

Minutes of the 403rd meeting of Crossford Community Council

held at 7.15pm on Monday, 14th August 2023 in Crossford Village Hall

PRESENT:

 D Hay Chairman

 A Rintoul Secretary

 S Gibbons Chronicle Editor

 R Brougham

 E Fearn

 A Hibbert

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Glen Fife Council

Councillor Boubaker-Calder

4 members of the public

D Hay welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Secretary to report any apologies for absence.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence had been received from PC Lynch and PC Morrison, J Matson, J Lauchlan, S Harris, S Ballinger, R Baxter

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023 and previously distributed, were agreed to be An accurate record, proposed for adoption by A Hibbert, seconded by E Fearn and signed by D Hay.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Pitconochie Proposals

 D Hay said that as reported in the May minutes, the potential developer had withdrawn from the project and a new developer might be forthcoming in the future, but there was no further news at present.

Carnegie’s Way Update

 A Hibbert reported that, at the request of Fife Council, a third option was added for Consultation purposes, that being the farm road up to Knockhouse farm, and then along the footpath eastward towards William St. The results of the consultation, held both online and at Crossford, Cairneyhill and Dunfermline Galas, are as follows:

Option 1 (eastwards from Urquhart Farm) – 506

Option 2 (south through Urquhart Farm) – 81

Option 3 (Knockhouse Farm to William St) – 24

The website has been updated. Discussions have been held with Fife Council and Sustrans representatives, and Stantec have been appointed to carry out the design and other works in relation to taking the project to Stage 2 of the Sustrans schedule. This part should be completed by Spring 2024.

Footpath Repairs (ROW FD55/ FC Core Paths 675 & 678)

 D Hay said there was no further report on the William St footpath.

The Waggon Rd footpath proposals were discussed; there was no further news from Fife Council Roads, who have yet to respond to our queries. Cllr Boubaker-Calder will follow up on this with Roads.

The Gallowhill Farm footpath was also discussed. Nothing further has happened. The Secretary will write to the Factor of Broomhall Estate and raise the issue of the flooding at the Waggon Rd access, and ask if they can improve this, which has occurred since Network Rail’s heavy vehicles used this as an access for their work on the railway line, a year or more ago.

Woodland Walk

 D Hay has been informed by Fife Council’s Local Community Planning officer that it will be too difficult to replace the log bench in its current position in the Woodland Walk, and it was agreed by the meeting that it would be replaced within the Park, just across the burn from its current location.

Refuse Bins

 It was noted that, contrary to the comment in the June Minutes, Cllr Boubaker-Calder had forwarded correspondence with Council Officers in March, which confirmed that these are on their list for replacement, but there is a six month waiting list, so it should be carried out by the end of September.

Knockhouse to Milesmark Right of Way

 No further progress with the site visit from Sarah Johnston, Fife Council’s access officer.

 Cllr Glen confirmed that it is still on her radar. D Hay asked that she contact either him, or the Secretary A Rintoul rather than J Matson, who is unwell at present.

Traffic Management Survey & Assessment

Cllr Boubaker-Calder has received a lengthy report from Traffic Management. A survey has been carried out by Traffic Management, but no details were available on how it was done. The average speed at the Lundin Rd/Cairneyhill Rd junction was 28-30mph. However, at Cairneyhill Rd, between the pedestrian lights at the Scout Hall and the west end of Crossford, average speeds were 34mph eastwards, and 38mph westwards. This was regarded by the meeting as wholly unacceptable. We were already aware of a Police check where within a one hour period, seven drivers were sent letters regarding their excessive speed.

Cllr Boubaker-Calder is discussing speed limitation on Cairneyhill Rd with residents at present. She will then contact the relevant Committee to investigate the best way to reduce speeds. Those present variously suggested a traffic light system (which kicks in when there is excessive speed), speed cameras, Police mobile speed vans and the “pop-up police officer” (an artificial police officer) which is used in many Fife areas. This was suggested by Cllr Glen who also suggested that we should contact Insp Neil McGurk, and he will provide contact details to the Secretary, who will then write to him with the survey results, and ask for police help in dealing with this.

It was also noted that the new traffic lights at the crossroads appear to be better regulated than the previous ones and traffic is flowing smoothly.

Lack of Police presence at Gala

The former Secretary, S Ballinger, had written to Police Scotland to request a Police presence, as usual, at Crossford Gala. It appears that no response was forthcoming. The current Secretary, A Rintoul, will get a copy of that letter and provide it to Cllrs Boubaker-Calder and Glen, and will also write again to Police Scotland.

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

 D Hay reported -

Police Report – During June and July, for the Crossford ward area, 39 calls were made to the Police using either 101 or 999 numbers.

* 3 x road traffic offences
* 2 x acts of vandalism
* 2 x thefts by shoplifting
* 1 x assault, 2 x police assaults (1 linked incident, detected at the time, youth responsible does not reside in Crossford and appeared in Court in connection with the incident).

Ukrainian Evacuation Scheme

 A report was provided by Morag Prince.

* Moira Ramage had put together a list of local activities which were available for residents, both over the summer and beyond that, and this was shared on Crossford Residents’ page on Facebook.
* A meeting was held with Val Husband, Fife Council’s Resettlement Officer, and this was a very positive meeting.
* The Keavil Hotel is nearing 90% occupation, but no demographic information is available, although it was noted that some residents are now working
* Fife Council are interested in helping set up a walking group for the residents, and can arrange for walk leaders, who could co-ordinate with a local walking group to arrange walks on an ad hoc basis. and it was pointed out that this could be co-ordinated by the Rights of Way walking group in Crossford.
* Some residents had requested information on providing children’s clothing, and this should be given to the Children’s Clothing Bank.
* Toys have also been donated, but they are struggling to find sufficient storage.
* It was agreed that the Chronicle should be available to them, and S Gibbons will put an article on this into the next edition of the Chronicle.
* Cllr Glen noted that Fife Council’s Community Engagement Team will be arranging an Information Day in Crossford, which will be available for the Ukrainian refugees, but also for other Crossford residents, in the near future, with various stands providing information about services and activities. The Communities Engagement Team are responsible for identifying a suitable venue, which could be the Village Hall, the Scout Hall, or the School, depending on the size requirement.
* M Ramage and M Prince were thanked by the meeting for their efforts.

Communities Recovery Fund and Block Grant Application

D Hay noted that the Allotments Extension project, funded by the Community Recovery Fund, and other sources, is set to go ahead, and Peter Duncan of Fife Council’s Allotments is keen to get the work completed before the 2024 growing season.

Local Communities Project Grant

The sum of £5,600 has been received. This is broken down as:

* Floral enhancements £1200
* MUGA Lighting £350
* Bench at Woodland Walk £645
* Gala Day events £2250
* Gala Week bunting costs £605
* Chronicle costs £550

Memorial Bench

The Chairman, D Hay, noted that he had spoken to Eileen Hamilton, who was content that the bench be moved to an appropriate location, which might meet with the approval of all residents. He canvassed views of Community Council members and, with this in mind, the majority of members supported the proposal to move the bench.

A number of potential locations were considered, but that which got most support was one between the existing garden area, at the East side of the park, and the swing park, as there is a raised grass area, close to the garden area for which John did so much, and looking over the park. It was agreed that D Hay would discuss this location with Eileen and ask for her approval.

Garden Area Maintenance (formerly CREATE)

A Brownlie-Little has unfortunately had to resign from organising this as a result of back problems. She is happy to continue doing the social media aspects, but someone else will have to be found who is able to take charge of organising the times etc and be able to carry out the necessary tasks on the day. It was agreed that she would put something on the Crossford Residents page and ask for a volunteer for this.

4. Local Place Plan

A Rintoul, Secretary, pointed out that information provided by Fife Council within the previous week stated that “Local Place Plans need to be submitted by the end of January 2024” so that they can be included in the updated Local Development Plan.

The list of priority projects as minuted at the meeting in May is -

* Safe Route (Walking, Cycling, Wheeling) from Crossford to Dunfermline – Carnegie’s Way.
* Expansion of Allotments & improvement of Path Network south of the village.
* An effective traffic management system along Main Street and Cairneyhill Road.
* Improvements to Primary School Infrastructure – especially Nursery provision.
* Leisure development of Links park.

This gives little time to complete a Local Place Plan. However, Cllr Glen pointed out that regarding consultation, the only statutory requirement is for a draft to go to local Councillors, and to adjoining Community Councils, although it is recommended that consultation take place with local schools/youth organisations and others. Cllr Glen noted that Fife Council has produced guidance on this, as have other local authorities (that from Stirling Council is very good). He will pass on links to these to the Secretary, A Rintoul

It was noted that it might be best to ensure that, for example, Carnegies Way finds its way into the Local Development Plan, as it would probably be easier to fund and complete it if it was in the LDP. Cllr Glen pointed out that, with the amount of consultation on that issue, it would certainly meet the requirements.

It was agreed that we would hold a special meeting purely to discuss this issue, and a date of Saturday18 November was proposed. A Rintoul will consult Hilary Ballinger to find out availability of the Village Hall on that date. Cllr Glen suggested that Hayley Williamson of Fife Council, who deals with LPPs could be invited along.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

 The Treasurer tabled a written report as at 11th June 2023 and this was accepted.

Opening Balance £8,551.36

Income

Filing cabinet sale £20.00

Local Community Projects Grant £5,600.00

 £5,620.00 £14,171.36

Expenditure

Account Auditor’s Gratuity £ 49.99

Ex Secretary’s celebratory lunch £179.90

Scotways Yearly Membership renewal £ 20.00

 -£249.89 £13,921.47

Monies Held in Trust

Dunfermline & West Fife Rights of Way £2,890.91

Woodland Walk Repairs £1,535.00

CREATE (MUGA Pitch Repairs) £2,309.46 -£6,735.37 £7,186.10

Community Council Balance = £7,186.10

Unpresented Cheques

Fairley’s Garden Centre, compost and plants £118.75

Gratuity for ex-Secretary’s retirement £100.00

6. EDITOR’S REPORT

 The Editor asked that copy and photographs for inclusion in the next publication of the Crossford Chronicle should be with her by 20 August to enable distribution in September.

The next edition would be in December.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received via e-mail was reported as follows –

1. Elected members’ briefing note re cycle world champs 050723
2. Letter from Alex Rowley MSP re proposed cuts to fire service 070723
3. Email; to/from Stephen Duffy re cutting back hedge etc Crossford to BT Depot 070723
4. Fife Voluntary Action Recruitment and management newsletter 070723
5. Fife Centre for Equalities monthly newsletter 070723
6. Weekly Update of Development Applications 070723
7. NHS Fife Update 130723
8. Amey August Newsletter 010823
9. Fife Council re CCC 2023-27 Inaugural Meeting.010823
10. Fife Voluntary Action newsletter 030823
11. Fife Centre for Equalities Monthly Bulletin.040823
12. Fife Centre for Equalities newsletter 070823
13. Local Place Plans 100823
14. Conference Places for Community Councils 100823
15. Fife Environmental Trust Newsletter funding sources 100823
16. Fife Voluntary Action newsletters 110823
17. Fife Council Heat and Energy Strategy Consultation 120823
18. FVA Newsletter 130823

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Applications registered

Date Reference Proposal Address

01/08/2023 23/02086/FULL Single storey ext. to rear of house 34 Katrine Dr

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Applications Determined

Decision Date Reference/Decision Proposal Address

26/07/2023 23/00762/FULL; permitted 1 storey extension to side 4 Dean Grove

Work Commenced

Reference Date Commenced Proposal Address

23/01203/FULL31/07/2023 Dormer extension to side 11 Lundin Rd

Work Completed

Reference Date Completed Proposal Address

None.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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* It was noted that the Scotways Bulletin, forwarded by the Secretary, could not be opened. He will resend it in an openable form.
* The lane markings and signage on the A985 were raised. The lane markings at the turning from the A985 into Waggon Rd are not clear, and there should also be two white stanchions. Additionally, the 50mph speed limit signs going eastwards start only at the crossing for the cyclepath/footpath, so traffic is often going substantially more than 50mph at the point where the speed most needs to be reduced. A Rintoul will contact BEAR, who we believe are responsible for trunk road maintenance here, and discuss with them.
* S Gibbons had reported potholes at the corner of Arkaig Dr and Rannoch Dr to Fife Council and although yellow markings have now been put around them, no action has been taken to fill them Cllr Boubaker-Calder has already been in touch with Roads and will do so yet again.
* S Gibbons also noted that the grass area at the bottom of Mochrum Dr is no longer being cut. Cllr Boubaker-Calder will speak to Maintenance about this. Cllr Glen suggested that the Community Council, in a Local Place Plan, could identify areas suitable for rewilding, and areas not identified for rewilding should be cut.
* D Hay asked D Quarm if the CCTV issue had been resolved, and was told that it was now working properly.
* D Hay noted that he would be on holiday at the next meeting. If the Vice Chair, J Matson, is unable to attend, it was agreed that A Rintoul would Chair the meeting, and S Gibbons would take the Minutes.

10. NEXT MEETING

 The next meeting date will be as shown below and take place in the Village Hall

Monday, 18th September 2023 commencing at 7.15pm

Summary of Matters Arising from the meeting held on 14th August 2023

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MINUTE****AREA** | **ACTION REQUIRED** | **OWNER** | **ACTION TAKEN** | **STATUS/COMPLETION DATE** |
| **Chairman’s Report** | Pitconochie proposals. | CCC | None required at present. | SMH withdrawn, replacement not yet known. |
|  | Ukrainian Refugees | CCC | M Ramage and M Prince to continue liaising with FC. Cllr Glen to liaise with FC Community Engagement Team re Information Day with various stands in Crossford | Work in Progress |
| **Matters Arising** | Footpath improvement needed from Crossford to Dunfermline. | CCC steering group. | Recent discussion with Sustrans and FC Lead Consultant. Funding agreed for stages 0-2. | Work in progress |
|  | Use of CCC ROW funds for path repairs. | CCC | Ongoing | Work in progress |
|  | Local Place Plan | CCC | Cllr Glen to provide A Rintoul with links to LPP guidance from local authorities, and name of FC LPP Support Officer. A Rintoul to find out if Village Hall free on 18 November for special meeting on LPP  | .Work in Progress |
|  | Re-alignment of ROW to west of Milesmark Croft. | Fife Council | Councillor Glen raised with FC, awaiting visit by Access Officer. Cllr Glen to ask Access Officer to contact Secretary or Chairman | Work in progress. Site meeting still to be arranged. |
|  | Traffic Management - Main Street/Cairneyhill Road. | Fife Council | Cllr BB to liaise with residents on Cairneyhill Rd, and contact Committee to discuss speed limitation measures. Secretary to write to Inspr Neil McGurk re speeding | Work in Progress |

Additional Action Points

1. Secretary to locate letter to Scottish Police re lack of Police presence at Gala, and forward to Cllrs Boubaker-Calder and Glen
2. Secretary to write to Factor, Broomhall Estate re flooding at Waggon Rd access to Gallowhill footpath
3. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to follow up Waggon Rd footpath proposals with FC Roads
4. D Hay to discuss relocation of memorial bench with E Hamilton
5. A Brownlie-Little to put request on Crossford Residents Facebook Page for someone to take over organisation of Garden Area Maintenance
6. A Rintoul to resend Scotways Bulletin
7. A Rintoul to contact BEAR re A985 speed limit signs and road markings
8. Clllr BB to contact FC Grounds Maintenance re lack of grass cutting at bottom of Mochrum Dr