190124
5. FVA children, Young People and Families.160124
6. Weekly List of development apps.210124
7. Fife Centre for Equalities newsletter.220124
8. FC re Active Travel briefing on 15 February.230124
9. Email from Colin Lynch Fife Police re Safety Cameras.240124
10. FC re DPEA Training slides etc.250124
11. FVA Newsletter.260124
12. Fife Centre for Equalities newsletter.290124
13. Email from Ronnie Collins re Woodland Walk repairs.300124
14. FVA children etc.300124
15. Dunfermline Central Area Committee papers.300124
16. West and Central Area Planning Committee papers.010224
17. FVA Newsletter.020224
18. FCE Newsletter.050224
19. FC to CCs re Asset transfer training.080224
20. FVA newsletter.090224
21. Weekly List of development applications.110224
22. FCE newsletter.120224
23. FVA newsletter 150224
24. FVA Newsletter.160224
25. Email from Scottish Forum of Community Councils.180224

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Applications registered*

Date Reference Proposal Address

16/01/2024 24/00035/FULL Erection of domestic 25 Waggon Rd

. outbuilding

30/01/2024 24/00187/FULL 2 Sty extension, balcony, and 6 Knockhouse Rd

Double domestic garage to rear

*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) R Baxter raised the issue of Council vans, yet again, damaging the park whilst cutting the hedge.

ii) A Hibbert raised a number of issues regarding King George V Park. The footpath from Katrine Dr to the Park is damaged, and has partially subsided at the edges, and needs to be repaired.

A French drain close to the recycling area is blocked and needs to be cleaned out.

Another tree has fallen against the wall at the south side of the Park, and needs to be removed before the wall suffers damage.

D Hay is to meet Paul McLelland in the near future, and will raise the issues noted by R Baxter and A Hibbert.

iii) A Hibbert again raised the issue of parking close to the traffic lights at Waggon Rd, which causes substantial queues behind. Cllr Glen said that it had been raised with Transportation, who had declined to act, and suggested we should complain again.

iv) J Lauchlan noted that the Lundin Rd end of the footpath from Knockhouse Farm is very boggy. D Hay noted that he had had a discussion with the farmer, Jim Wylie, and reported that he had said that he would not extend the footpath to Lundin Rd in the same materials as the existing path, as this would interfere with his agricultural operations. D Hay will, however, raise this with him again as it looks as if it might be due to a blocked field drain, and ask if it could be rectified so that it at least could dry out.

v) D Quarm mentioned the deep pothole in Hunt Place, which is causing difficulties. Cllr Glen will raise this with Transportation.

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

The next meeting for Crossford Community Council will take place on

**Monday, 8th April, 2024 at 7.15pm in Crossford Village Hall, Crossford.**

**Additional Action Points**

1. A Rintoul to give Community Police Officers our response to the new form of Report, and will provide our top three concerns.
2. D Hay to contact Fife Council, to investigate whether they will take back the seat which had been purchased for the Woodland Walk, but is not now required.
3. A Hibbert to pass photos showing damage to Katrine Dr culvert to Cllr Glen, who will pass them onto Stephen Duffy, so that he can see where the problem is.
4. D Hay to arrange meeting re MUGA with Shirley Melville.
5. D Hay and A Rintoul to meet Jason Doga of Keavil to discuss footpaths, Ukrainian refugees and other issues.
6. D Hay to contact Fife Council re provision of dog waste bin at hammerhead adjacent to Keavil Steadings.
7. A Hibbert to investigate whether there is a better route for the footpath through the proposed wetlands
8. A Rintoul to do draft of LPP prior to next meeting.
9. J Lauchlan to send links to A Rintoul and D Quarm to allow them to sign up as co-signatories for banking purposes
10. D Hay to raise issues noted by R Baxter and A Hibbert in King George V Park, with Paul McLelland when he meets him soon.
11. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to discuss flooding at Urquhart Bridge with Fife Council Roads
12. D Hay to discuss insurance and grant funding with Gala Committee
13. D Hay to discuss possible broken field drain at Lundin Rd end of footpath with Jim Wylie when he meets him.
14. Cllr Glen to raise deep pothole at Hunt Pl with Transportation.