



Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

**Monthly Meeting, 12 January 2021
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, Doug Young, Gordon Honeyman, Kenny Lumsden, John Smith.

Councillors: Cllr David MacDiarmid.

Police: nil.

Residents: James Robertson, Gerry Donnelly, Stuart Hazledean, Betty Gilchrist, Roz Esslemont

2 Apologies for online absence: Gavin Lawson, Cllr Andy Heer, Cllr Donald Lothian (late arrival)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None	None
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	December Minute, Taken by Jim Brown.	Approved
5 Matters arising not otherwise on Agenda	PB asked that it be noted that Irfan Asgar of the Post Office & Village Shop and Raymond the Pharmacist had each been given a copy of the newly published Falkland Society book 'Falkland and its People 1901-1913' in recognition of their services to the community over the course of the epidemic.	
6 Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issues	Kerkyra - RC reminded CC that we had agreed to escalate our dissatisfaction with the handling of this planning application to CEO of FC. PB reported that he and JS, Chair and Vice-Chair of The Falkland Society, had written reasoned objections on several recent planning applications. The remit of The Falkland Society is to do its utmost to advocate for the preservation of the character of Falkland, particularly within the Conservation Area. JS reported that the planning application relating to the construction of a new house to be attached to 'Bridgend', Balmbrae, had been withdrawn pending resubmission. PB raised the issue of the dilapidated state of The Lomond Tavern, and suggested that the CC should be vigilant when listed properties in the Conservation Area were clearly suffering from lack of maintenance and sympathetic attention. The property occupies roughly one-third of the north side of Horsemarket and deserves to be sympathetically restored. JB advised that the building was owned, along with the Bruce Inn and The Stag, by Bruce Taverns of Stirling.	



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<p>7 Falklands Future Implementation</p>	<p>SK advised having received a notice from FC stating that they would be forwarding revised details of their Rewilding initiative, following their consultation process.</p> <p>PB emphasised that ‘One size does not fit all’ in relation to maintenance regimes affecting areas of open land, but urged that the historic burial ground in the heart of the village would be a good fit for a sensitive regime of management which respected nature conservation principles. DY advised that he had been told that few human remains lie in the graveyard, the headstones only having been relocated from Kilgour many years ago.</p> <p>RC advised that NCS had given him an update on the management of the car park at Pillars of Hercules and the proposed car park in Curling Pond Field, and that financial help could be forthcoming but not for signage.</p> <p>RC advised that The Hub cafe has now been closed for the foreseeable future as a result of the stricter conditions imposed by the Government.</p>	
<p>9 Community Council Issues (i)</p>	<p>Office bearers -JB having resigned as interim treasurer, was thanked for his contribution to that office. GH has agreed to assume the post of treasurer, and was warmly welcomed to its responsibilities. PB, having resigned as a full member of the CC, has agreed to remain as a co-opted member for at least six months. This will allow Roz Esslemont to become a full member of Council, proposed by RC seconded by JS and she was also warmly welcomed. RC said how much CC valued PB’s expertise on conservation and historical issues and hoped that CC would always be able to call on that expertise in the future. JB to furnish GH and RE with the necessary documentation to verify their position on the Council.</p> <p>Flood Action - J.S. Nothing to report.</p> <p>Community Council Consultation - Considerable debate took place on this subject, PB suggesting that the main issues that FC seem to be concerned about at this stage relate to boundary matters, not the ‘big issues’ highlighted by Crail CC in their well-expressed memorandum. To all intents and purposes, we are powerless, even though we are a very active CC, to exercise any influence over FC decision-making. SK reported that the continental equivalents of Community Councils have far greater powers in their localities than their UK counterparts. It was agreed that RC, JS, PB, and JB meet to discuss a submission on our behalf. PB encouraged CC to get together with other CCs to present a united front in dealings with FC. With the projected changes in local government the ‘big issues’ should not be neglected. It would be a pity if the Falkland & Newton CC did not</p>	



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(ii)	<p>make a contribution.</p> <p>Cllr David McDiarmid's case reports - Trash screen at entrance to culvert on factory road now replaced. Cllr McD drew CC attention to planning consent that had been applied for as addition to house on Castle Shotts. No issues with the application.</p> <p>Residents issues - BG reiterated her frustration concerning the ownership of the road at Balmbrae and its repair and maintenance. Road not gritted, potholes etc. Also bins not collected week before last. RC stated that the whole Town had been affected by the ice and snow, and not just Balmbrae. Cllr McD stated his concerns concerning health and safety of Council employees especially during times when roads generally are seen as unsafe following inclement weather, but also stated that he was 'On the case'. Cllr McD defended FC gritting procedure.</p>	
10 AOCB	There was no other business.	

11 - Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 9 February 2021 - Virtual meeting