



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

**Minute of Meeting 9 March 2021  
held at 7pm via conference call due to lockdown Covid-19  
(public invited to attend)**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Rod Crawford (Chair), Gordon Honeyman, Stuart Knowles, Jim Brown, John Smith, Douglas Young, Peter Burman, Roz Esslemont, Lauren Ballantine (minutes)

**Councillors:** Cllr D Lothian (joined later), Cllr D MacDiarmid

**Police:** nil

**Residents:**2

**Apologies for online absence:** Gavin Lawson, Cllr Andy Heer.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	February minute, taken by Jim Brown, approved.	Noted
5 Matters arising not otherwise on Agenda	Fountain water supply issues.	Item will be added under CC Issues
6 Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issues	(i) No new planning applications. (ii) Cllr Mcd . queried status of application for wall at Maspie Cottage. JS noted this was low wall proposed at Maspie Cottage at bottom of Mill Wynd as flood mitigation measure . JB noted that permission had been approved, no further action.	
7 Falkland's Future Project	Chair asked JB/SK for update. SK noted meeting held with Sustrans and Fife Roads/ Transportation on 25/02, reviewed revised brief for Concept Re-design concentrating on Key Interventions to improve safer routes to school and pedestrian access. Tender invitations to go out to 3 consultants to come back on 2 <sup>nd</sup> April with timescale of end of May for studies. Sustrans have new Project representative, Chris Caldwell. JB noted Interventions covered in study will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduction of 20mph speed limit at Newton Road and Pleasance with physical interventions that will make it self-policing e.g. textured crossings. Mini roundabout retained and made more obvious. Another possible crossing proposed further down closer to Lomond Crescent.</li> <li>East Port junction improvements, bus stops at East Port, improved with Pedestrian crossings and bus shelters if</li> </ul>	



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	<p>practicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of footway improvements and crossings on High Street.</li> <li>• Improve High Street West to make a reasonable footway on at least one side of the road. Involves traffic calming measures to allow traffic to be regulated.</li> <li>• Modal Filter at South Street/Back Wynd and Horsemarket junction. Restrict flow of cars in certain directions but allow pedestrians and cycles to pass through.</li> </ul> <p>Mainly ideas from charette but reduced and simplified scope. JS queried if study looking at mini roundabout at school, would explore potential for taking some land from what will be new chemist premises JB noted that Fife Council had advised that Sustrans attitude is that unless there are firm arrangements to procure land in place, then they are reluctant to support, so difficult. Raymond has been approached but land ownership could complicate and delay matters.</p> <p>Marjon (resident opposite East Port) commented lower speed limit and crossing at East Port would be major improvement. JB noted that Fife Council have advised that they have no funding available. This is the reason we are working with Sustrans who are acting on behalf of Transport Scotland who do have funding. One of the aims is safer routes to school, the other is improvements to critical junctions. These are the elements for which 70% funding can be available but funding for construction is not likely to be available before 2022 at the earliest.</p>	
<p>8 (i) Community Council Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Election of officers etc. - NTR .</li> <li>b) Update website with new roles and add pictures.</li> <li>c) Questions raised on Falkland social media sites asking about minutes – agreed to upload with “Draft” watermark when they are available.</li> <li>d) Flood Action Group . JS - nothing to report except zoom meeting with National advisory body, they have a mobile demonstration unit to show what mitigation devices are available for local use.</li> <li>e) Bruce Fountain. Restoration of Water Flow. DY – noted that several members of public are asking what was happening, can water just not be diverted back to spring water. Chair, noted that meetings had been held last year with Fife Council officers which exhaustively covered the</li> </ul>	<p>Work in progress.</p>



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difficulties. Water charges are very high for use (£1000+ for 2/3 months) Fife Council would take the money from Falkland Common Good Fund so switched water off to preserve fund.

Falkland Society expressed real interest in helping as charities potentially exempt from water rates but Covid hit, everything went quiet, so not a lot of developments. PB confirmed still sympathetic to the idea that Falkland Society should be about more than publications and lectures. Provision in trust deed so general that it is allowed to do anything as long as it benefits heritage of Falkland.

Chair noted this issue is becoming urgent as visitors will be coming back to the village and will want to see water. JB noted Conservation issue. Current system wastes of large amounts of treated water.

JS noted as it was drinking fountain the water has to be potable, source from somewhere else would be difficult. Could be controlled by push button or valve on spout to reduce waste. Water goes into the sewer.

JB - Previously discussed with Fife Council utilities department and local community planning officer, concerned about waste water, charity may be able to get exclusion from paying water rates but Scottish Water company who now supply commercially will probably object to allowing free supply of water to be poured straight into sewer. Expect push back. Number of suggestions put forward. Similar fountains in Fife with recycling arrangement. Having additional separate modern drinking fountains installed on fountain so would also be potable water. Old legacy installation would be water feature only. Would have to be clearly labelled.

PB - keen on recycling option from environmental viewpoint, irresponsible to do anything different. Sub-committee to review and then propose preferred solution at next meeting.

f) St Johns Works site. Stakeholders meeting agreed to investigate options available for possible community 'right to buy' but no options available as site still formally on market. There is support for greater community involvement for what happens on the site. Agreed to approach Michael Longstaff for meeting to ask what Smith-Anderson intentions are in medium term, sound out if



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	<p>open to community involvement. Cllr D MacDiarmid to attend meeting. Possible access to funds through community land fund.</p> <p>g) Wall Damage etc.. DY - noted three items of damage that Fife Council need to get remediated. Pillar at Newton, road down to Lathrisk has fallen onto path causing pedestrians to walk on road. Vehicle has caused damaged verge at bus stop (East Port onto Pleasance) resident ( Marjon) has put up board as temporary measure. Worried that bad weather would cause soil to come down. Unclear who land belongs to, Fife Council have said not them. Wall damage at East Port from Morrison's delivery van. Difficult to find contact at Morrisons for action. Secretary /Chair to try again to contact Morrisons for remedial action.</p>	
<p>8 (ii)Cllr D MacDiarmid's case reports</p>	<p>Specific mention was made of the following items:</p> <p>a) Road Safety – Email sent to Fife Council for the mini roundabout. School's back, safety important, markings almost non-existent, ignored by traffic at least have re-painted. Pleasance safety been a priority and to regret very little been put in place to make safer for pedestrians. JBnoted this item is on priority list with Sustrans / Fife Council R &amp; T and Cllr McD is welcome to attend meetings.</p> <p>b) Playpark equipment installed at Balmbrae, damage made to banking at edge of park by heavy trucks. Never repaired and now eroding into burn.</p> <p>c) New bench at Brunton Green – would like old one left as it was modified.</p> <p>d) Scottish Water to reconvene cancelled meeting at top park – dye water at culvert to find where it comes out. Malcolm Cuttle to get back on dates.</p> <p>e) Reported bins at Balmbrae not being collected. Reply was, there had been a spike in breakdowns affecting the smaller lorries.</p> <p>Chair ? – questions/ issues for Cllr McD?</p> <p>f) DY – assessment of Newton road pillar.</p> <p>g) RM – 'Road closed' signs to be uplifted at the hill road beside Millfield House.</p> <p>h) JB noted Papers received for N E Fife Local Committee meeting listing capital footway/road works being</p>	<p>Bins were serviced.</p>



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	considered. One of items covers Back Dykes, any update? Cllr McD, was hoping to get work done this year but more likely be next year. Concerned that budgeted amount is low and wants to make sure proper repairs are proposed	
9 (iii) Residents' Issues	Resident - James Robertson – Observation – surprised by the occurrence of very large vehicle accessing Estate Home farm via West Port, residents had to move cars to make room. Builder working at West Port commented he had been actively using smaller vehicles so wouldn't cause a blockage. Shows some people making an effort. HGV notice beside Fayre Earth should be more prominent and should be changed to standard road sign if possible.	
10 A.O.C.B.	None	None

**Next Meeting: 7pm - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Virtual meeting**