

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

**Minute of Meeting 10th December 2019**

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

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Jim Brown, Peter Burman, Rod Crawford, Gordon Honeyman, Stuart Knowles, Kenny Lumsden, Scott McIntosh, Douglas Young

**Councillors*:*** Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police***:* nil **Residents*:***3

**2** **Apologies:** Gavin Lawson, John Smith

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | None | None |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | November 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 | Police report will be received and circulated every 3 months.  1. **Discharge of effluent into burn** – CC will continue to monitor situation.  2. **Phone box at Newton of Falkland** – PB proposes a talk to and with Newton residents in Spring 2020 to discuss the heritage and landscape significance of telephone boxes in general and also possible use of the redundant phone box in Newton.  3. **Christmas lights** – Meeting yet to take place between Chair and Stuart Pearson, although meeting took place between Visit Falkland and Chair. A way forward was agreed – Christmas lights are an asset to the village and agreement was made to keep all lights together in one place in hut in Sugar Acre. Lights were installed by CC members with assistance from Stoveco with their cherry picker. When lights are taken down after festive season, they should be packed up correctly and an inventory drawn up. For Christmas 2020 a ‘trigger’ date should be set for installation of lights asking for volunteers from community in ample time. Proposal at October 2020 meeting to put this in place. | Noted  Noted - ongoing  Noted - ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
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| 8  Update on St John’s Works site | Stakeholders Advisory group took place last week. S Hazel-dene and M Workman attended meeting. A paper was circulated signed by M Workman. We as a community are good at saying what we don’t want but we should do better to focus on the positives and state what we do want. Students from Dundee Uni who are studying Planning and Architecture have been asked, as part of their studies, to show their visions of how the site could look. What is economically viable and fitting to Falkland for our next generation of housing? Passive housing? CC members to send any comments/amendments to Chair who will gather and feed back to MW. | Noted - ongoing |
| 9(i)  Community Council issues | **1. Common Good Fund and Fountain -** Chair received letter from Janice Laird of FC informing us that Scottish Water will now charge water rates for the Fountain. They have installed a meter and rates will equate to £2000 per annum which would mean the CGF would be spent within 3 years. JL proposes a meeting with CC in New Year when a discussion can take place. The fountain is a major part of village life and an iconic visual and architectural feature admired by residents and visitors alike. Can the Community Development Trust help us with this challenge? Falkland Society is a charitable trust, so might also have a role to play: invite them to the proposed meeting. If a charitable organisation took charge of the drinking fountain would they be able to fund and manage maintenance/renovations?  **2**. **Clock Tower –** Meeting took place between CC and Estates Dept. A agreement has been reached between new owner and NTS regarding a statement of heritage burdens.  **3.** **Tree Survey** – Trees at East Loan were gifted to people of Falkland by Smith Anderson. Can we place these trees into CC protection and management? There are 18 specimen trees and 18 saplings. Adam Reidi, experienced Arborist, has been approached to assist us with this. We will fund the cost of his services from CC funds. Should a tree preservation order be urgently applied for to prevent any possible tree loss?  **4. Planning Application for car park** – has been rejected as invalid by FC. Drawings by Austin Smith-Lord are not to scale, with no scale bar on them. To receive funding from Rural Infrastructure Fund planning permission should have been approved by end of December which isn’t possible. Would NTS invest in car park? There are other NTS properties which lack dedicated car parks. The CC cannot realistically take on the car park project ourselves but we should hold onto our vision. Agreed to meet with Ann Camus, Tourism Partnership Manager of FC. | Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
| 9(ii)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Pot hole outside Fayre Earth has been repaired but needs looked at again.  2. Purin Den – gulleys on section of road have been cleared. If they had been cleared frequently then the flooding wouldn’t have occurred.  3. Cemetery – Parks and green spaces and bereavement services – 2 different depts which need streamlined. Can the 2 be combined?  4. Church organ alternative – Church have been encouraged to apply to the Locality Budget of FC. We advise to leave existing pipe organ where it is – can always be brought back into use in the future. We should help and work alongside Church congregation who are themselves working for the public benefit of the community.  5. Falkland to Dunshalt pathway – has been partially cleared, before a tree blew over. | Noted – ongoing  Noted  Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted |
| 9 (iii) Resident’s Issues | B Gilchrist – had rats at bird feeder in garden which cost £50 for pest removal. Do FC get rid of rats for free? No. BG requesting a detailed map of Balmblae to determine who owns all land. |  |
| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation Report | JB and SK gave presentation to Sustrans in Edinburgh today. Document circulated to CC. CC await response from Sustrans.  CC agree we are interested in applying for matched funding in March 2020. | Noted - ongoing |
| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 1. Could we have a tree planting team for village?  2. We should be concerned when public convert a garage into living space – thus placing more pressure on street parking.  3. Resident S Lawson – development of site and proposed building of 2 houses opposite Palace wall – development is in our interest. CC to write to FC stating we have no objections to building/development of homes on golf course road. |  |
| 12  A.O.C.B. | 1. Peter Jones, an accomplished painter, has produced a book of paintings of Falkland houses following on from his successful exhibition at the Stables gallery. The book is well worth purchasing and demonstrates the picturesque heritage values which make Falkland famous and a focus for countless visitors. | Noted |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 14th January 2020**

**Stuart Room, Falkland Community Hall**