



Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

**Minute of Meeting – 12th December
held at 7pm online
(public invited to attend)**

Welcome from Chair,

Present: Rod Crawford, Jim Brown, Roz Esslemont, David Anderson, Jack Reekie, Tara O’Leary, Doug Young, Gavin Lawson, Stuart Knowles,
Minutes – Lauren Ballantine

Councillors: Cllr McDiarmid

Police: nil

Residents: nil

Apologies for absence: Cllr Lothian

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None.	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	Agreed as true record and approved unanimously..	Approved.
5 Matters arising not on the agenda	None.	
6 National Trust Update	RC has circulated update. RC has shared to community via social media.	Noted
7 Police Update	Report circulated to CC members. 15 calls. 1 recorded crime - disorder. Police had visited Falkland House School to give talk about their work; it was very successful and so they will be arranging further visits	Noted
8 Correspondence	A number of emails had been circulated to council members prior to meeting. Main topics were as listed below; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Place Plan (LPP); Cut off date for input to the next Local Development Plan (FIFEPLAN) has been extended to end June 2024. Previous discussion at CC had decided not to prepare LPP as the cut off date was January 2024 and deadline was too tight considering external developments being proposed for Falkland. Council to review possibility to prepare plan to meet new timing. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Email from secretary of another CC regarding Planning Democracy group – good document attached on subject of pros and cons of LPP's. iii. Email about 'Digital Fife' – independent group supporting CC's to develop and maintain their websites without costly professional input. Worthwhile taking up the offer to make our website more user friendly and reduce hosting costs . RC to make first contact. iv. Email report back from Fife Play Efficiency study, concluded Falkland had adequate play space. v. Email regarding Funding opportunity for communities who want to develop projects on local food networks , climate change etc.. vi. Email inviting participation in a Scottish crime and justice survey – not considered relevant. vii. Email response from Scottish government minister in response to proposals from Scottish Parliament, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's letter on Community Councils. SCOTGOV see no evidence of need for national CC consultative body. viii. Email about Mental Health and Well-being in Fife. Tara happy to take a further look and respond. ix. Email regarding My Place Awards. Heritage champions and Heritage Projects – no suitable projects within CC area just now. x. Email about Planning Appeal Training. Seems to be focussed more on developers and agents not CCs. CC's have almost no right of appeal under current system. xi. Email from Greener Kirkcaldy offering communication training, sent on to JR and RE. xii. Reminder for annual CC grant application, JB to action. xiii. Community Council Draft Financial statements had been emailed to members for review and approval – No queries raised. These had been prepared by JB as past treasurer. They had not been signed off yet by Treasurer or Independent Checker. Approval is required for annual grant application JB proposed that the council should approve these "Subject to Treasurer and Independent Checker Approval". DY proposed agreement, seconded by TOL. Approved unanimously 	
<p>9 Falklands Future Development</p>	<p>Sustrans project still on hold.</p> <p>It appears that funding basis from Transport Scotland via Sustrans will be changed and that in future, funding will be directed through Local Authorities so not directly to Community Councils etc. Existing live projects may continue to be funded on current basis for next year and the following year but new applications will be administered by Local Authorities. We still have funding in the current financial year to complete outstanding surveys at the bottom of the Hill Road and intend to do this by end March</p> <p>SK noted that SESTRAN, South East Scotland Transport Partnership– are considering a future study for active travel links between Falkland, Freuchie and Ladybank Station.</p>	

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<p>10 Planning, Listed Building, Conservation Issues</p>	<p>Whinstone; planning application for change of use to a “dwelling house “ has been approved. Written with the limit that it is occupied by a family household or maximum 5 unrelated people. JB to make Short Term Let Licensing aware of the numbers restrictions in the Planning Approval.</p>	
<p>11 Residents Issues</p>	<p>No residents have joined the meeting online.</p> <p>Feedback received from members of the Community Development Trust committee raising concerns about the bins at the back of the Bruce not being emptied, and the big bins obstructing pedestrian entrance to the Car Park. Councillor McD is aware of this issue and is referring to Fife Council.</p>	
<p>12 Flood Action Group</p>	<p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>Chair will invite FAG committee members to future online meeting.</p>	
<p>13 Community Council Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Scotch Whisky International and playpark update, RC and JB had brief discussion with Alex Simpson and Keith Rennie in relation to car parking provision in Falkland. Planning Application has moved into the New Year. Playpark renovation proposals , no further update, RE will follow up this week. ii. Community newsletter, last meeting outlined provisional plans. JR has been in communication with the library group , understands that proposal is mainly for a Library newsletter covering library events to increase engagement with community, not a general community newsletter. Jacqui Lawson is leading this for Library. RC keen to push ahead with CC newsletter. Next steps, hold a smaller meeting with JR, DA and RE to go through finer details. Hoping to put together a list of contacts for groups who may want to contribute. iii. RC has spoken to Susan Thorburn and there will be a meeting called by the Church held towards the end of January, she will be leading it and is looking for ideas from the community for future uses of the building. iv. Nursery Play House, still awaiting approval to proceed from Fife Council . v. Bank of Scotland closure, Branch has closed but the cash machine is still operable. There will be a banking advice facility provided by Bank of Scotland staff in the library one day a week, but there will be no cash handling , advice only. JB noted that the previous company who had previously contacted us have been in touch again and raising the possibility of a non-charging ATM. JB will copy email to DA and RC. vi. Christmas lights - achieved what the CC had set out to do this year. Work will be necessary to upgrade the power supply boxes for future years. 	

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	<p>vii. Falkland Development group; K Rennie feels there is still a need for an additional car park for the village in addition to any specific provision by Whisky International development. NS has invited Fife Council representative Gordon Mole to these meetings and is pushing for the 'Wee Bank' to be developed as car park however this will not be developed by Estate. Noted that Edge of Village Car Park proposal was one of main outcomes of the Charrette. CC consider that this issue needs to be revisited with the community including businesses due to the time elapsed since charrette and new proposals e.g. Scotch Whisky Development.</p> <p>viii. Community Council Action Plan, JB still to circulate main headline proposals from the charette. Agreed good idea to hold a business meeting outside the CC meeting to review suggestions for the action plan. DY suggested thist be held online. Date to be finalised.</p>	
<p>15 Elected Cllr Issues Cllr Mcdairmid report</p>	<p>i. Should receive confirmation about the defibrillator tomorrow.</p> <p>ii. Rats have been reported and bins emptied.</p> <p>iii. The streetlights outside the nursing home have still to be repaired, have been reported again.</p> <p>iv. Parking on footpath legislation came into force on Monday 11th, waiting on guidance from Fife Council as to what exceptions will be allowed.</p> <p>v. John Smith made contact following up Local Community Grant Application for Newton Hall gutter repairs .</p> <p>vi. Playpark spaces report , Newton Playpark will be retained after community led refurbishment. Falkland Playpark opposite factory site need for upgrade recognised. Newton Myre is intended to be turned into green space.</p> <p>GL reiterated previous concern raised with Cllr McD about the timing / sequencing of the pedestrian crossing lights at the school. To be referred to FC again.</p>	
<p>A.O.C.B</p>	<p>None.</p>	

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th January 2024 7pm Online.