



Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

**Minute of Meeting May 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, Roz Esslemont, Gavin Lawson, Kenny Lumsden, Peter Burman (joined later)
Lauren Ballantine (minutes)

Councillors: Cllr D Lothian, Cllr D MacDiarmid **Police:** nil **Residents:**3

Apologies for online absence: None

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	April minute, taken by Lauren Ballantine, Chair noted that Minutes should be kept brief (around 6 pages) and should be published 1- 2 weeks after meeting to meet funding requirement from WMT.	Approved. Noted.
5 Matters arising not otherwise on Agenda	<p>KL noted that drones had been sighted flying around Castle Park area, and queried if there was any reason for this or if they had been noticed anywhere else? No information available but it was noted local resident was understood to have drone. Could be potential source of nuisance.</p> <p>It was noted that Community Hall bookings can be made from 17th May and issue was raised as to what this will mean for full CC meetings taking place in public instead of virtual. Still many aspects to consider to be Covid safe. JS noted certain benefits for continuing to hold zoom/teams meetings but these are not easily accessible for all members of the public. Hybrid meetings with some in person attendance and some virtual attendance are likely to be too complicated. Chair will circulate email with information and ask for opinions about how to move forward. Next meeting will remain virtual.</p>	Noted
6 Planning, Listed Building and Conservation Issue	<p>(i) No new planning matters arising.</p> <p>(ii) Regarding Kerkyra application handling complaint, CC will hold a session in-camera at the end of the meeting to discuss next steps and if Ombudsman complaint is the right route to take.</p>	



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<p>7 Falkland's Future Project</p>	<p>Chair asked JB/SK for update. Studies by consultants OP EN /Sweco are now in progress. No real changes to report since last meeting. OP EN should have produced outline concept designs by the early next week for review by Fife Council, Sustrans and CC. This will then be subject to transportation analysis and Road Safety Audit and finalised concept re-design and report issued by Early June.</p> <p>Some possible proposals may be trialled on a temporary basis to check they are viable. This could include temporary one way priority flow measures at the Pleasance and filtered permeability at Horsemarket /Back Wynd / South St junction.</p> <p>Public consultation on the concept proposals will be undertaken before any trials are carried out. If concept agreed a detailed design phase could be carried out from September onwards subject to Sustrans approval.</p>	
<p>8 Police Update</p>	<p>Chair noted that Community Police have changed their reporting during Covid to 3 monthly report. This had been received recently with low reported crime for the wider area, nothing too serious or concerning for Falkland .</p> <p>Contacts are now PCs Mark Low or Kirsty Haddow via community team at Cupar Police Station.</p>	
<p>9 Community Council Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Bruce Fountain. PB Noted that no reply to email sent to ARC architects has been received yet. Will continue to pursue. (ii) Flood action group. JS noted that FAG will need to apply officially to Fife Council local planning budget for funding for an additional flood level receiver for Gardeners Cottage which has now been sold by NTS. Fife Council have already agreed in principle to fund, just need to fill out the form. No cost to CC. (iii) Tree planting. Discussion about coordination of trees being planted, need details of a plan as nothing coming to fruition yet. Ask for an update from East Loan tree group (Scott McIntosh and Ian Husband). N Stuart noted that Sam Docherty , ranger on the Estate can be consulted for advice pro-bono on types of trees to be planted. (iv) Gordon Honeyman has given notice that he will be standing down from the Community Council probably with effect after the June meeting as he is moving away from the area. 	<p>JB to action.</p> <p>JB to email.</p>



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Chair thanked GH for his role and noted that he had been a valued and active member of CC since joining as a co-opted member advising on St Johns Works site issues.

Chair asked any members interest in the Treasurers role to contact him.

Currently one community member has expressed an interest in joining the community council JB noted that FC recommendation isto advertise vacancies and see who comes forward. This should also be done for Newton vacancies.

(v) Bike park update. Some confusion regarding two different responses from Rebound regarding the fact-finding meeting requested by CC. First response was in agreement to meeting but follow up response regarding date and time was less positive.

RC will contact Rebound to clarify.

N Stuart stated that this matter has gone on for considerable amount of time, looking to bring issue to a close ASAP. CC were invited to attend meeting on 23rd April. JB noted that key CC personnel were not available but NS proceeded anyway. Meeting was attended by Rebound and FET attendees plus one other only.

Falkland Estate Trust are looking to have an organisation which can control and manage the bike trails which have existed for 12/13 years. Do not want it to be extended or expanded, can manage that through lease arrangements.

JB noted that NS had stated he had no objection to CC holding a meeting with Rebound, CC had asked NS to attend but he declined.

NS noted Estate holding ownership responsibility for liaising with potential tenant. Keen to hear CC's concerns. Open to transparent process but don't want it to drag on.

Chair objected to situation being characterised as CC holding up process. CC are trying to hold a meeting with Rebound. FET only want to hold facilitated meeting hosted by them under their control. CC requirement is direct fact finding meeting with Rebound. CC have been attempting to clarify this situation for many months without satisfactory responses.

NS confirmed he is keen to work constructively with CC.

RC indicated CC will also discuss future actions in regards to the bike park in the closed session at the end of this meeting..



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<p>10 Cllr D MacDiarmid's report</p>	<p>Specific mention was made of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Backdykes, roads and pathways resurfacing, earmarked for 22/23, continuing to put pressure to bring works forward at least a year. GL raised issue of potholes - how cost effective is it that they are not being fixed properly. Cllr McD noted issue is not under his control. (ii) Mini roundabout and all four junctions have been repainted for safety. (iii) Rick Haines of FC had been out to look at the damaged banking at the entrance road to Bamblae playpark. Banking was damaged when the playpark equipment was being installed. Not keen to shore up banking, as not enough budget and the part of the road concerned does not belong to FC. Question ownership of this part? NS confirmed that the land in question does not belong to the Estate. Also looked at leaky barrier beyond the park, hoping to have new, more substantial barrier put in. JS noted that one of the issues at planning application stage was that FC would rectify any damages caused by the works. FC have gone back on agreement. Any subsequent flooding will further erode the bank, maintenance vehicles will then not get through. FC caused damage, responsibility to fix it is on them. (iv) FC have confirmed that Gentleman who has been parked overnight in Library carpark cannot be legally moved on. (v) Wall damage at Newton has been reported, still awaiting response. (vi) Old Brunton Green bench has been re-installed at Back Dykes. 	
<p>11 Residents' Issues</p>	<p>Resident JR reiterated Concerns about previously mentioned potholes particularly in West Port.</p> <p>Resident SH. Confusion as to what is planned for the bike park from a resident's point of view. JB noted that the last response from Ryan Steele said Rebound would not enter into any lease unless a planning agreement for a "Certificate of Lawful Use" was obtained by Falkland Estate. JB queried if Estate are making moves to get this for trails? NS stated short answer is no and he has no knowledge of this. He is looking for a real clarification meeting. JB. noted this is also what CC are requiring.</p>	



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<p>A.O.C.B.</p>	<p>Chair noted that he had been approached by resident of Back Wynd concerned about children playing in the burn at the playpark as there appears to be a discharge of effluent. JS, answering on behalf of the estate stated that the burn does not contain raw sewage, its only effluent discharge from the septic tank, this is the smell. SEPA have confirmed that they are satisfied with the arrangement.</p> <p>JB queried if there was any objection to starting a Community Council Facebook page which will be used to make announcements and comments on other issues from the CC through other FB pages e.g Falkland Residents Have Your Say Any feelings against? Proposal was supported without objection but DY noted he will not be involved in administration of this.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>JB to action set up.</p>
	<p>At the closed session of Community Councillors held at conclusion of the meeting, the following was resolved.</p> <p>Kerkyra Planning Application complaint. Recourse to an Ombudsman complaint process is unlikely to achieve any overall benefit. JB and PB to meet to explore if any alternate process can be found to express concerns to Fife Council management.</p> <p>Bike Park proposal, CC consider that a proper planning process is required and will continue to push for direct meeting with Rebound for fact finding purposes.</p>	

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th June - 7pm - Virtual meeting