

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

**Minute of Meeting 13 October 2020**

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

**(Public invited to attend)**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Peter Burman (Minutes), Jim Brown, Rod Crawford (Chair), Stuart Knowles, Gavin Lawson, Kenny Lumsden, John Smith, Douglas Young

**Councillors*:*** Cllr A Heer, Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police***:* nil **Residents*:*** Ross Burgess, Betty Gilchrist, Marilyn Workman

**2** **Apologies for online absence:** Gordon Honeyman, Cllr Donald Lothian

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 3  Declarations of new Interest | None | None |
| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | September minute, taken by Peter Burman, approved. | Approved |
| 5  Police Issues | No news had been received but it appeared that changes in personnel were in progress affecting community policing. | Noted |
| 6  Community Council Issues including Matters Arising | 1. AGM of CC - Chair hoped that guidance from Fife Council on what would be possible, in the circumstances, would be forthcoming soon. The AGM might be at the November meeting, or later. 2. Nine-Acre Site – there were as yet no developments on a possible Right to Buy project. 3. Play Park – Chair, leading on this maintenance project, reported an encouraging meeting with Roger Honeyman (Fife Council) and progress in cutting back nettles and thistles. 4. Rewilding, see Minute (ii) 4 of September meeting. DY’s list of those places where grass cutting by FC is needed were set out in a memorandum of 11 October circulated to all members. Agreed by all, DY to communicate list to FC. 5. Mill Green and the Stag Inn – Chair reported that following the harmonious consultation process held by Ninian Stuart (NS) the smaller group (Chair, NS, JS, John Brown, Alison Page, with Hamish Waterson) had meet recently and had agreed that it would not oppose an extension to temporary license for Stag Inn from 12 noon for every day up to 25 October; Cllr Heer advised that from 1 October the Licensing Board allowed such extensions only up to 7.00 p.m. He further advised that the Mill Green arrangements would count as a ‘pavement café’ whereas beer gardens were allowed extensions up to 10.00 p.m. Agreed to advise that lighting should be by electric ‘candles’ at tables and that fairy lights across the site would not be appropriate. 6. Falkland’s Future - the Stakeholders’ Group had urged that a low-key review should be made of the traffic-walking-cycling options before going for a new Concept Design. JB is to circulate a paper on the potential revised interventions. There is currently a danger, thanks to Covid, of our losing Sustrans’s support if no progress at all is made during their current financial year. Public consultation will be difficult. JB reported an upcoming meeting with FC and Sustrans on Friday 16 October. 7. University of Dundee, student project designs for former factory site – also relating to Falkland’s Future, Chair drew attention to the link to a well-produced, thoughtful and wide-ranging report and urged all Councillors to read it and to follow up the links. Action: Marilyn Workman to circulate links. 8. Falkland Estate Matters – Chair reported that NS was unable to be present but wished to report on the various Estate-related matters at the forthcoming Stakeholders’ Meeting. JS suggested that he and PB would be able to raise all or some of the same issues at the imminent meeting of the Board of the Falkland Stewardship Trust. The issues relate to Estate Car Parking, Access issues and reducing movements of HGVs from West Port (JS for example has been in touch with the company whose lorries feed the Biomass plant for House of Falkland); clarity as to which Estate entity was responsible for which area of interest; Falkland Bike Park – this facility for downhill biking events appeared to be at a well-advanced stage of development and the company Rebound discloses on its website that it is in active negotiation with the Falkland Estate; *NeighbourFood Falkland*; Chair and Secretary urged adding the issue of well-designed signs to the Pillars’ Junction car park at four different sites, as agreed with the Estate but no action taken. Related issues were that the Estate does not appear to have a viable Traffic Plan; that currently access for fire engines and ambulances is a severe problem (in relation to which JS said that the only sensible solution would be to limit parking in the West Port, and JB reported that this point is being actively discussed with Sustrans). Cllr MacD reported a strongly worded message from PFM Henry McLeish: they both felt frustration at the inability to bring appropriate FC Traffic staff to meetings in Falkland. In relation to the various issues, NS had pointed out in his message that we are living through an unprecedented public health crisis with many implications. Some estate-related personnel had already had to be made redundant. He asked for the CC’s support and understanding in these difficult circumstances. Agreed that all these matters should be brought to and discussed by the Stakeholders’ meeting. 9. Flood Action Group – JS updated CC on the urgent work of this sub-group which has reached agreement with Fife Council for the provision of an early warning system by a company called River Track. The cost is just short of £1,600.00 to include maintenance. CC would have to be the conduit for the funding. Unanimously agreed. 10. Bus connexions – discussion took place about the unsatisfactory state of the timetables. KL expressed astonishment that the bus route to St Andrews used farm/estate roads, Further discussion touched on mobility issues which had been raised by a resident. CC advised that it was not a realistic possibility for buses to access the village streets but that alternatives should be explored, e.g. dial-a-bus; dial-a-ride; flexibus. An approach might be made to one or more of the local community-oriented supermarkets to run ‘shopping buses’ once or twice a week, probably using people carriers. | Noted  Noted  Noted  Action by DY  Agreed  Noted  Noted, with pleasure  Noted  Agreed  Agreed to investigate options further |
| 7 (ii)  Cllr D MacDiarmid’s report | Cllr David MacDiarmid reported on the following items:   1. Play Park Area – Chair had already reported. 2. Brunton Green - the central bench is imminently to be replaced by a new one at the cost of Fife Council. Warm appreciation of JS’s and Bert Dalrymple’s work to the Cash Bench. JS asked for a £36.60 contribution for the cost of the materials needed and this was agreed. 3. Flood prevention – it is imperative that some of the engineering problems begin to be resolved, with hoped-for support from the additional funds being made available from Scottish Government. 4. Newton of Falkland – it appears that they did not get their application for £10k of funding in timeously. 5. Palace Orchard and Bowling Club Green had serious blockages which thankfully Scottish Water was able to deal with promptly. 6. Bellfield development – brown bins secured. 7. Advance notice was given of a project of great potential which envisaged members of the community playing a larger role in fulfilling responsibilities which could no longer be carried out by FC. The concept is still being worked out in consultation with Sharon Douglas and Helen Rollinson and would be, if implemented, a ‘first’ by Falkland, which other communities might follow. There would need to be at least one full-time employed post. | Agreed.  Noted, with interest |
| 7 (ii) Residents’  Issues | 1. Remembrance Sunday – JS reported that, because of Covid, instructions were now awaited from FC as to what was proper and allowed. It may well be that only the wreath-layers would be allowed at the ceremony. 2. Maintenance of the Balmblae road leading to three residents’ houses and Play Park – Betty Gilchrist said that the nub of the matter was who owned the road? The ownership of the road seemed shrouded in mystery – residents, Fife Council, Estate? Use of the road has greatly increased since the inception of the new Play Park. It is increasingly being used as a car park. BG and JS were united in feeling that there should be a very clear notice announcing, by the bridge, ‘Unadopted road beyond. No vehicular access. Residents’ cars only.’ | Noted - ongoing |
| 8  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue | 1. Kerkyra House, East Loan – application to be considered at the next North East Planning Committee. Chair has received notice from Fife Council Planning Services stating that the meeting will be held ‘virtually and broadcast live on the internet to allow interested parties to observe the decision-making process’. The notice provides the appropriate link to allow members of the community the opportunity to ‘join’, to listen and watch the meeting taking place. 2. Garden Cottage, West High Street – Cllr David MacD reported that he had been astonished to see that extensive work had been carried out to this cottage, formerly uninhabitable, with little feeling for the special character of this B-listed building. Investigation unearthed the fact that the owners had not consulted conservation advice or applied for any authorisation. It was a matter for enforcement officers what had been done without LBC. However, there was a general feeling that it was a pity that a cottage that had survived in a state that reflected its long history had not been repaired and reanimated using traditional building materials and skills. The works had been done by a local contractor who could not have been unaware of the Conservation Area and listed building designations. PB suggested that it was not often that such cases arose, yet it was not easy to see how CC could have prevented what has happened. Elected Councillors, the Planning Committee and FC specialist staff all have a role in encouraging owners to comply with high standards and proper process in the Conservation Area. | Report received with concern |
| 12  A.O.C.B. | Chair suggested that he and the other office-bearers should consult together over how to programme the AGM on 10 November. At the AGM there would be elections of members of the CC and also elections of office-bearers: he invited members to think about what commitment of time would be needed and what roles they could reasonably hope to fulfil. | Agreed |

**Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 10 November 2020 - Virtual meeting**