

**Minutes of the 406th Meeting of Crossford Community Council held at 7.15pm on Monday, 04 December 2023 in Crossford Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

D Hay Chairperson

A Rintoul Secretary

J Lauchlan Treasurer

R Baxter

E Fearn

D Quarm

S Ballinger

S Gibbons

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Glen Fife Council

4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence had been received from J Matson, R Brougham, A Hibbert and Cllr Boubaker-Calder

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Inaugural post-election meeting held on 23rd October and previously distributed, were agreed to be an accurate record, proposed for adoption by J Lauchlan and seconded by R Baxter. Additionally, the Minutes of the normal meeting held on 23rd October and previously distributed were also agreed to be an accurate record, proposed for adoption by S Ballinger and seconded by J Lauchlan.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

Police Report

PC Morrison of the Community Police Team reported that:

For the months of October and November there were a total of 45 calls made to Police.

From these calls 8 offences were identified and recorded.

1.        Vandalism x 3 (2 incidents linked, damage to window wipers on vehicle

2.       Assault x 1

3.       Theft (dishonesties) x 3

4.      Misuse of Drugs Offence (Personal use, person traced within vehicle)

In relation to the concerns raised regarding speeding vehicles in Crossford, Sgt Crawford has contacted Safety Cameras Scotland to request a camera enforcement van be deployed within the area. The data collected in the area met the criteria they have for enforcement by their cameras. They are now taking steps to try and identify a suitable location to site a mobile camera van. If they can identify a suitable location they will look as assessing the other factors in the flexible deployment criteria.

PC Morrison reported that here was nothing of any concern to share. She was thanked by the meeting for her attendance.

Pitconochie Proposal.

There was no further news on the Pitconochie planning proposal.

Carnegie’s Way Discussions continue between Sustrans, Stantec and Fife Council on the proposed route. Stantec are still doing the initial phase of the work, and a meeting is scheduled for later this week between the landowner, farmer, Stantec, and Fife Council.

It was thought by A Hibbert that Stantec’s work is already a little behind schedule, and he would investigate at the next Carnegie’s Way meeting. He noted that the landowner prefers Option 3, which goes north from Crossford to Knockhouse Farm and then west to William St, but it was pointed out that this does not meet Sustrans requirements as it is too steep, and shares its route with vehicles for the farm and six cottages, and with farm vehicles.

In response to a query, he reported that there was no final decision on whether the Coal Rd would be crossed by either a bridge or a Pelican crossing.

Footpath repairs

Gallowhill Path: It was reported by the Secretary, A Rintoul, that he had correspondence with the Factor for Broomhall Estate. Their representative has looked at it and will speak to their contact at NWR to ask that they repair the road which, as noted in previous Minutes, has been damaged by their heavy vehicles whilst carrying out repairs on the railway line.

Regarding the Knockhouse to Milesmark Right of Way: It was noted that the Footpaths officer does not regard this as a priority. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to her and explain that it was certainly a priority for us, and that we would like a meeting with her. Cllr Glen would pass her contact details to the Secretary.

It was noted that work had been carried out on the Knockhouse Farm to Lundin Rd section of footpath by Mr Wylie, and this was now in much better condition. There has been no change to the William St footpath.

Woodland Walk: Councillor Boubaker-Calder is still to hear from Stephen Duffy to discuss why Fife Council cannot site the new bench on the woodland walk, rather than on the park side of the burn. S Gibbons is to contact a member of West Fife Woodlands to ask for their advice, and report back to the Community Council.

Traffic Management Survey and Assessment:

It was noted that a “pop up police officer” had been sited at Cairneyhill Rd, and was now at Main St, at the entrance to Crossford, on 22 September. It was noted that Police officers had had positive comments on this from local residents, and it was thought to have had a positive effect on reducing speeds.

The meeting again discussed the possibility of reducing the speed limit between Crossford and Cairneyhill to 40mph, and Chris Smith, representing Cairneyhill Community Council, agreed that he would raise this with his Community Council, with a view to putting in a joint approach to Fife Council for a reduction in speed on the stretch between the two villages from 60mph to 40mph.

The A985 Junction:

A Rintoul met with a representative of BEAR Scotland to discuss the points raised at the last CCC. Jimmy MacLean of BEAR appreciated that there was only one white stanchion on the waggon Rd side of the junction, but that was because the slip road coming from the west made it very difficult to site another stanchion.

Regarding the concern over the speed limit going west increasing from 50mph to 60mph at just the point that the cyclepath crossed over the A985, he agreed that it might be better if the speed limit signs were moved a few hundred metres to the west. He noted that BEAR will, later this year, be looking at Active Travel on this section of the A985, with a view to considering whether it would be possible to complete the gap in the cyclepath between Waggon Rd and Limekilns Rd, even with a possible off-road section. He is willing to look at the speed limits as part of this review.

The Secretary noted that, following this meeting, he had emailed Mr MacLean and pointed out that at one time there had been other, black and white, posts with reflectors, which had been removed, and asked if these could be replaced. A reply is awaited.

Grass area at Mochrum Drive:

Councillor Boubaker-Calder will continue to urge action.

Refuse Bins:

. Cllr Boubaker-Calder has followed this up. Unfortunately, Fife Council have looked at this and as there is another bin 50m away, they do not think it is necessary to replace this bin.

Police Report:

The Secretary, A Rintoul, noted that he had received a Police Report which covered the whole period from the beginning of August to 19 October. The Report was as follows:

August 2023

A total of 23 calls were made to Police.

From this, 2 crimes were identified and recorded.

1 relates to an online fraud – enquiry on-going, and 1 relates to an assault – detected/reported.

September 2023

A total of 11 calls were made to Police.

From this 1 crime was identified and recorded – it related to a minor Vandalism to a vehicle – enquiry on-going.

October 2023: 1ST – 19TH (dates inclusive)

A total of 10 calls were made to the Police.

From this, 2 crimes were identified/recorded.

1 relates to possession of a controlled drug (1 Gramm) – detected/reported – individual not a Crossford resident. 1 relates to an attempted theft of a motor vehicle – enquiry on-going.

PC Lynch also reported that there is nothing of any concern to report or having a community impact. As we approach the winter months and darker evenings however, as a matter of course it’s important to remind all members of the public about home security. We should always ensure that house and vehicle doors are locked. It’s common for people to forget to lock their cars after unloading shopping for example. Break-ins thankfully are very rare however potential perpetrators looking for insecure doors are less so, so it’s important to remind residents to be vigilant and not provide easy opportunities to would-be thieves. Motion-triggered lighting is always an effective deterrent also. PC Lynch added that this is certainly not an issue in Crossford and is simply commonsense advice applicable to all. The Secretary noted that he had responded that PC Lynch’s comments would be the subject of an item in the next edition of the Chronicle.

Cones at Waggon Rd: It was noted that these had now been removed. It was noted that the contractors had left some shrubs which had been cut down, and the Secretary will look at these and remove.

Glass bins at KGV Park: It was noted that these had now been returned.

**3. LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

A Rintoul reported that he had taken part in a number of online zoom meetings re LPPs, and had sent a draft of LPP Consultation document to all Community Council members. The following will be in the LPP:

*Allotment extension:* Although it should happen without the LPP in place, it is thought that it will be helpful if it is in the LPP in case more money is needed, especially for the further development of the wetland area and new footpaths.

*Footpath extension and improvements:* Carnegie’s Way will certainly be included in the LPP, again because it will make it easier to ensure that the project proceeds if it is in the LPP and gets into the Local Development Plan (LDP). In addition, we will continue to improve footpaths around Crossford, and have new footpaths constructed across the wetland area

*Links Park:* The intention is to have Links Park developed for greater use as a community facility, and residents will be asked what ideas they have and how they would like to see it used.

*Green corridor, at west of Crossford:* This is in the strip immediately to the west of the existing houses, and to the east of the proposed new housing. The intention is that, if the opportunity arises, a green corridor could be created here, forming a new footpath, going north through the woodland strip to meet the Pilgrims’ Way, and this would also form a buffer zone between the existing houses and the new development.

*New nursery school building:* This has long been needed. J Lauchlan will contact the Headteacher and the Parent Council, as we will need to demonstrate to Fife Council that this has support from key stakeholders.

*Traffic Management:* The intention is to make the main road through Crossford safer, and a few proposals were raised in the document. After discussion, it was agreed that the question regarding a 20mph limit would be dropped from the Consultation document.

*Carnegie’s Way:* This will be included in the LPP, as we would hope that if it can be included in the Local Development Plan, then there is a greater chance that it will be completed.

The Secretary will make the necessary changes to the Consultation Document, which will then be put onto the Crossford Residents’ Facebook page. There will also be a Consultation event on Saturday 18 November in the Village Hall. Although the Ukraine and community event also happens that day in the Scout Hall, this just gives another opportunity to get the views of Crossford residents.

**4. UKRAINE EVACUATION SCHEME REPORT**

A report was provided by Morag Prince. They had met with Fife Council earlier that day. The Fife Council event is for the whole community, and it will be held in the Scout Hall on 18 November from 11.00 – 1.00. There will be representatives from a variety of local community organisations, including the Community Council, who will all have tables at the event, as well as other organisations such as Men’s Shed. Some funding has been provided by Fife Council.

All information will be made available to those currently staying in the Keavil, and it was noted that there may be another event in March/April.

They still do not know how many refugees are in the Keavil, or whether they will be resettled elsewhere. The Keavil now has its restaurant, meeting rooms and other areas available for hire.

**5. COMMUNITY RECOVERY SCHEME – ALLOTMENTS**

The Chairman, D Hay, reported on progress in this.

In the Application for funding, he noted that £65,000 was budgeted to the allotment expansion, and £32,000 to the wetlands restoration, and upgrading of footpaths etc. A grant of £60,000 was received, and a further £18,000 will come from Peter Duncan’s allotment budget. Significant savings can be made in shed procurement and the Community Council has been assured by Peter Duncan that there are sufficient funds for the work detailed in the application to go ahead. The April minutes contained details of the funding application for both the allotments and the wetlands restoration.

He showed a plan, which had been shown to Community Council members at the 14 Augus meeting, and circulated to them on19 August, which explained clearly what was proposed.

Cllr Boubaker-Calder noted that she had received complaints from some Keavil Steading residents regarding increased traffic, including from heavy vehicles during construction. However, the Chairman pointed out that construction vehicles would access the site via the Golf Club, so this would not impact on Steadings residents. Positive discussions have also been held with local farmer Mr Wylie, who owns both of the woodland strips, and with the owner of the corner house which was likely to be most affected, and he is happy with the proposals.

All landowners have been consulted, as have some Keavil Steadings residents, and he pointed out that the application for funding was a joint one with the Allotments Association.

**6. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Memorial Bench:

No progress has been made about this since the last meeting.

Garden Maintenance (formerly CREATE):

Again, no-one has offered to take over the organisation of this from Alice Little, who has stated that, although unable to do gardening work herself she was willing to continue to organize work parties online. We will put another item in the next edition of the Chronicle, to see if a volunteer can be found. Stephen Ballinger will contact her with a view to assisting.

**7. TREASURER`S REPORT**

Funds at 22nd October 2023

Opening Balance £73,746.78

Income

Chronicle adverts £255

£255 £74,001.78

Expenditure

Nil

Nil £74,001.78

Monies Held in Trust

Village Allotment Improvements\* £60,000.00

Dunfermline & West Fife Rights of Way £2,890.91

Woodland Walk Repairs £1,535.00

CREATE (MUGA Pitch Repairs) £2,309.46

- £66,735.37 £7,266.41

**Community Council Balance = £7266.41**

Unpresented Cheques N/A

**8. EDITOR`S REPORT**

The Editor was unable to attend the meeting, but it was understood that the next issue of the Chronicle would be in early December. It is also understood that discussion is ongoing with Limekilns Church regarding the possibility of the Chronicle being printed by them as previously.

Stephen Ballinger confirmed that he was still happy to organise the Chronicle “posties”.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. FVA E-bulletin.200923
2. Fife Centre for Equalities.180923
3. FC Local Heat and Energy Efficiency consultation.190923
4. FVA News.230923
5. Weekly planning update 240923
6. Fife Centre for Equalities weekly digest.250923
7. ABR to Stephen Duffy re KGV leaves.280923
8. ABR to FC re KGV glass recycling bins.280923
9. FVA e bulletin 290923
10. FVA Newsletter.290923
11. Weekly planning update 011023
12. Fife Centre for Equalities newsletter 021023
13. Scotways Stravaig.021023
14. ABC to FC re dog litter bin Cairn Grove.031023
15. FVA Children etc e bulletin.041023
16. Equalities Monthly.061023
17. FVA Employability.061023
18. Weekly planning update.081023
19. Equalities Digest.091023
20. FVA Children etc e bulletin.101023
21. FVA.News.131023
22. Fife Centre for Equalities digect.161023
23. Weekly planning update.151023
24. FVA bulletin.201023
25. Police Report.201023
26. FVA Equalities digest weekly.231023

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Applications registered

Date Reference Proposal Address

None

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Applications Determined

Decision Date Reference/Decision Proposal Address

05/10/2023 23/02424/FULL; permitted porch extension 34 Katrine Dr

with conditions to front

Work Commenced

Reference Date Commenced Proposal Address

None

Work Completed

Reference Date Completed Proposal Address

None.

**11. AOB**

i) Cllr Boubaker-Calder reported that the new footpath at Waggon Rd, at the chicken farm, should start in February 2024.

ii) A Hibbert raised the issue of FC workmen causing damage to grass in KGV Park, by driving their vehicles on the grass when emptying bins. This happens once or twice a week. Cllr Boubaker-Calder will follow this up.

iii) A Hibbert also raised the issue of people parking cars on Waggon Rd close to the traffic lights, but not on the yellow lines. This causes disruption to queuing at the traffic lights, and extension of yellow lines would help. Cllr Boubaker-Calder will follow this up.

iv) A Hibbert also brought to the Council’s attention that Allan Rennie of Claymore Tree Surgeons had, at no expense, taken down the branches overhanging the footpath between Katrine Dr and KGV Park. The Secretary, A Rintoul, will write and thank him.

v) D Hay noted that the Gala Committee still have an issue with their insurance for the fireworks, but it is really up to them to sort it out. They will be held on Friday 3 November at 19.30.

vi) J Lauchlan noted that there had been further reports of drinking in KGV Park. He will get in touch with Val Husband and ask her to clarify, with the Keavil residents, that drinking is not allowed in public places in Crossford.

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

The next meeting for Crossford Community Council will take place on

**Monday, 4th December, 2023 at 7.15pm in Crossford Village Hall, Crossford.**

**Summary of Matters Arising from the meeting held on 23rd October 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Community Engagement Team re Information Event, and with Val Husband of FC | 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 | A Rintoul confirms Village Hall booked on 18 November for consultation on LPP.  AR to alter Consultation Doc and arrange to get it on Crossford Residents’ Facebook page.  AR and DH to begin work 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. Secretary to write to Access Officer to arrange meeting | Work in progress. Site meeting still to be arranged. |
|  | Traffic Management - Main Street/Cairneyhill Road. | Fife Council | Cllr BC to liaise with residents on Cairneyhill Rd, and CC to await Cairneyhill CC view, re a possible joint letter to FC. Secretary to await Inspr McGurk’s response | Work in Progress |

Additional Action Points

1. Councillor Boubaker-Calder and the Chair, D Hay, to contact Stephen Duffy re placement of Woodland Walk bench (see item 7).
2. S Gibbons to contact member of West Fife Woodlands for advice re placement of bench
3. Editor to discuss printing of Chronicle with Limekilns Church
4. Editor to include item from PC Lynch (see above) in next edition of Chronicle
5. Secretary to remove cut down shrubs at traffic lights
6. J Lauchlan to contact Headteacher and Primary School Parent Council regarding new Nursery School building
7. D Hay to follow up regarding resiting of Memorial Bench
8. Editor to include item re need for new CREATE (garden maintenance) organiser in next edition of Chronicle.
9. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to raise with FC damage to grass in KGV Park caused by FC workers’ vehicles
10. Cllr Boubaker-Calder to raise possible extension of yellow lines on Waggon Rd southwards to alleviate queuing issues at traffic lights.
11. A Rintoul to write to Allan Rennie of Claymore Tree Surgeons and thank him for trimming overhanging branches between Katrine Dr and KGV Park
12. J Lauchlan to contact Val Husband of FC and ask her to clarify with Keavil residents that drinking in public spaces is not allowed in Crossford.