

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

**Minute of Meeting 9th June 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, Peter Burman, John Smith, Gordon Honeyman, Stuart Knowles, Doug Young

**Councillors*:*** Cllr A Heer Cllr D Lothian **Police***:* nil **Residents*:***6 + Mr H. Waterson (Stag Inn)

**2** **Apologies:** Kenny Lumsden, Gavin Lawson,

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of Interest | None |  |
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| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | May minute approved. (This was considered as formal CC Meeting as residents were invited to attend online) | Noted |
| 5  Matters Arising from previous  meeting not on agenda | None |  |
| 6  Police Matters | No report available |  |
| 7  Action Register | 1. Discharge of effluent into burn; This item will now be followed up in liaison meetings between CC office bearers and Estate entities (FST and FET) with report back to CC monthly meeting as required.  2. Newton Phone Box; M Robb has been in contact with JS and has confirmed that Newton Community intend to move the box to new location outside Village Hall. Box will be used to house village defibrillator. Newton Community will make arrangements for move but may be seeking assistance with funding. Planning requirements to be confirmed. JS confirmed MR has documents relating to ‘adoption’ of box by CC. Existing electrical supply will require to be cut off and made safe and new supply provided. Cllr’s Lothian and Heer indicated Local Committee /Local planning budget may contribute to funding. | RC / JB  Noted |
| 8i)  Community Council Issues | 1. Edge of Village Car Park,  JB noted work is still ongoing with civil engineers to conclude SUDS certification but this is nearing completion.  Ninian Stuart advised that FET are likely to take on the lead role in EoV Car Park implementation at least on an interim basis. NTS have expressed interest in purchase of the Site but this is now on hold due to NTS financial situation. FET intends to implement certain changes to the detail design and accordingly Community Council consider FET should take over the planning application activity from this point. CC will make existing design information available in digital form for use by FET architectural consultants.  Info from Ann Camus indicates that 2020 RTIF funding has lapsed but Visit Scotland open to re-application for 2021.  CC funding commitment will be maintained subject to allowance for funds already expended. NTS funding is not assured in the short term  Mtg to be set up between FET, CC, NTS and Fife Council (A Camus) to agree way forward.  3. East Loan Trees. No response yet from Fife Council tree officer via Cllr McD.  3. Newton Of Falkland issues.  a) Complaints have been received from residents regarding vehicle parked on pavement at Jubilee Crescent junction. Vehicle owner maintains land is his property. Local Councillors will take up with Roads and Transportation once council exits emergency mode.  b) Flooding from burn at the playing field, noted for post lockdown action. JS offered to highlight problem to Council officers with Site visit  4. Stag Inn / Mill Green; Proposal for outside drinking area.  The CC has received an email from H. Waterson, licensee of the Stag Inn requesting information and feedback regarding the possibility of the use of all or part of Stag (Mill) Green as a ‘Beer Garden’ in response to the difficulties of restarting the business under the constraints imposed by COVID 19 restrictions. Cllr’s DL and AH indicated that Fife Council is receptive to proposals to address Hospitality Industry difficulties and intends to take constructive and flexible approach to assist where possible.  Cllr Lothian introduced Hamish W to the meeting who gave brief outline of the Stag’s proposal noting that it was not his intention to cause any conflict within the community. JS noted that the Green is part of the Falkland Alcohol Free Zone. N Stuart confirmed that the Green is owned by Falkland Estate but is maintained by Fife Council on the basis that it is used as public open space. Estate will not act as a barrier to such proposals if this can be shown to reflect the wishes of Community. Cllr AH noted that proposal could possibly be handled initially through the ‘Occasional Licence’ procedure with validity of max 14 days (renewable). However, issues re AFZ and planning requirements will have to be clarified with appropriate Fife Council departments. Community Council would like to ensure viability of the Stag is maintained but the views of community and, in particular, residents adjacent to the premises must be properly taken into account. Agreed that HW will notify Pub neighbours of proposal and request responses. This should not be done on a face-to-face basis to ensure residents do not feel they are being put under pressure.  5. Dogs in Falkland Estate.  GH noted that a resident was instructed by an Estate employee to put his dog on a lead immediately within the Estate despite the fact that there was no livestock in the area in question. Resident was then invited to discuss with a ‘Manager’ who advised that Estate was private and could set its own policies in relation to this matter. GH considered this contrary to the provisions of Access legislation and tabled guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage on land management and open access issues with dogs. N Stuart confirmed he was aware of the issue but noted that ewes with lambs were present in an adjacent field and considered that dogs should either be on leads or closely at heel in such circumstances. He understood this was not the case and noted that farm / Estate personnel were under significant pressure due to the loss of several sheep caused by dog worrying in the previous days. Estate was also particularly concerned due to numbers of visiting dogs and owners from outside village who may not be accustomed to close proximity to livestock. GH and NS to hold separate discussion to clarify these issues. | Noted – ongoing  Noted  Need to decide who arranges  Pending  Noted  Noted  Noted  Noted |
| 9 (ii)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | No Report  Held over to next meeting. | Noted |
| 9 (iii)  Resident’s  Issues  9 (iii)  Resident’s  Issues  Cont’d | K Laurie (Res) raised the issue of congestion and parking problems affecting High St. West and West Port due to increase in visitor and business traffic to Falkland Estate. Recognised the need for estate to become more independent of grant funding but commercial development must not be at the expense of Residents quality of life, which is now being significantly impacted. ’Stewardship’ must apply to both village and estate. Although Pillars Junction car park is nearing completion, Estate’s stated intention is to maintain two separate gateway / hubs including Stables entrance. Estate’s current policies appear contrary to objectives of Centre for Stewardship and seem designed to increase car journeys to estate rather than reduction of carbon footprint. Traffic situation on West Port approach is now dangerous and several residents’ cars were damaged on a recent weekend due to visitors unable to negotiate narrow streets Difficult to have meaningful dialogue with Estate due to multiple entities involved in Centre for Stewardship.  J Robertson (Res) commented on extreme difficulties in living with volume of visitor traffic and noted instances of verbal abuse from drivers trying to park or negotiate roads to Estate.  S Haszeldine (Res) noted particular concern that estate is now developing additional retail activities (‘Neighbourfood’ scheme), which will entail more delivery and customer vehicle trips through centre of village. This is counter-intuitive to Estate’s environmental objectives and was introduced without any consultation with the Community. Vendors will be delivering from all over Central Scotland; customers are likely to be travelling from all over Fife to collect orders.  Residents stated view that majority of Estate traffic should be routed via Pillars junction and estate roads. N Stuart argued that this was not feasible due to agricultural operations and livestock movements on estate roads and that cost of improvements required to estate roads was unaffordable. NS indicated estate were very committed to dialogue and wanted to avoid division with Falkland community but difficult to see any short-term resolution to these issues.  Broader consultation is required between community and estate as soon as Covid restrictions permit. | Noted |
| 10  Falkland’s Future Implementation | Very little to report this month so agreed to defer item to next meeting due to time constraints | Noted – ongoing |
| 11  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 2 storey Extension and formation of ‘Juliet’ Balcony to ‘Kerkyra’, East Loan. Concerns raised regarding impact of this proposal on the integrity of the Conservation Area and knock on effects on adjacent future development. RC has submitted request for CC to be ‘Statutory Consultee’. This does not give additional time to prepare response.  PB and JB will coordinate and prepare response. | Noted  PB/JB |
| 12  A.O.C.B. | N.T.R. |  |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 14th July 2020 - Virtual meeting**