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

**Minute of Meeting 8th October 2019**

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

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Jim Brown, Peter Burman, Rod Crawford, Gordon Honeyman, Kenny Lumsden, Scott McIntosh, John Smith (arrived item 9.ii.3), Douglas Young

**Councillors*:*** Cllr A Heer, Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police***:* nil **Residents*:*** 4

**2** **Apologies:** Stuart Knowles, Gavin Lawson

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | None | None |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | September minute accurate and approved by those present. | Noted |
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| 5 Matters Arising from previous meeting not on agenda | None |  |
| 6  Police Matters  7  Actions Register | No Police report received or police presence.  PC Ewan Gowdie has been transferred to Glenrothes. PC Phil Parker has been off sick. Cllr Lothian suggested the police report every 3 months would suffice as was mainly a generic report.  1. **Discharge of effluent into burn** – CC will continue to monitor situation.  2. **Phone box at Newton of Falkland** – No update.  BT are decommissioning the phone box at bottom of Southfield. CC will write to BT confirming to go ahead with the removal of box.  3. **Christmas lights** – Meeting to take place with RC and S Pearson from Visit Falkland.    B Gilchrist offering to gift lights to CC – Chair will go and see BG. | Noted  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
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| 8  Update on St John’s Works site | GH gave an update – It is approaching 12 months since Springfield Properties held their public event outlining proposed development of St John’s works. After a year, the process has to start again. It was suggested - could students studying architecture who are in their final year of university be asked what they would envisage for the nine-acre site, e.g. their ideas/opinions?  Have Smith Anderson finalised the sale of the land with Springfield Properties/can they provide us with an update? | Noted - ongoing |
| 9(i)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Resident buying town hall was keen to meet with Cllr MacD but as there is a ‘live’ planning application for the development of hall, councillors are not permitted to comment.  2. Flood action meeting to take place on 9th October.  3. Public path between tennis court and Dunshalt is covered in weeds from windblown soil from fields. Cllr MacD has spoken with FC officers to find if funding available for clearing of path.  4. Sign requiring attention in Lathrisk has been reported – currently a 9-month waiting list with FC for sign repairs.  5. Hedge requiring cutting in Newton, overhanging onto main road – CC can report via Fife Direct website to report this as a road fault-overhanging vegetation.  6. Bridge at Burnside Cottage – Cllr Lothian has investigated -possibility of locality fund money to repair. Bridge is currently stable. | Noted – ongoing  Noted  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
| 9(ii)  Residents’ Issues | 1. Water grid at East Loan is currently adequate but could be better.  2. Fife Council owns land at Balmblae apart from fenced off section in the middle. Chair has been speaking with the Ecology Centre at Kinghorn Loch. He will arrange a meeting with them for guidance on us creating an interest in said land. In future we may then have first refusal in the formal process to buy it.  Cllr Heer stated that old title deeds can be vague and he will investigate with FC.  3. M Brunton has submitted an application to FC on behalf of the church, requesting a donation from Common Good Fund towards the purchasing of and the installation of electric organ for the church. The congregation have already raised £10,000 towards this. Can CC support the application? Discussion took place regarding the status of the church. CC are a consultee in process and can state their opinion. They will look in detail at the application and make a decision at meeting in November.  4. Signs/markers have been put along the Newton Road – the Laich road right of way (between 2 fields) may be lost if farmer decides to join fields on either side of path. The public must walk these public ways or risk losing them!  5. Manhole on Pleasance at bottom of Laich road has sunk- Cllr MacD will investigate. | Noted  Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted  Noted |
| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation Report | Chair gave a brief update from S Knowles’ report. We are not in a position to make an application for construction funding. On 27 September Howard Jones from Sustrans, walked through village with CC members. Pleasance should be the highest priority.  Edge of village car park - Chair will arrange a further meeting with W Purvis from NTS and N Crichton-Stuart re leasing of land for edge of village car park. Car park dependent on lease with estate and SUDS report which we are still awaiting. SUDS report is required before submitting planning application. Ongoing maintenance costs and insurance would be an issue/who would be responsible for this? CC do not have funds.  Cllr MacD commented that tour companies would not use edge of village parking as they are in the village for a limited period of time with the driver of the minibus doubling as the tour guide also.  JB – minibuses could use our existing car park? | Noted - ongoing |
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| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | Falkland Estate Trust have sought planning permission for formation of access road, junction and car parking with associated landscaping and erection of information hut at Pillars of Hercules.  **Town hall/clock tower** – A Falkland resident is in process of purchasing town hall and also wishes to purchase the clock tower. CC have raised their concerns over this. The resident stated the NTS were ‘selective’ in who the town hall should be sold to and he will be investing in repairs to the building. If resident bought both, a ‘burden’ would be placed on town hall title deeds for current buyer and future owners committing to maintenance of the clock tower.  Cllr Heer – commented that there are no guarantees if the council kept ownership of the clock tower that they would have any funding for major repairs in the future.  Cllr MacD – has concerns that the next owner would convert to a B&B and/or switch the chimes off.  GH – can new buyer maintain the clock tower annually/provide report to CC of this – which would be far better than the clock breaking and waiting on FC to repair.  **In summary, CC need to clarify with FC if they are satisfied with the new buyer’s intentions for property and are in agreement for sale of both town hall and clock tower**. | Noted  Noted - ongoing |
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| 12  A.O.C.B. | None |  |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 12th November 2019**

**Stuart Room, Falkland Community Hall**