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**Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting 12th March 2019**

**held at 7pm, Falkland Community Hall**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Rod Crawford, Ken Laurie, Kenny Lumsden, Claire McLeod, Douglas Young

**Apologies:** Peter Burman, Gavin Lawson**,** John Smith, Cllr Andy Heer, Cllr Donald Lothian

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors*:*** David MacDiarmid **Police***:* none **Residents*:*** 8

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | None | None |
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| 4  Minutes of Previous Meeting | Approved by all. | Noted |
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| 5  Matters Arising from previous meeting not on agenda | None | None |
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| 6  Police Matters | PC Phil Park, Community Officer had hoped to be in attendance but had another commitment. From the police report, chair commented that the crime figures were higher than normal for Falkland and were concerning. No detail given as PC Park not present. | Noted |
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| 7  Action Register | 1. Christmas lights – DY spoke with Visit Falkland who said they had been talking to CC about this. RC heard second hand that there had been meetings with CC – this also is not the case. The Visit Falkland AGM is on 11 April and any member of community can attend. Speak with VF then?  2. Discharge of effluent into burn – no update re contractors starting any remedial work.  3. Phone box at Newton of Falkland – PB awaiting JS return then they will both follow through/speak to residents of Newton.  4. Playpark at Balmblae – is now open. On the bridge over the burn, planks and the handrail need replaced. Will FC do these repairs? An adult has already broken their wrist at the park, slipping on wet mud at the entrance to park. Improvements to be carried out by estate on the road to the park from Stag Inn. A previous minute stated a lease would be signed after the estate has adopted this road. CC to make enquiries with Ninian Crichton-Stuart re leasing agreement. Cllr MacD will also look into. | Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
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| 8  Update on St John’s Works site | RC and KL met with Alex Laidler from FC Planning dept. They asked where do we go next? What can FC advise? AL will work with us through the Pre Application Process. Springfield Properties have only done one consultation so far and cannot be forced to do anymore although FC advise that 2 consultations should take place.  It is difficult for residents to make any decisions based on Springfield’s vague plans, there were no detailed plans/models etc. Springfield need to work within FC guidelines, creating a village feel, narrow lanes, green spaces – there is no technical reason why this can’t be done. FC would expect the affordable housing to be more spread around. Springfield has not approached FC to have a meeting. Appears to be conflicting information between both sides. Does it have to be 100 homes?  KL summarised – residents’ issues/concerns were raised to FC.  FC are on CC side – that the new homes should be sympathetic and in keeping with our historic village.  Retail units are not regarded as employment use. Housing has to be appropriate to the setting. CC pointed out that the latest plans were dated February 2018 and only greenery had been added since the first plan.  CC still had concerns over the environmental report, Smith Anderson’s report and also the traffic survey.  CC are awaiting communication from Springfield properties – KL will write to them tomorrow. | Noted |
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| 9(i)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Potholes in Back Dykes – have been filled.  2. Playground now open, a celebratory lunch was held in Stables hosted by Local Food Works. Thank you to Yvonne Alexander of Local Food Works. | Noted |
| 3. Funding has not been granted for the next year for Local Food Works. They intend to carry on without funding.  4. Colin Stirling has agreed to meet Cllr MacD re traffic concerns on The Pleasance.  5. Sunken drain at Gowrie Cottage still to be repaired.  6. Saplings – have been cut sideways rather than topped.  7. Money has been agreed to prune the bush at the bus stop asap.  8. Road signs in the village need washed. Cllr MacD to speak with the Locality Response team.  9. Tonne bags on school playing fields – not yet investigated.  10. Gates at the cemetery – not yet investigated.  11. 20 miles per hour signs at Back Dykes – reason had been given previously as no traffic here! Repairs to road and footpaths do need attention.  12. West Loan bridge at playpark – in need of repair. FC and Ninian Crichton-Stuart – who is responsible for repairs? Next step could be to ask the Locality Response team.  13. Question from KL to Cllr MacD – last year it was stated that £40,000 had been put aside to upgrade the public toilets at the car park – will they be upgraded? Is the money still available?  Cllr MacD to ask Cllr Lothian on KL’s behalf. | Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted |
| 9(ii)  Residents’ Issues | 1. Japanese knotweed at the Clough – 17yrs ago there were  Hundreds of plants, which are now down to 15 due to residents themselves clearing the area. They treat it, cut it back and then incinerate it to prevent spreading. The estate have now been in and raked up in the area. Resident is now concerned it will be spread – she has written to the estate as if this is the case then the estate will be held responsible for this. She has also spoken to SEPA. | Noted |
|  | 2. B Gilchrist phoned SEPA re foam in the burn. The source is not the Stables but further beyond. The estate may be planting cherry trees and BG does not want them overshadowing her house.  3. C McLeod – at the marquee next to the Stables, tarmacadam has been laid. A temporary application was previously made for the erection of said marquee – how long is application valid for, 2 to 3 years? Is planning application up for renewal again? The marquee is a venue for weddings/birthdays/celebrations. Planning for temporary structures – does FC check this? Parking on estate is also an issue. | Noted  Noted |
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| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation Report | Next meeting is on 28th March in the community hall where presentations will take place at both 1pm and 7pm. This is the last meeting where villagers can have their say. It is vital we have a maximum turnout.  KL gave an update. Edge of village parking – if approved, funding will be £479,000. There will be lots of earth moving, levelling, in keeping with historic landscape. It will be the end of March before we know. A full planning application has to be submitted but we are not doing this until we know we have the £300,000 funding from Rural Infrastructure Fund.  The plan is for visitor parking, 2 picnic spots, bike racks, and footpath at bottom edge of curling pond field. This won’t interrupt the operations of the bowling club. The football club only need to move their pitch a couple of metres.  The footpath will take visitors up past Castle Shotts into the village or can take the private walk into the estate. We will not be maintaining any of these footpaths – the estate will.  CC will repair wall parallel to main road. Castle Shotts walls are in a bad state of repair – this is not CC’s responsibility.  Discussions have taken place with FC – could change speed coming out of village from 30 miles per hour increasing to 60 **to 30 miles increasing to 40 only**. Can we widen pavement on A912 round palace wall? In depth discussion needed with FC roads dept. Requirement for amended/improved junction at Pillars. The car park will be made with plastic grid and gravel giving adequate drainage. Costs per year are £1500 public liability and £400 for lease of land. The edge of village parking is about taking visitor traffic out of the village.  Laich road to Newton requires upgrading. There are issues with drainage – who owns land either side of the path?  East Port – extend junction here/at Palace wall.  There are a variety of proposals for improvement of school junction - traffic lights, coloured raised surface, set down space for bus, and fix pedestrian access at bus stop. FC understands why the junction needs improved. Survey results indicate that 85% of people drive below 30 miles per hour on the Pleasance. It requires traffic calming, staggered parking spaces to either side of road? Residents not happy with this. Can Pleasance pavement be widened? Resident stated that if 2 lorries were passing each other it wouldn’t be possible.  Changing driver’s behaviour is necessary. Nothing has been decided yet – working through options.  There is a lot of debate over the High Street. Sustrans are keen to have as much pedestrianized area as possible. Do we create some pedestrianized space? Proposals/modelling – all down to what residents decide. We still need access for delivery vans/loading bays/employees parking. Next week Sustrans are surveying South Street, Back Wynd, Horsemarket, Brunton Street, High Street West and Westport.  Community Councillors will see how many parking spaces we need. Standard parking bays are 6 metres x 2 metres. We will not accept a proposal that makes residents life worse.  Our current car park has 86 spaces with 3 disabled spaces. This could change to 114 spaces if we extend the car park.  Some residents may have designated parking spaces.  There is an issue re creating pedestrianisation around the fountain area. Another 2 parking bays could be made in Cross Wynd if parking was angled. Test it and model it. We have to come to a conclusion as a community – do we want any of the High Street pedestrianized?  Access to the church is required for weddings, funerals, other events, and also access for Campbell’s café and Bob Beveridge’s shop.  Where else in Falkland can we make parking spaces? Within FC one department preserves green spaces while another finds car spaces.  There are 2 walking routes – East Loan downwards towards Victoria Place, possibly put an art installation here? Grassy area at top of Cross Wynd, Brunton Green, Millfield or Stag Green.  Still under discussion is the possibility of a one way system for the bottleneck at South Street and Horsemarket. Should this be one way and which direction? In Horsemarket there is a high volume of traffic where residents open their front door directly onto the street. Resident stated there are cobbles, which are dangerous, uneven and slippy when wet – put in cobbled sets? FC to speak to residents. The cobbles of Falkland are in the conservation plan of the village.  Would we get funding if all these were agreed? All we currently have is money for working out these plans. For building we need more money. Sustrans only give 50 to 70% of any construction monies.  RC commented that there is a scoring system for applications – if we don’t go for village square idea at the fountain, w might risk losing other monies from Sustrans.  Widen road at Factory Brae? As Sustrans are the funder, they have certain expectations. Falkland CC is the client but everything has to work for the village and its residents. It will help with visitors to the village but any added benefits have to work for the community who live here 365 days.  A drop off to school point and parking for school staff is being looked at. The field behind The Riggs – could be used as car park – when KL previously spoke to the owner he wasn’t interested in selling his land. Resident commented that if we need a car park that FC could use the compulsory purchase order. There are increasing visitor numbers to the village and the estate.  The Sustrans money is a one off chance for funding. We can’t abandon the compulsory purchase order idea. The field behind The Riggs would provide ample parking for visitors to the village, staff and visitors to the school, the cemetery and the garage.  Possible 20 miles per hour limit on The Pleasance? Cllr MacD to discuss with Colin Stirling.  Electric cars – in the next 10 years will be more on the road.  We would need to provide a number of charging bays.  28 February presentation – not against the idea of shared surfaces?? | Noted |
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| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 1. Gerry Donnelly of East Loan has submitted a planning application to demolish existing conservatory and build a two storey extension. FC have given notice to residents around his home and they have 21 days to submit any objections. | Noted |
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| 12  A.O.C.B. | None |  |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 9th April 2019**

**Lomond Room, Falkland Community Hall**