

**Minutes of the 415th Meeting of Crossford Community Council held at 7.15pm on Monday, 28 October 2024 in Crossford Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

A Rintoul Secretary

J Lauchlan Treasurer

D Quarm Vice Chair (Chairing)

R Brougham

S Ballinger

A Hibbert

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

2 members of the public

Councillor Glen

Councillor Boubaker-Calder

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence had been received from D Hay, E Fearn and R Baxter

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30h September and previously distributed, were agreed to be an accurate record, proposed for adoption by A Hibbert and seconded by J Lauchlan

2. **POLICE REPORT**

No Police Report had been received, nor were they in attendance. A Rintoul will investigate.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Pitconochie Proposal

The Secretary, A Rintoul, reported on his correspondence and discussions with Fife Council. Although the date for responses to the new Application was 17 October, the Community Council was given a delay until 31 October, as a Statutory Respondent. He had circulated the link to the Application on the Fife Council Planning Portal a few weeks previously to Community Council members.

A Rintoul reported that, after discussion with D Hay, the proposal was that we base our response on that which we provided to the Stewart Milne Homes Application. This was accepted by the meeting. A Rintoul will draft a response for the Chair to consider, once he returns from holiday on the 29th.

Carnegie’s Way

A Hibbert reported on the Draft Report on Carnegie’s Way which has been produced by Stantec. It is currently under consideration and Stantec are still awaiting comments from Sustrans before they can release the Report.

There are still some concerns over the transfer of responsibilities from Sustrans to Transport Scotland, and the role of Fife Council in allocating funds given to them for distribution, and how this will affect both timescales and funding for projects, and clarification is still needed on this.

He also reported on a meeting which had been held the previous week with Altany Craik (Convenor of the Committee which includes Transportation), Holly Hunter of the Active Travel Team, A Hibbert, D Hay and A Rintoul. It was by and large positive. It was made clear that Fife Council would not support the route across the field, west to Pittencrieff Park entrance, because of the likely difficulties in getting agreement with the farmer and landowner, but would be willing to support the route alongside the existing A994, alongside the Urquhart Cut.

Footpath repairs

Woodland Walk: As far as is known, D Hay is still to discuss the possible change to the surface of this with Ronnie Collins from West Fife Woodlands, and will contact him shortly.

It is presumed that he is also still to enquire whether Fife Council can provide lengths of perforated pipes, to go under the footpath to improve the drainage.

Chicken Farm footpath: The Secretary, A Rintoul, confirmed that weedkiller had been sprayed, and much of the weed growth had been destroyed. Keith Johnston had confirmed that this has been added to Fife Council’s routine weedspraying schedule.

Targate Rd: It was noted that proposals for the possible Milesmark Croft realignment will have to wait for agreement with Jim Wylie on the Wetlands footpath.

R671 (Waggon Rd) footpath: A Hibbert noted that he has used the brushcutter on this route through the woodland and it has been improved. Without “Paths for All” funding, we will either have to use the normal Community Council funding to improve this, or seek another funding source. It will have to wait until D Hay discusses it with Jim Wylie, which will probably not be before agreement is reached on the footpath through the wetland area to the south of the allotments.

Gallowhill footpath: A Rintoul has contacted Elgin Estate again regarding this, and they are still awaiting a response from the Railway company. A Rintoul has suggested to Elgin Estate that we meantime put a layer of stone chippings down to raise the level above that of the water, until a more permanent solution can be found. They said that they had no objection to this, but we would have to fund it. Cllr Glen suggested that we speak to Paul Gallagher of Fife Council to see if he has any hardcore/surfacing which can do the job, and will send Paul Gallagher’s email address to A Rintoul

Traffic Management Survey and Assessment:

The Secretary, A Rintoul, noted that the full correspondence of our objection to the proposal will be available to the City of Dunfermline Area Committee as an unresolved objection at their meeting on 10 December, at which a decision will be considered. She will write to the Community Council following that meeting with a note of the outcome.

MUGA :

A Hibbert noted that he had attached a “No cycling” sign to the entrance gates. This is following advice that cycle tyres damage the surface.

Keavil House Hotel:

A Rintoul noted that he had contacted the new Manager at the Keavil, Craig Colligan, regarding the fallen tree. Mr Colligan has received one quote for the work, and A Rintoul provided him with contact details for the local Claymore Tree Surgeons, and another firm whom he has personally used. He also reminded him that there is a dead tree at the eastern end of the plantation, to the east of the bridge over the burn which needs attended to.

A Hibbert also noted that the foliage adjacent to the footpath between the Keavil driveway and Pitfirrane Park needs to be cut back.

He also pointed out that the boundary wall to the King George V Park, to the south, was being undermined by the burn and needs to be attended to. This, however, is a Fife Council responsibility, and D Hay will be asked to add this to the list of items to be discussed with Paul McLelland.

Flooding at Urquhart Bridge:

Cllr Boubaker-Calder noted that a new drainage system will be installed at the same time as the road is being resurfaced, next year.

Katrine Dr Culvert:

Work has been completed on the culvert, although it was pointed out that the gaps between the bars were noticeably wider than they had been before, and there are concerns that they are now wide enough for small children to squeeze through. Cllr Glen has been in touch with Fife Council officials and has been told that the culvert meets current standards. However, they will have another look at it, and might be prepared to install additional bars.

Flooding at Lundin Rd

Cllr Glen noted that Michael Anderson, who is part of Roads Structural Engineering team and is responsible for flooding issues, is to look at this. He will inspect the culvert, check on whether it is Fife Council’s responsibility, and if so get it cleared.

The Orchard

Cllr Boubaker-Calder noted that Greens had confirmed that they were willing to engage in a mediation process, and she is currently working on completion of the application form for a mediator to be appointed. It was noted that this is a difficult issue, as there are multiple owners with a share of responsibilities for maintenance. Fife Council note that this is a private road and has not been adopted, so they have no responsibility for maintenance. Scottish Water have also said that the broken drain is on private land, so is the responsibility of the owners. She will keep the Community Council updated on any progress.

D Quarm also recalled that there had been a suggestion that the area in front of the retail units be improved. A Rintoul confirmed this, and stated that this proposal would be included in the Local Place Plan.

Morar Rd green area trees

The Secretary, A Rintoul, had written to Paul McLelland, who is Area Officer for Grounds Maintenance, for clarification on the ownership of this area. He had been told that it was, according to Fife Council records, still in the ownership of Wimpey. He also checked his own records to see whether this was one of those areas transferred by Wimpey to Greenbelt Company, to see whether it might well be their responsibility. However, it seems clear that this was not transferred from Wimpey to the Greenbelt Company, so will still be owned by them.

This agrees with the understanding of Cllr Boubaker-Calder and the Secretary will liaise with her with a view of approaching Wimpey to see whether they would be prepared to carry out some pollarding.

4**. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND**

D Hay was not available to report on progress here. However, it was the understanding of members present that the only part remaining to be completed was the path on the west side through the area of woodland.

**5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

No Chairman’s Report had been provided, in D Hay’s absence.

**6. TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Treasurer presented his Report:

The Treasurer, J Lauchlan, reported that donations for the Village Hall hire and flowers had been made, as had the payment to the Gala Committee for their Grant. He noted that, of the Monies Held in Trust, both the CRF amount and the CREATE monies would soon be paid over. After allowing for these, the Balance stands at £3407.15, including the £40 ICO GDPR fee received.

There will be two Chronicles coming out before the end of our Accounting period which will use a proportion of these funds, although advertising revenue does defray some of the cost.

He has, as is customary, given a small gift to the Auditor on behalf of the Community Council.

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**7. PROPOSED COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE**

A Rintoul will pass him copies of past Community Council Minutes which will then be put onto the website.

It was also noted that the Gala Committee are looking for volunteers for the Fireworks display, and A Hibbert pointed out that this was on the Crossford Residents’ Facebook page.

**8. LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

A Rintoul reported that this is underway, and he will now resume work on it.

He pointed out that according to the Fife Planning Update of 23 October, which he had forwarded to all members, work on the new Local Development Plan – renamed Fife’s Place Plan – was now underway, and there was a Call for Sites and Ideas, which ran from 18 November2024 to 24 February 2025. Our Local Place Plan could be part of that, so we needed to look at that timetable for completion of it.

**9. CROSSFORD CHRONICLE REPORT**

D Quarm, who is now taking over the role previously held by Mike Morgan, will take action to co-ordinate production of the Chronicle, and will contact those involved in producing it, in order to produce a Chronicle by Christmas.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. FVA newsletter 021024
2. Paul McLelland re Morar Rd trees.021024
3. DH and SC emails re MUGA lease.021024
4. FVA Newsletter 041024
5. Chris Harris to AH re usage projections.041024
6. AB-C to ABR re Pitconochie development Application number.011024
7. Paul McLelland to DH re KGV Park tasks.071024
8. AH to DH and AR re R671.071024
9. AH to DH and AR re “no cycling” signs at MUGA.071024
10. FVA newsletter.081024
11. Amey to AR re road works Oct – Dec.081024
12. FVA Newsletter.091024
13. FVA Newsletter.111024
14. Weekly Update Development Apps.141024
15. FVA newsletter.181024
16. Correspondence re Gallowhill footpath.181024
17. FVA email.211024
18. Fife Planning Update – LDP call for sites.241024
19. Amey re Halbeath roundabout.251024
20. FVA Newsletter.251024
21. FVA Newsletter.281024
22. Weekly Development List.281024

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Applications registered*

Date Reference Proposal Address

25/10/24 24/02798/TPO Request to fell 3 or 4 trees Knockhouse Hill

Crossford

2/10/24 24/02361/ARC Pitconochie Farm- approval of Land at Pitconochie,

Matters specified in conditions west of Crossford

*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.

**13. AOCB**

i) S Ballinger asked if our Councillors knew why the Bothwell St roundabout traffic lights were not being used. Cllr Boubaker-Calder noted that she had already brought this up, and would report back to the Community Council once she hears. Cllr Glen reported that there was also a question over pedestrian safety which had to be addressed. They will both report back once information is made available.

ii) The state of the road down to the Scout Hall was raised. The Secretary, A Rintoul, noted that we have been informed by Stephen Duffy that this is on the list of matters in King George V Park which have to be dealt with this financial year.

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

The next meeting for Crossford Community Council will take place on **Monday, 2nd December, 2024 at 7.15pm in Crossford Village Hall, Crossford**

**ADDITIONAL ACTION POINTS**

1. A Rintoul to investigate the lack of a Police Report
2. A Rintoul to draft Response to the Pitconochie Planning Application for the Chair to consider, in time to report by 31 October
3. D Hay to contact Ronnie Collins re surfacing of woodland walk
4. D Hay to contact Fife Council re supply of perforated pipes to go under woodland walk, to improve drainage
5. D Hay to discuss R671 (Waggon Rd) path with Jim Wylie.
6. Cllr Glen to provide Paul Gallagher’s email address to A Rintoul, who will then contact him to investigate whether he can provide hardcore/surfacing for the Gallowhill footpath.
7. A Rintoul to contact Craig Colligan re foliage adjacent to the footpath between the Keavil driveway and Pitfirrane Park, which needs to be cut back
8. D Hay to speak to Paul McLelland re undermining of stone wall at south boundary of King George V Park by burn
9. Cllr Glen to report back on Katrine Dr culvert and spacing of bars
10. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to report back on progress re The Orchard mediation
11. Cllr Boubaker-Calder and A Rintoul to liaise re contact with Wimpey re trees at Morar Rd green space
12. A Rintoul to pass copies of past Minutes to the Treasurer, J Lauchlan, for placement on the Community Council website.
13. A Rintoul to draft Local Place Plan
14. D Quarm to co-ordinate production of next Chronicle, in time for the Christmas edition.
15. Cllrs Boubaker-Calder and Glen to report back on the Bothwell St roundabout traffic lights