

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

**Minute of Annual General Meeting and**

**Monthly Meeting, 8 December 2020**

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

**(Public invited to attend)**

**1 Welcome from Chair to all attending:**

**Present:** Peter Burman, Jim Brown (Secretary), Rod Crawford (Chair), Stuart Knowles, John Smith, Doug Young, Gordon Honeyman

**Councillors*:*** Cllr Andy Heer, Cllr David MacDiarmid. **Police***:* nil.

**Residents*:*** Ross Burgess, James Paton, Stuart Haszeldine, Ros Esslemont, Ninian Stuart (Falkland Estate, Part time).

**2** **Apologies for online absence:** Gavin Lawson. Kenny Lumsden

**Annual General Meetin**g

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 3  Annual reports | Chair’s Report  It's been a very unusual year, we managed to have a couple of face-to-face meetings before Covid intervened and since then we have been meeting only online.  Community resilience in the face of Covid has been good with initiatives such as the Falkland larder, the response by Irfan and the Post Office staff and the Pharmacy being exceptional.  A new sense of realism seems to have prevailed after the heady days of the Charette Etc and we have not been successful in obtaining funding to realise projects however we are continuing work with SUSTRANS and still hope to achieve some results on the ground after the Covid pandemic is over.  Secretary's Report; Previous secretary Scott McIntosh resigned in March 2020. Jim Brown has been acting secretary since then. No major issues to report. We have an action to respond to the Fife Council consultation on the revised draft scheme of arrangement for Community Councils. Currently Falkland and Newton community council comprises eight elected members from Falkland and two from Newton of Falkland. Historically we have had difficulty finding council members from Newton and we need to discuss whether to request greater flexibility in the composition of the council if members from Newton cannot be found. Response to the consultation to be submitted by 25th January.  Treasurers Report; The mandatory requirement of the AGM is for the council to approve the annual accounts statement. This has been circulated before the meeting and has been independently checked by Ross Burgess. No comments were raised on the accounts by members. Peter Burman proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Doug Young and approved unanimously. |  |
| 4  Casual vacancies and election of Office Bearers | Since the resignation off Scott McIntosh, we have had a vacancy for a councillor for Falkland. Gordon Honeyman is currently a co-opted member dealing with St Johns works site issues but has been an active participant in a wide range of council activities. Gordon has indicated that he would be willing to join the council on a full elected member basis. Proposed by Jim Brown, seconded by Peter Burman, approved unanimously.  Peter Burman had previously indicated his intention to retire from the council at this meeting and the Chair asked him to confirm if this was still the case. PB indicated he would be willing to serve for a further six months. After discussion it was agreed that PB will stand down as an elected member due to other commitments but will remain as a co-opted member with responsibility for conservation and heritage issues. This creates another casual vacancy to be filled after this meeting.  The Chair noted the objective to widen the demographic and gender mix of the council and indicated that Ros Esslemont has expressed an interest on joining the council. Ros is Chair of the school parent council and was instrumental in the Play park redevelopment. To be addressed at next meeting.  Chair will advertise Casual vacancies including 2 current vacancies for Newton of Falkland.  Elections of Office Bearers.  Office bearers are elected for the full term of the council and there is no requirement for annual re-election.  Jim Brown has been acting Secretary since the resignation of Scott Macintosh and has indicated that he would be willing to perform this function on a permanent basis. Proposed by Rod Crawford, seconded by Peter Burman, carried unanimously.  JB indicated that he would prefer not to continue as Treasurer in addition to Secretary. Gordon Honeyman has confirmed that he would be willing to perform the Treasurer function. Proposed by Rod Crawford, seconded by Jim Brown, carried unanimously. JB will continue in treasurer function until annual accounts and maintenance grant finalised with Fife council and alternative online banking arrangements in place. |  |
| 5  Appointment of Council reps to external organisations | Noted that CC Chair is ex-officio member of War Memorial Trust.  There are no other representations at present. John Smith had attended AGM of Falkland Community Development Trust and would be keen to encourage community council cooperation with that organisation. JB noted that there is a potential requirement for a community trust /company to follow up project work resulting from the Sustrans initiatives. Chair and Secretary to explore possibility of increased cooperation with the community development trust. | Noted  RC & JB |
| 6  AOCB | None. |  |
| 7  Next AGM | Date of next annual general meeting, 9th November 2021. |  |

**December Community Council Meeting**

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 3  Declarations of new Interest | None | None |
| 4  Minute of Previous Meeting | November Minute, taken by Peter Burman, approved. | Approved |
| 5  Matters arising not otherwise on Agenda | None |  |
| 6  Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issues | Kerkyra complaint. Fife Council response regarding Kerkyra complaint does not really address FCC concerns. Only available recourse legally would-be judicial review at the court of session. this would be too expensive and remedy would only be to refer issue back to Fife planning for reconsideration. Recommendation from Planning Advice Scotland (PAS) is to elevate the complaint to the Fife council CEO, Steve Grimmond. Referral to Planning Ombudsman also possible. These actions would not overturn planning decision.  Cllr Heer noted that the Planning report statement that the community council had not responded would probably have had a material effect on the committee. AH is willing to be quoted in submission to CEO. Agreed to elevate complaint formally to Council CEO.  New dwelling house adjacent to Bridgend, Balmblae, Planning ref 20/02220/FULL  James Paton, owner of Bridgend requested support for objection to the above planning application on the grounds of increased flooding risk and also conservation / aesthetic issues.  Noted that outline planning permission previously granted for similar proposal approximately eight years ago. Proposal involves building on to existing property Bridgend. This would be in line with historic building layout but Bridgend has been detached for approx 60 years. Community council split on conservation / aesthetic issues. Will support objection on flooding grounds. Noted that SEPA and FC Roads /Flooding consultees objecting to proposal.  Warbeck House, Installation of 1st floor balcony and patio doors; Although on the rear of the building, Community Council consider this application inappropriate for ‘B’ Listed building in the heart of the Conservation Area. Also noted that some of nearest neighbours had not been properly notified by planning Department. Consultation expires 17th December. | JB, RC and PB to prepare response  JB to prepare CC objection highlighting notification discrepancies. |
| 7  Falklands Future Implementation | Meetings continue what Sustrans regarding feasibility study of high priority critical interventions i.e. High St West /Westport and South Street / Back Wynd filtered permeability scheme.  SK and JB have carried out overnight resident parking surveys to support the Sustrans in-house studies. |  |
| 8  Stakeholder Meeting | Edge of Village car park - nothing substantive to report. |  |
| 9  Community Council Issues  (i)  (ii) | Falkland Estate matters - FET have submitted briefing paper on Bike Trails (copy attached). N Stuart stated that the REBOUND business plan is no longer on the table and no significant further development is foreseen by FET. J Brown has reviewed the briefing paper but considers it does not reflect at all what is being put in the public domain by REBOUND on social media and internet. JB view is that this represents significant change of use for woodland area in the regional park and that planning permission for change of use should be required.  Ros Esslemont noted that she has been approached by Niall Hedderman in her capacity as chair of the parent council to obtain feedback from primary school parents regarding Proposals. Community council concerns mainly delete to effects on traffic congestion within village and consider FET should consult publicly on this. Chair stated there is strong case for full public consultation on this issue.  Christmas lights; Majority of lights have been erected and are looking very good. Lights on Fountain will be erected on Friday using STOVECO cherry picker and lights on Palace hedge will be installed at the same time. JS express thanks for all who helped with lights installation including Falkland Gardening Group members.  Grasscutting Consultation (Rewilding) Ros E reiterated concerns regarding proposals for green space at Victoria place. This is the only green space for kids to play in that part of the village. Long grass is not acceptable at this location.  JB noted that while a fixed percentage target for rewilding may be appropriate in more urban environments, Falkland already has considerable quantities of excellent wild habitat in the immediate surroundings and in fact does not have extensive amenity greenspace within the village itself so there is less justification for changes to grass cutting regimes.  Flood Action Rivertrack flood warning system installation has been completed on four properties have monitor alarms installed  **Cllr Macdairmid case reports**   * Has requested more frequent gully cleaning * Has requested engineered solution to flooding problems on High Rd but concerned about potential knock-on effects on Freuchie and Newton of Falkland. * Has requested resurfacing work at back dykes Terrace to be prioritised and brought forward, * Has requested improvement and surfacing of footpath between Falkland and Dunshalt. * Met with Community Police but no major issues impacting Falkland, * Awaiting confirmation of site visit by Colin Stirling (Fife Roads and Transportation). | RC to prepare response with input from DY and Ros E/ |
| 10  AOCB | G Honeyman requested action for frequent flooding problems at Palace rear entrance/ Dunshalt Road junction.  Ros Esslemont confirmed that a group of parent volunteers has been set up for Community Speedwatch |  |

**11 - Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 12 January 2021 - Virtual meeting**