

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

**Minutes of Meeting 14th May 2019**

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

**Welcome from Chair –** Chair informed the community that Ken Laurie was stepping down from the Committee and thanked him for his continual hard work and contributions. Chair stated another member would be stepping down next month. Any villager who was interested in joining the committee should contact him.

**Present:** Peter Burman, Rod Crawford, Ken Laurie, Gavin Lawson, Kenny Lumsden, Claire McLeod, John Smith, Douglas Young

**Apologies:** none

**In Attendance:**

**Councillors*:*** Andy Heer, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid **Police***:* PC Parker & PC Gowdie **Residents*:*** 20

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | Planning applications – Rod Crawford – re his allotment. | None |
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| 4  Minutes of Previous Meeting | Amendments made as follows –  **from Police Report** – Community Police Officer is Phil Parker (not Park). Cllr MacD is liaising with housing dept to try and locate female friend of village offender. Incident diaries have not yet been issued but he has them to hand.  **from edge of village parking** – we would create a path from parking up to Castleshotts (not a gate). | Noted |
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| 5  Matters Arising from previous meeting not on agenda | None | None |
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| 6  Police Matters | PC Parker gave statistics since the last meeting – 27 recorded calls to Police in Falkland area, 4 related to road traffic matters, 3 reported crime, 2 highlighted a concern for person and 18 of a miscellaneous nature.  Volunteer teams are now up and running in other local villages with the community speed watch and our community can also take part in this. Community Police are based from Cupar Police station.  A resident reported that coping stones were disappearing from walls, from wall on High road and wall near tennis court on way to Strathmiglo. PC Gowdie will speak to local farmers. | Noted  Noted  Noted |
| 7  Action Register | 1. **Christmas lights** – The Visit Falkland AGM on 11th May was postponed. Chair will attend meeting when it takes place.  2. **Discharge of effluent into burn** – JS read from an email which Ian Corner, a consultant engineer from SEPA sent to Helen Lawrenson on Falkland estate. SEPA states nothing illegal is being done and as long as no more areas of Maspie Den are affected then there will be no further action from them. The estate will work on a connection to the main sewer in due course. CC and SEPA will continue to monitor situation.  3. **Phone box at Newton of Falkland** – at meeting held on 24 April, consultation took place but no comments were made. Abandoned phone boxes need to be looked after as they are iconic landmarks. Marion Robb of Newton has documentation which JS will obtain. PB and JS to come to next meeting with proposals/costings of what can be done with it. It can be painted but what use can it be given?  4. **Playpark at Balmblae** – Handrail on bridge still to be repaired. Cllr MacD has been in touch with locality response team. Trainees from estate may possibly do repairs. He has also asked FC so it should be repaired soon.  **Repairs to access road at playpark** – estate has had money (£2200) since August 2018 which had originally been paid to Thorntons Solicitors. JS and Betty Gilchrist are meeting Ninian Crichton-Stuart on Wed 15th May to discuss. BG spoke to FC – the Scottish Parliament are given money from Government (Westminster) to fix unadopted roads. FC stated this is the 2nd year of this practice. On 3rd May this road was added to the unadopted roads list. JS stated a machine could be borrowed from estate to fix road but a vibrating roller was also needed – he could hire. | Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
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| 8  Update on St John’s Works site | An exhibition/display of plans was held on Monday 13th May. Springfield Properties will be applying to FC within 2 weeks for planning permission.  **G Honeyman**, resident stated that the PACT process should be followed. He quoted from FC circular 2013 which he will email to Chair. He wants stopped at this point stating CC can write to planning now, that Springfield have not fulfilled their side of obligations. FC have also not fulfilled to Springfield. By default FC could give Springfield a ‘straight’ road to planning. There has been no proper traffic survey, no authentic consultation and the buildings they are proposing are inappropriate for our village.  **Chair** will write to Chief Officer, FC planning dept, Pam Ewen, expressing what has come from the meeting. Stephen Gethins MP is willing to write to Fife Herald newspaper.  **Resident** – there is a proposal to move all trees on east side of East Loan. These trees are under control of FC. Another resident stated they were gifted by Smith Anderson to the village. They are not under any tree preservation order. Resident quoted from FC document – new buildings should be integrated into the existing landscape. CC and Councillors to speak to FC – possession of trees and the land they are on needs to be claimed by the community.  All comments should be submitted to FC. Individual residents have to use the CC as “their voice”.  **H McLeish,** resident – reinforced the points made. FC has a role to play as the custodians of our interests. We should inform the Director of Planning and Chief Executive. If we miss our window of opportunity he would help to push forward. He reinforced the urgency of this – necessary paperwork should be done. We can go to FC offices, and insist on meeting with Director of Planning, Chief Legal Assistant/Admin and the Chief Executive. Alert FC to political awareness. Trees do not belong to Smith Anderson, they belong to the community. We should alert everyone to a potential crisis here.  Shop units are currently classed as class A, professional services, but this could be A1 an architect or A2 a hairdresser. If unoccupied after 3 years you can apply for a change of use so they could become a hot food or drinking establishment.  **Chair** stated we are not at the planning stage yet.  **Cllr Lothian** – the verge and trees are the responsibility of transportation dept.  **Cllr MacD** – Will ask P Ewen to come and listen first hand to the community. Why have FC not been speaking to Springfield? P Ewen and A Laidler are aware of how we feel. We need them to listen to us. Will Springfield submit plans over the summer? We have a beautiful site which needs the right development. If P Ewen is available then CC and residents will find time to meet with her and her dept.  **KL** – a survey of all trees in Falkland has yet to take place.  **Cllr MacD** – you cannot build within the land a tree could fall on, ie if 30 metres tall then 30 metres.  **Resident** – Springfield have to take into account that Falkland has a lack of access.  **JS** – is the site promised to Springfield? Smith Anderson have been part of the community for numerous years – do they have a say in who can buy the land? Has the sale gone through yet or is it still owned by Smith Anderson?  The understanding is that subject to building approval it would be sold. CC should write to Smith Anderson informing them how unhappy the community are. JS will draft a letter for Chair to forward to them.  **KL** understood that Springfield would give 50% to Smith Anderson after planning was approved, then 50% once building commenced.  **Resident** - Springfield understood the land is theirs dependent on planning.  It was confirmed that the site is still for sale on Galbraith’s website for £2.5 million. |  |
| 9(i)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Grating at top park burn is unsafe.  2. Bins were bulging over the weekend, he will ask for these to be emptied during weekends.  3. Banking collapsed at burn – will be inspected.  4. Falkland entrance signage – was cleaned last year. Does it need redone? – CC agreed yes.  5. Field at Riggs – owned currently by Andrew Graham. Was this previously owned by community?  6. Town Hall clock and tower – the new owner of the town Hall wishes to purchase the clock and tower, situated within. We believe the new owner would maintain and preserve said clock but in years to come when there is a new owner, they would be under no obligation to maintain it. Repairs to the clock and keeping it wind and water tight cost FC money. The clock is on the Common Goods register – can FC sell without asking the community?  Were all councillors aware of this? Cllr Heer stated it should be sold. Cllr Lothian stated that the councillors received an email last week, this email being information for the councillors only.  Could it be sold on the basis that it has to be maintained?  **Chair** – there was a unanimous agreement that it should be retained by FC and kept for the community.  Cllr Lothian will forward email to Chair and also his views.  Resident stated that everything was being taken away from the community.  JS – what is the extent of the common good – the clock and the roof. The clock is what we are interested in, it is perpetruaty on behalf of our village.  **Chair**, and view of CC – we do not want it to be sold, we want it to stay with us. | Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted |
| 9(ii)  Residents’ Issues | 1. A man was seen using what appeared to be a metal detector around the streets today. It was clarified a survey of water mains and power supply was taking place. | Noted |
|  | 2. B Gilchrist – David Reekie was cutting the grass within the fenced land at Balmblae. Cllr MacD stated that previously JS and BG were going to Edinburgh to check land title deeds to establish who the land belongs to – it was found to be 6 separate people. It would cost £240 per transaction to find out who the said owners are.  JS said the land was held by FC on behalf of FC rate owners.  Chair brought to a close stating that the CC could not assist in this and it was a matter for FC.  3. B Gilchrist – the normal bin lorry no longer crosses the bridge at Stag Brae due to weight – a weight sign needs installed here. Green plastics bin uplift is still causing an issue.  4.C McLeod – there is wrong signage in the village.  Cllr MacD – there are Smith Anderson signs outwith the village – can they be removed?  5. KL – at a recent cycle race, the cyclists were ‘whizzing’ into the village. | Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted |
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| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation Report | KL delivered an updated report. There have been issues during the Charette process. Drawings will be amended on the comments from the community at the meeting on Monday 13th May. The finished report will be produced on 31st May which will be available on line or paper copies in library.  £325,000 was given from Sustrans for the design which was to include the core of the village, the school, Pleasance, managing traffic and edge of village parking. The parking would cost £479,000 catering for 34 cars and 8 coaches. The Tourism Infrastructure Fund could give £300,000 dependant on the use of land for 20 years and only if we had full planning permission. The money would be given to FC who would act as our banker only. FC would manage the project, tender for contracts, look after the edge of village car park which would have electric charging points and cycle racks.  For within village parking, we could have marked parking bays – company are calculating legal number of spaces. By recalculating the existing car park, removing fence at recycling bins we could provide more spaces. The funding from Sustrans prioritises walking, cycling, public transport and then private cars. We would have shared space for pedestrians and vehicles in the village. Monitoring the traffic flow up West Port. East Port has a dangerous junction – move it out slightly to obtain a better line of sight – flat surface – no raised pavement – catering for pedestrians at bus stop. Priority would be given for traffic heading north. Widen the pathway around palace walls? Maintain parking for residents in Pleasance – create 2 parking bays on opposite side to make traffic think? A 20mph zone would be created from Liquorstane junction down to golf course. Then a 30mph from golf course round palace corner – but FC have an issue with this as they would have to install street lighting.  Junction at school – priority at roundabout – drivers confused. Keep illusion of mini roundabout, with traffic flow at 20mph.  Local stone within village is Whinstone – keep as local as possible. Mapped out original cobbles – there are no plans to take away but they might need lifted and relayed.  Lighting columns are halogen, no LEDs. Lighting on sides of buildings, cast iron lighting – could these be standardised/recommendation required.  Pedestrian area around fountain – could be completed later?  Slight extension out from Campbells café and Violin shop.  There will be no one way system in village. A residents parking zone could be created in Back Wynd.  The Laich Road – Sustrans didn’t want to change route. Propose lighting here, no room to widen here, maintaining for dog walkers and cyclists. 87% of motorists exceed by 10mph on Newton Road.  South Street could have marked parking bays, but after feedback from residents this will not be going ahead.  Could we have time limited parking in the High Street? Necessary for disabled parking, loading/unloading from businesses.  We require street signage to be clear and concise.  Enhancing green spaces with architecture also – East Loan, top of Cross Wynd, Mill Wynd, Stag green, down Victoria Place from Royal Terrace, Brunton Green.  This has been a large exercise which is now complete.  We are now ready for the next step which is funding.  We would only receive a maximum of 50% of construction costs having to find approximately £2,000,000.  Current costs which include VAT are:  High Street/East Port - £1,788,000  Shared Cycle Path to Car park - £ 294,000  The Pleasance - £ 918,000  The Laich Road - £ 594,000  £3,594,000  What do residents want? What can they live with?  A tree survey will start later. Community Council is the client in the Charette process. Sustrans have provided design drawings with associated text which will allow us to start tendering.  Sustrans will not give any money for parking, ie. The edge of village parking. If we started immediately this would take to 2022? – all dependent on funding.  Chair thanked Ken Laurie for the indepth work he has produced on the Charette process. |  |
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| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 1. PB commented on tree felling – trees are protected if in a conservation area. A report by a tree professional should be included before felling trees.  PB wants submit a note that we want to be a statutory consultee. The trees in planning permission of 8th May are Sitka Spruces, not sycamores as stated in planning application.  Cllr Lothian commented that if you are a statutory consultee there is a time limit on this. To wait a month to discuss at next CC meeting would be too long.  PB emphasised the trees on East Loan require a tree survey. |  |
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| 12  A.O.C.B. | None |  |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 11th June 2019**

**Lomond Room, Falkland Community Hall**