

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

**Minute of Meeting 11th August 2020**

**held at 7pm via conference call due to lockdown Covid-19**

**(public invited to attend)**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Jim Brown, Rod Crawford, Gordon Honeyman, Stuart Knowles, John Smith, Douglas Young

**Councillors*:*** Cllr A Heer, Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police***:* nil **Residents*:***2

**2** **Apologies for online absence:** Peter Burman, Gavin Lawson

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of new Interest | None | None |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | July minute approved which was taken by J Brown. P Burman and Ross Burgess have offered to take future minutes. This offer is gratefully accepted and would ensure consistency of each minute. D Young to take August minute. | Noted |
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| 5 Matters Arising from previous meeting not on agenda | Falkland’s Future Implementation – Chair proposed a stake holder meeting to be scheduled for Wed 26 August which is before next Sustrans meeting. N Crichton-Stuart will be unable to attend and gave his apologies in advance. Meeting could be either physical, held in Sugar Acre with socially distanced seating or virtual. Chair/Secretary to contact J Christensen requesting use of said site.  Traditionally there would be no CC meeting in August, this year being an exception. | Noted |
| 6  Police Matters | Chair has exchanged communications with PC Dawn Doherty who took over as Community Officer for Howe of Fife and Tay coast. She gave her apologies for tonight’s meeting but hopefully police reports will recommence next month. | Noted |
| 7(i)  Community Council Issues | **1. Edge of village car park update** – no update from JB. N Crichton-Stuart confirmed he has been in discussion with Ann Camus of Fife Council. A zoom meeting to be arranged with Ninian, JB and Chair. The estate is happy to take the lead on this project. There is a funding gap as NTS may not be in position (due to Covid 19) to help with funding this year but this won’t stop the next stage of FC submitting latest design plan to the Scottish Government.  **2. Tree strategy update** from Chair – a number of community groups are interested in tree replenishing throughout the village. Applications for funding have been submitted to the War Memorial Trust from ‘Trees for Falkland’ re increasing the arboreal input and they have also applied for saplings from the Estate. The CC have been awarded £300 which they will give when trees are being bought. Congratulations to Ian Husband for felling dangerous trees at East Loan and to the local community for their donations which currently total £1000. Visit Falkland have also applied for funding to establish a hedgerow area at the new play park at Balmblae. Primary school may be involved too – adopt a tree, Falkland Art club have been asked to design a logo for Visit Falkland.  **3. Falkland’s Future Implementation** – Discussion took place re ‘rewilding’ parts of the community. Victoria place could be rewilded – cornflower/poppy seeds which would wild year after year, FC can apply for a grant for this. The same could be done at Balmblae park and area beside park at Back Dykes. The vegetation at Balmblae isn’t child friendly and Chair suggests nettles and brambles are cut down and ground covered over winter. It would be beneficial if FC could assist by clearing ground. Victoria Place – access still required to dog bin and 2 benches – shouldn’t abandon mowing – cut to ground, clear and seeds sown. Cllr Heer and Cllr MacD had meeting with FC Parks dept – there will be paths left through it. N Crichton-Stuart welcomes rewilding which requires conscious management but once established is beautiful. Same will be at Pillars, Scotia seeds are quality and biodiversity are welcomed. Positive development.  **SK provided brief summary of Sustrans** – JB and SK met FC Roads Transport Dept and Sustrans. Various items discussed – A912 school junction including crossings, the Pleasance, A912 East Port junction and bus stop issue, Back Wynd/South Street/Horsemarket, High St West with West Port – idea of continuous footway, village centre – High Street East – widen footway, footway crossing, Castle Shotts – use as access to edge of town car parking, upgrade Laich Road to Newton or create cycle way on B road to Newton. A full minute is available of this meeting. JS – one-way system on South Street – to think through which direction traffic flow should be with whole area traffic calmed. All ideas are still at the design brief stage and options should be kept open. | Noted - ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted – ongoing  Noted - ongoing |
| 7 (ii)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | 1. Path from Falkland to Freuchie – in process of having shrubbery cut back.  2. Cemetery gates, all 3 pairs – pursuing having them repainted.  3. East Loan hedge cut back.  4. St Johns works – concern re safety of children playing on land. Site still owned by Smith Anderson.  5. Grass area in between Back Wynd to Back Dykes – finally cut by FC apart from 4-foot strip.  6. Falkland to Dunshalt path – currently being assessed by roads dept for improvement.  7. Resident issue – horse chestnut tree with massive canopy in South Street – is there a risk to property or public?  8. Trees at Brunton green – planning application into FC to cut back, awaiting approval for work to commence.  Bench on right hand side of green looking from houses is damaged.  9. Public info – Brian Sharp can do bulk uplifts to skip.  10. Rewilding – Initial support requested from FC. Cllr MacD will also speak to Laura Munro, Headteacher FPS.  11. Walkabout around Falkland – lots of issues, potholes, drains.  12. Meeting with Colin Stirling of FC still requested re West Port – are there quick fixes in the interim until Sustrans work can go ahead?  13. School reopens – Cllr MacD will keep a close eye on behaviour of drivers. | All Noted |
| 7 (iii) Resident’s  Issues | **Proposed temporary use of Mill Green by Stag Inn** for seating for food customers – an extensive and lengthy discussion was held with input from N Crichton-Stuart, Hamish of Stagg Inn and local residents. Proposal is to have seating for up to 48 customers seated at 8 tables on green who are purchasing food. This would be temporary only and has changed from 7 days a week to Thursday to Sunday only. Local residents’ concerns are noise and possibility of public bringing Coronavirus to village. Would this be a temporary situation only or become permanent? A virtual meeting will be held on evening of Wednesday 12th August where residents who wrote to the estate with concerns will be represented. Residents believe their objections are not being listened to. Chair ended discussion. | Noted - ongoing |
| 8  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | Any update on Kerkyra House. CC acted as a statutory consultee. Planning will go to committee if 6 objections or more.  An application submitted for changes to proposed house on field which belonged to M Brunton. | Noted |
| 12  A.O.C.B. | JB will forward information to B Gilchrist and J Smith re detailed map of Balmblae for their information.  New Pillars entrance – signage and tree planting to complete. | Noted  Noted |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 8th September 2020 - Virtual meeting**