



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

**Minute of Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
held at 7pm via conference call due to lockdown Covid-19  
(public invited to attend)**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Present:** Rod Crawford (Chair), Stuart Knowles, Jim Brown, John Smith, Douglas Young, Peter Burman, Gavin Lawson  
Lauren Ballantine (minutes)

**Councillors:** Cllr A Heer, Cllr D MacDiarmid

**Police:** nil

**Residents:**3

**Apologies for online absence:** Roz Esslemont, Kenny Lumsden, Cllr D Lothian,

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	None.	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	June minute, taken by Lauren Ballantine approved.	Approved.
5 Matters arising not on the agenda	DY wished to raise issue of grass cutting/rewilding, chair agreed to discuss under Community Council Issues.	
6 Correspondence	Notification received from FC of consultation process for Fireworks regulations. JS queried status of letter to FC regarding insurance, JB confirmed this was sent to FC Risk Management but still awaiting reply Chair noted letter from Mark Ruskell, MSP Green party MSP for this area, reaching out and offering help to Community Councils.	JB continue to follow up
7 Planning, listed building and conservation issues	JB. No significant new applications. Only one application for non-material change to huts in Cash Wood.  PB. Re discussion at last CC meeting over inviting F Fisher to attend a meeting to discuss possible update of Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Propose for September/ October. Chair requested PB to take lead on this.  JB noted the issue of inconsistent and onerous planning decisions in the recent period and how we could raise our concerns on this with FC., JS agreed and noted unreasonable requirements at the Masonic Lodge development and also at Lawson's garage beside the golf course. GL felt CC should provide more support to applicants on these cases. No other general planning or conservation issues to report.	PB  Comment noted.



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<p>8 Falklands Future - Sustrans PFE Project</p>	<p>Chair requested update from JB/SK Debriefing meeting was held on stage 2, concept design studies. with consultants, OP-EN, Sweco, FC Roads department and Sustrans. All parties ok with concept proposals. FC signed off on Stage 1 road safety audit. Next stage is to develop consultation materials to be presented to the community. Meeting to be held with Sustrans to discuss change request for additional budget for extra consultation materials such as three-dimensional previews of some proposed items. Will also discuss funding for a tree survey. Looking at program for the way ahead, envisaging consultation taking place in August/September, if all goes ok moving onto more detailed design phase in October/November. Looking at both online and face-to-face consultation. There may be a series of smaller consultation events so that they can be more focussed on specific resident groups. Sustrans would like to have a detailed consultation meeting with FC elected members. Chair commented plan of having focus meetings for each area is very good and can help overcome difficulties faced with having large public meeting.</p>	
<p>9 Police Update</p>	<p>RC. Circulated police report, first one in some time but will now be on a three-monthly basis. Falkland – 15 calls over the report period in relation to theft, threatening and abusive behaviour and assistance for the public. 2 recorded crimes, one for theft and one for a domestic incident.</p>	
<p>10 Community Council Issues</p>	<p>(i) Fountain. RC, JB and PB met to review status. PB gave briefing on four main points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key element in the conservation area, people come to visit, and residents enjoy.</li> <li>• Maintenance. As a community treasure, most important to keep it in good repair. Has relevance to any changes in the High St as had been damaged in the past.</li> <li>• Water. Not simple to agree on a solution. Option 1. As an example – Moffat high street has a famous drinking fountain, faced with our same problem so now have recycled water which gives the sound and sight of the water. They have a neat sign to say “not drinking water”. Option 2. Cllr McD &amp; JS exploring, is to revert to previous arrangement and somehow have water which is drinkable at no cost.</li> </ul>	



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	<p>Concern that this gets talked about for a long time and issues are not resolved, therefore recommending inviting ARC Architects who supervised last repairs to propose a solution.</p> <p>Cllr McD noted he had received reply from Scottish Water suggesting to look at charity exemption scheme, for a charity to take ownership of the fountain and get waiver of water charges. JB noted this had already been investigated, applies to SCIO charitable organisations. It would require a legal process involving FC and courts as Fountain is defined as 'common good' asset. Falkland Society does not currently have the power to own a building and is not SCIO. Previously also discussed with Community Development Trust but no positive response. Propose to Invite Development Trust and War Memorial Trust to attend a meeting.</p> <p>RC noted the Environmental issue, as water was being wasted. Supporting recycling option would solve this. FC have previously commented that 'charitable' option is discretionary and may not be allowed to water wastage.</p> <p>Propose PB to get in touch with ARC for research and guidance and obtain cost for proposed study.</p> <p>(ii) Flood Action Group. John Brown queried status of Falkland Flood Action group concerns over insurance. Should FAG continue with meetings? JB has asked FC to provide copy of insurance cover and tried to contact risk management department. Seeking clarity and waiting to hear back. Flood Action group is an advisory body. It is a wider group involving more members of community plus representatives of Falkland Estate and representatives of CC and reports back with developments. Chair noted genuine concerns from FAG, given situation in Freuchie. Waiting to hear back from FC and will continue to follow up.</p> <p>(iii) Bike Park update. Last CC meeting noted that next step was likely to be three-way meeting with CC, Rebound and the Estate. Now scheduled for 14/07/21. As a CC, we made it clear we want to have</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>PB to make contact</p>



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	<p>meeting with Rebound representatives but still no clarification they will be attending.</p> <p>(iv) Community Council Vacancies. 2 vacancies in Newton, 1 in Falkland have been advertised, 3 notes of interest. 2 from Falkland, 1 from Newton. Discussion about how to take forward. Chair has contacted Wendy McGregor, FC Democratic Services, waiting to hear back if flexibility could be made to vary the Falkland /Newton composition. Will wait to hear back before moving forward with selection process.</p> <p>(v) Proposed CC Facebook page - NTR.</p> <p>(vi) Letter regarding condition of the Lomond Tavern. Some minor adjustments required to letter already drafted. All in agreement a letter to go out. Repairs notice from FC, could be appropriate although used more for safety and not aesthetic cases. Cllr. McD to review with FC Public health issue makes it urgent.</p> <p>(vii) War Memorial. John Brown (Former CC Chair) noted that the CC set up the committee to have the War Memorial erected, group then disbanded, Noted that responsibility for upkeep of the war memorial lies with CC. Current Community council were not aware of this JS noted potential Insurance implications for CC. JB stated Brunton Green is owned by FC, firstly need to clarify with FC Estates who has ownership of the memorial.</p> <p>(viii) Grass Cutting. DY proposed asking FC for Falkland to opt out of FC re-wilding scheme. Discussion over support for re-wilding, principals very strong but not what's happening in the village. Large areas being left over-grown with perennial weeds, not as envisaged. Cllr Heer noted that FC Grounds maintenance manager, Colin Davidson, was amenable to suggestions. Chair will invite CD to Falkland to review, speak about concerns.</p> <p>(ix) DY noted that access to Melville Recycling centre being kept as is, shocked as fly tipping is bad just now. Cllr. Heer noted that FC Administration wanted to keep booking system in place. Proposal to remove restriction for 3 visits a week, or 1 with a 4x4, was turned down. Another member tried for amendment</p>	<p>Cllr McD to investigate.</p>



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	<p>to keep booking sytem at peak times only, this was turned down too. There will be series of working groups to look at what could be done about regulations. Report will come back in September.</p> <p>JS will draft a letter about CC concern.</p>	JS
<p>11 Cllr McDermaid's case report</p>	<p>(i) Back Dykes Road condition. Two options, first is for quicker patching which will be temporary and mean less likely to get extensive repair at the end of the financial year which is the second option. Trying to push forward and go for the more extensive repairs. Will forward email that explains action plan. DY to share on CC website.</p> <p>(ii) Ladywell Burn, resident has suggested diverting before culvert entry directly down to A912. Discussion about effects of this as water currently runs in culvert under village and re-emerges behind golf course entrance road.</p> <p>(iii) Open Gardens, Chair thanked Cllr. McD for arranging street tidy up.</p> <p>(iv) Leaky Barrier, have raised about ownership and liability, now in the hands of Ross Speirs, main flooding engineer at FC, waiting for reply.</p> <p>(v) Cobbles outside Fayre Earth, reply from FC in agreement that they should be better looked after.</p> <p>(vi) Steven Templeton from Scottish Water, re site visit at East Loan. Misunderstanding in first email, still waiting for further response.</p> <p>(vii) Recent walkabouts have been successful. FC would like to attend the next one. Cllr McD, reluctant for them to attend.</p>	Cllr McD to follow up
<p>12 Residents Issue</p>	<p>Chair proposed that in future, Resident's Issues should be moved earlier in the agenda so that residents to not have to sit through whole meeting to raise single issue. Agreed.</p> <p>Resident raised issue about ongoing dispute with FC regarding proposed vehicle access to allow for electric vehicle charging at property owned by resident at Back Dykes Terrace. Seeking advice from CC for how to move forward.</p>	Cllr Heer to meet with resident.
<p>13 A.O.C.B</p>	<p>JS asked Councillors if it was correct that plastic recycling was being loaded into same lorry as landfill and no longer recycled.</p>	



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	<p>Cllr Heer gave update on current bin service disruption and will investigate JS query.</p> <p>Chair proposed that Community Council should have a recess in August as per previous practice.. CC can still act / respond if issues arise. Agreed next meeting will be held in September. Consideration will be given to resumption of face to face meetings subject to Covid restrictions.</p>	

**Next Meeting: 7pm - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Venue and Format T.B.C.**