

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

**Minute of Meeting 14th January 2020**

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

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Jim Brown, Peter Burman, Rod Crawford, 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, Cllr A Heer

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | None | None |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | December minute accurate and approved by those present. | Noted |
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| 5 Matters Arising from previous meeting not on agenda | CC accounts for last financial year were prepared by C McLeod and audited by an independent verifier – all CC members present approved. | Noted |
| 6  Police Matters  7  Actions Register | Next police report due by end of January and thereafter will be circulated every 3 months. Apologies received from PC Parker.  1. **Discharge of effluent into burn** – CC will continue to monitor situation.  2. **Phone box at Newton of Falkland** – PB is happy to deliver an informative flyer to Newton community pre talk in Spring. Residents to be reminded that there are currently 2 spaces on CC for Newton residents. Chair to recirculate current CC constitution.  3. **Christmas lights** – Discussion took place with CC and Visit Falkland. All lights, festival and Christmas, have been brought together, stored in sealed, labelled, waterproof boxes and stored on site in Sugar Acre. They will be looked upon as a Falkland resource. Item will now be closed on CC Action Register. Thanks to all those who helped with installation/removal of lights around the village. Lights located on trees on Brunton Green will remain in situ (switched off) and will be monitored to see if this has any effect on tree growth. Thanks also to Stoveco with their cherry picker, who will remove lights from fountain this week. | Noted  Noted - ongoing  Noted - ongoing  Noted |
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| 8  Update on St John’s Works site | S Hazel-dene and M Workman gave an update. They approached Dundee University, meeting pre-Christmas with tutor of 12-15 students who are in their 3rd year studying Architecture and Planning. The aim of this exercise is to seek students’ visions for the site showing us their creativity and inspiration. This will be part of their project and marked as part of their degree. All their work will be reviewed by 5th year students of the University. They will have a preliminary visit to Falkland on 20 February, firstly walking around St John’s site then the village. Criteria – affordable, housing for families, housing for 70yrs+ one storey buildings, walk ways, green spaces, parking, all which fits planning legislations. They will then return on 19 March meeting with a few members of community to capture their visions/ideas, to represent different aspects of village/age range/new residents/families who have lived here for generations. Two members of CC could join this consultation. CC agreed to pay for any hospitality and hire of hall for their meeting. Chair thanked Marilyn and Stuart. | Noted - ongoing |
| 9(i)  Community Council issues | **1. Common Good Fund and Fountain –** Since FC informed CC that Scottish Water would be charging water rates, Chair and JB have this week switched off water to the fountain**.** CC were informed charging would commence from November 2019 when a reading was taken. Already since then till now, 120,000 litres of treated water have passed through the fountain and into the burn at a cost of £1088! Hence the interim decision taken to turn off water. Possible option available is to have circulating water through fountain, but this would mean the water was no longer drinkable. Or a push button system could be put in place. Chair informed meeting that Development Trusts, of which we have 2 in Falkland, can apply for an exemption of charges. A Charitable Trust does not pay water rates. Suggestion made to contact company who produce Outlander, which uses the fountain in its filming.  In summary, Chair will publish press release informing community of fountain switch off and also call an urgent meeting with Falkland Development Trust inviting Falkland Society to be present also.  **2**. **Clock Tower –** Currently awaiting response from Michael McArdle of FC Estates department. No further update.  **3.** **Tree Survey** – A cost was agreed for the services of Adam Reidi, experienced Arborist, who will within 4-5 days begin his assessment of trees at East Loan. He will report on individual trees, their life expectancy, any requiring work in 4-5 years/10 years. If we require labels for trees, the potters of Falkland will produce these for us at no cost. Trees at Back Dykes also require cataloguing. Cllr MacD commented, how can we secure any trees’ life for the village when FC readily fell them within Fife. | Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing |
| 9(ii)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Top of brae on the A912 – drains have been cleared and there has been no road flooding through the recent heavy rain.  2. Pothole outside Fayre Earth still requires attention.  3. Man hole cover on pavement outside Liquorstane building has been broken. Currently covered by traffic cone.  4. Bollards outside house on corner of High Street and Cross Wynd – do they need to be there? | Noted  Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted |
| 9 (iii) Resident’s Issues | Parking in West Port leading to estate has been extremely busy.  Proposed parking at Pillars of Hercules – work to take place between January and March. Car park in woods would be developed first, then alterations to existing Pillars entrance. Although an environmental impact assessment has taken place, many trees will be felled and it is illegal to destroy the habitat of a squirrel. | Noted - ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation Report | JB and SK gave presentation to Sustrans in Edinburgh in December. SK - Our application at stage 4 was rejected and we are now back at stage 2. We will receive funding and have permission to employ an Access Consultant, of which there are only 4 in Scotland. We should also receive quotes from design consultants, all before June. Policy is now that shared surfaces, for cars and pedestrians, are not permitted. We aim to encourage walking/cycling in and around Falkland. FC can exempt areas of no parking on pavement.  CC will meet Sustrans and FC before CC meeting each month.  Stakeholder Group Meeting will take place the week after CC meeting.  Every 3 months, Sustrans will attend Stakeholder meetings.  Public consultation requires to take place for reducing speed and can take place on specific areas at one time. Cllr MacD noted Colin Stirling’s (Lead Consultant, Traffic Management, FC) suggestions that we require ‘quick fix’ solutions for Pleasance. We can apply for matched funding to National Lottery - climate action/public walking and cycling – expression of interest submitted and we should hear by 20th January if we can submit full application for March.  JB - Edge of village parking – we require civil engineer SUDS report. Ann Camus, Fife Tourism wants us to continue to planning application stage. CC don’t have resources to manage. Estate have now raised technical issues – specifications of car park surface. Main route would be along main road although Castle Shotts is preferred route, proposal of which to upgrade to walking/cycling route has also been discussed with N Crichton-Stuart. CC have made commitment to take through to planning process but cannot take on a 25-year commitment. | Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing |
| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 1. A garden shed has appeared in the back garden of a home on Brunton Green – no notification has been posted in planning applications. | Noted |
| 12  A.O.C.B. | 1. Cllr MacD – Why doesn’t Falkland have a skate park? How would CC feel about it being looked at? There was a general positive ‘vibe’ from CC members. An action group would need formed with young people pushing this forward.  2. Cllr Lothian - Bridge at Burnside Cottage will be replaced. Bridge at Balmblae park will be repaired in next few months.  3. Cllr Lothian – public toilets at car park will be renovated in next 2 months at cost of £30,000. Cllr L will meet with FC and member of CC next week to discuss work schedule. | Noted  Noted  Noted |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 11th February 2020**

**Stuart Room, Falkland Community Hall**