

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

**Minute of Meeting 14th July 2020**

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

**(public invited to attend)**

**1 Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Rod Crawford (Chair), Jim Brown, John Smith, Peter Burman, Doug Young, Kenny Lumsden, Gavin Lawson, Gordon Honeyman, Stuart Knowles.

**Councillors*:*** Cllr A Heer, Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police***:* n/a **Residents*:***8

**2** **Apologies:** n/a

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | PB noted this item is understood as Declarations of newly arising Interests; None | Noted |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | June minutes of meeting approved. | Noted |
| 5  Matters Arising from previous  meeting not on agenda | N/A |  |
| 6  Police Matters | No report available, Chair proposed to contact Community Police Officer before next meeting to ensure they are aware that online meetings have resumed. | RC |
| 7  Falkland’s Future  Implementation | This item was deferred from last month’s meeting due to time constraints.  JB had circulated a list of proposed sub-projects to CC members prior to the meeting. Austin Smith Lord are not currently involved in ongoing activities but SUSTRANS have confirmed that a further limited funding award will be made to engage a design consultant to review and prepare revised designs for a number of these projects to ensure disability access compliance and improved value for money and active travel content.  Priority areas to be reviewed and investigated are proposed to be ;   * Improvements to School Junction on A912/B936/South St * Improvements to West Port (High St West) to implement continuous walkable pavement from Fountain square through Leslie Rd junction to West Port and vehicle passing chicanes to regulate traffic flow, * Filtered permeability scheme for Back Wynd / South Street /Horsemarket to reduce through traffic at blind junction and improve safety of major school walking route. * Improvements to A912 Pleasance/East Port junction including pedestrian crossings and optimisation of Bus Stops * Enhancement of green space at bottom of Leslie Hill Rd to incorporate rerouted footpath to Back Dykes path and safer parking provision, (linked to High St West /West Port improvements) * Improvement to pavements and crossings within East Port / High St. * Improvement to Castle Shotts lane to provide walking / cycling path (contingent on Edge of Village car park proceeding)   Chair indicated that scope of these issues was too detailed for review at this meeting and proposed scheduling the restart of Stakeholder Group meetings to discuss the proposals in more depth.  JB/SK noted that a zoom meeting had been held with SUSTRANS to review the High St West /West Port issues caused by current increase in all types of traffic. This included a virtual site visit / walk round on ‘Street View’ to review problem areas. Further meeting planned with SUSTRANS for 31/7 with input from Fife Council Roads and Transportation. SUSTRANS will propose amount of funding budget for next phase based on design brief agreed for follow on Consultant.  K Laurie stressed requirement for further public consultation. JB noted this was an essential component and it was intended to make greater use of online and interactive consultation tools. Further evidence of community buy-in is a specific requirement from SUSTRANS. JB confirmed policy to make Stakeholder meetings more inclusive in future and encourage more community participation. | Noted  Noted  Noted |
| 8  Residents’ Issues  (i) Stag Green | Chair confirmed that CC are very much in listening mode regarding this issue. No concrete proposals have been submitted to date by the Stag Inn and the CC are therefore not able to take any definitive position at this time.  A considerable number of representations have been received from residents around the Green and these are overwhelmingly opposed to any use of this type. Objections are generally founded on the situation relating to previous use of the Green, prior to implementation of the AFZ when the pub was under different ownership, rather than any specifics of the current case or COVID considerations.  Significant support for the use of the Green has been expressed on social media although much of this seems driven by nostalgia for the previous casual use arrangements which would not now be allowed by Licensing Board Conditions, as tables, seating and a demarcated area would be required. Cllr. MacDiarmid expressed opinion that most support is for previous regime i.e. informal drinking on the Green and that people would not generally support any visible ‘take over’ of the Green by the Stag.  Cllr’s Lothian and Heer emphasised need for elected members to be seen to be neutral at this point as all 3 are members of licensing board. Occasional licence applications are normally determined by licensing board Clerk and Convenor unless there are substantial objections.  John Brown (resident) stated that issue is causing considerable upset and distress to neighbouring residents who wished to enjoy the peace and privacy of their homes in the same way that residents who have expressed support on social media are able to enjoy their own homes. JS expressed disappointment that Hamish Waterson had stated he would take the views of surrounding residents into account but now seemed to disregard these. N Stuart reiterated that Falkland Estate Trust (landowner) did not wish to be seen as a ’heavy handed landlord’ and hoped that satisfactory community consensus can be achieved. | Noted  Noted |
| 8 (ii)  West Port Presentation | Presentation from resident, Ken Laurie on behalf of West Port residents group. See attached summary of main points.  JB queried composition of the group as although a long-term West Port resident, he had not been made aware of its activities. KL stated that a ‘majority of residents’ had decided to limit the membership of the group due to his involvement on the Community Council. JB also noted the exclusion of Mrs F Lawrenson, KL noted this was due to her family connections with the Falkland Centre for Stewardship Director. KL also clarified that group defined West Port as limited to the portion of road between the Leslie Hill Rd corner and the Estate gates.  Chair noted that he had always regarded West Port as including the portion from the exit from the square to the Hill Rd. KL commented that the group referred to that portion as High St West and considered that the problems of West Port were sufficiently different from High St West to merit being treated separately hence the composition of the group.  NS for Falkland Estate expressed willingness to have dialogue with the group to resolve issues but considered it was not practicable to prevent estate traffic using High St West /West Port. Chair and JB noted that meetings were already in progress between representative of Community Council / Stakeholder Group and the various Estate entities covering many of the issues raised by the group and expressed concern that having too many different parallel communication channels would not be constructive. Chair encouraged the group to coordinate activities and become involved with the Stakeholder group and noted that problems in ‘High St West’ were probably more acute due to greater congestion and narrower carriageways.  Cllr. Heer noted that he has requested Roads and Transportation to erect additional 20mph speed limit signs at the exit from the Estate to West Port and also enquired if residents parking signs could be erected on an advisory basis i.e. without an enforceable zone.  M Carter, resident, welcomed estate comments re opening of new Forest Gateway car park and requested additional signage to intercept traffic before it entered the village centre. JB confirmed this had already been discussed and agreed between CC and Estate with signs being requested on A912 northbound before the East Port junction and also on the B936 from Dunshalt providing advance indication of the new car park. | Noted |
| 8 (iii)  Community Council Issues | 1. Edge of Village Car Park,  JB confirmed SUDS certification issue now completed but this is based on the existing ASL design and specifications. Depending on the extent of design modifications proposed by FET, this may need to be reperformed by them.  2. East Loan Trees. One of the affected trees on East Loan fell over the road but luckily no damage or injury was caused. The tree was subsequently cut up and removed by Back Dykes resident Ian Husband. After this incident, Cllr. MacDiarmid co-ordinated with Ian Husband who subsequently carried out the felling and pruning of the remaining affected trees on a voluntary basis. GH highlighted the exceptional job carried out by Ian who also completely cleared the site and removed all trimmings, vegetation and debris, a task that involved a number of days work and provision of equipment. It was agreed that the CC will send a letter of thanks to Ian commending him for the work performed. He has indicated he will not accept payment for this and has requested that donations should be made to the Falkland Tree Fund which intends to plant replacement and additional trees on East Loan and possibly other locations. CC agreed unanimously to donate £300 to the fund. | Noted  RC  Noted |
| 8 (iv)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s case reports | * Johnny Cash Bench; damage appears to exacerbated by Sap or similar coming from adjacent overhanging trees. FC officers requested to review and prune trees as required, * Pothole reporting continues, * Dog Poo, cause of bin stuffing has been identified and hopefully will not re occur now that recycling centre has reopened. * Site visit has been requested with Colin Stirling (Roads and transportation) to review possible short-term solutions to traffic congestion issues on West Port /High St. Not possible at present due to COVID restrictions. * Fife Council have intimated intention to leave areas of long grass on public greenspaces to increase biodiversity, this is likely to include Back Dykes Green and may extend elsewhere. In future, communities may have to accept responsibility for maintenance of their own green spaces. GH suggested that as a minimum, strip mowing of grass walkways should be carried out. | Noted |
| 9  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 2 storey Extension and formation of ‘Juliet’ Balcony to ‘Kerkyra’, East Loan.  PB and JB have prepared objection /comment on behalf of CC as Statutory Consultee with emphasis on impact on integrity of the Conservation Area and possible knock on effects on proposed St Johns Works developments. Agreed that Chair will submit after this meeting | Noted  RC |
| 10  A.O.C.B. | N.T.R. |  |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 11th August 2020 - Virtual meeting**

Appendix 1 Brief Summary of K Laurie presentation.