



Royal Burgh of Falkland & Newton of Falkland Community Council

**Minute of Meeting – 12th July 2022
held at 7pm at Falkland Community Hall
(public invited to attend)**

Welcome from Chair

Present: Rod Crawford, Jim Brown, Roz Esslemont, John Smith, David Anderson, Stuart Knowles, Kieran Allan, Doug Young.

Minutes - Lauren Ballantine.

Councillors: Cllr D. McDiarmid, Cllr D. Lothian **Police:** nil **Residents:** nil

Apologies for absence: Peter Burman, Gavin Lawson

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | Welcome from chair | |
| 2 Declarations of new Interest | None. | |
| 3 Minute of Previous Meeting | PB had given written clarification regarding sub-group to be set up by CC with participation from Development Trust to review potential alternative futures for the Church building if Church of Scotland confirm disposal. Subject to above comment, minutes agreed. | Approved |
| 4 Matters arising not on the agenda | Christmas Lights: 'Blachere' have contacted JS offering to provide services for Christmas lights display, they may also be working with NTS. JB noted that it was previously agreed that current lights need to be professionally inspected and tested as a priority action. JS to enquire if Blachere can provide testing service, JB keen to also ask other suitable companies for comparison pricing. | |
| 5 Community Police Update | Police report for June circulated. 16 calls relating to Falkland, 1 recorded crime – assault. | |
| 6 Special Agenda Item: various potential major | In addition to proposals coming forward from Scotch Whisky Investments for St Johns Works Site, CC Office bearers have also been made aware of potential major developments proposed for the village by NTS and | |



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| <p>development plans for Falkland</p> | <p>Falkland Estate. Chair noted the need to obtain outlines of all plans so that the community can be made aware of all significant proposals in the pipeline for the village before people have to respond to individual consultations on the various schemes. All agreed necessity for 'holistic; approach. To date, office bearers have held discussions as follows; (note – these were commercially confidential at the time and we have been working to obtain agreement to release information)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) National Trust – RC and JB met with NTS Chief Executive, Philip Long and others in November 2021 to see outline of NTS plans for the Palace. These would make the Palace pivotal to the NTS and the main focus for Fife. Proposals at this stage potentially include car park and new visitor centre. (ii) St Johns Works site (formerly Smith Anderson factory) – Scotch Whisky Investments (Dutch owned) have proposed mixed use whisky museum development, including a global headquarters building ,accommodation suites with hospitality facilities, museum, library and education centre. SWI local director – Keith Rennie, keen to explore proposals with community. Further meeting with SWI on 21/7 – JB, RC and RE to attend. SWI keen to meet regularly and to explore how the proposal would affect the village. Developer has submitted formal PAN notice to FC with consultation with community proposed for 2nd August online and September 14th in person. (iii) Falkland Estate are proposing changes in their ownership structure with sale/transfer to community based or third sector organisation. Estate are also closely coordinated with NTS proposed developments and are understood to be considering potential new access routes and car parking integrated with NTS scheme. (iv) CC are continuing to develop traffic and pedestrian proposals in association with Sustrans but these are currently on hold pending clarification of other developers proposals <p>After discussion with developers, it is proposed to initiate a development coordination group to explore proposals and host a joint community event highlighting the extent of all proposals together. The development group would consist of representatives of SWI, NTS and Estate with CC office holders and chair of Community Development Trust. This proposal was agreed unanimously.</p> | |



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| 7 Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Historic Environment Scotland – Notice of grant funding available for heritage related projects and schemes, discussion held with NTS and Estate, scheme seems mainly focused on education and skills training. Estate intend to follow up. (ii) Community First Responder Scheme , local group enquiring if anyone in the village is interested. This already publicised on social media by others (iii) Planning Democracy Scotland– requesting CC survey feedback on the planning system in Scotland. (iv) Formal notice of Scotch Whisky Investments plans for Factory site. (v) Falkland Community Development Trust – Asking for a letter of support for funding to improve the facilities/layout of hall/library.. | |
| 8 Planning, Listed Buildings and Conservation | PAN notice issued by Scotch Whisky Investments – the Weekly list indicates FC have approved the proposed PAN consultation procedure subject to “additional consultation”. JB to contact FC for clarification of “additional consultation” requirement. | JB |
| 9 Falkland’s Future-Sustrans PFE | Currently on hold nearing completion of Stage 2-Concept redesign. We should have gone forward to public consultations by this point but this is held pending clarification of the other development proposals relating to the village. Development Group to be briefed on current Sustrans PFE proposals. Mtg with FC officers to be arranged via John Mitchell of FC. | |
| 10 Residents Issues | None. | |
| 11 Community Council Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Fountain - Still waiting for feedback from Scottish Water regarding new style Drinking Water Tap. Possibility of connecting fountain to hill spring to be evaluated separately (not by SW) but this would not be classed as drinking water. ii) Flood Action Group. JS and NS have discussed a move towards decommissioning existing leaky barrier and replacing with new brash screen further up the estate. iii) Benches – Cllr McD, RC, JB & Roger Honeyman from FC had a mtg to review where to place benches. | RC to make contact |



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| <p>12 Cllr McDiarmid Report</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Benches – 8 have been ordered. FC will install free of charge. Community payback team requested to refresh existing wooden bench outside Bank. ii) Newton playpark – FC will supply materials for replacement of roundabout skirt panels, C Esslemont ‘volunteered’ to install. iii) Entente Florale signs in bad condition– Cllr McD considers these give prestige to the village, will push for signs to be repaired. Some concern that this may no longer be appropriate as village no longer participates in floral competitions. iv) Back Dykes resurfacing will begin 28/8/22 v) Castle Park – working with DY / Gardening Group to source and price suitable planters, Quote for 3 barrels to be given to WMT. Outside tap should arrive in 6 weeks. vi) 1 Walker Trust house is coming up for let in September, it will be advertised in the press. (Ideal candidate is 60+, independent with strong links to the village). vii) Complaint from resident about sewage effluent in the burn behind Stables. JS responded for Stewardship Trust that there is no sewage leakage, only normal liquid carryover from Septic Tank | |
| <p>13 Elected Members Issues</p> | <p>Cllr DL – reported back from meeting between Auchtermuchty CC and Auchtermuchty Health Centre, a good meeting with 2 GP’s and practice manager. Main issue is that they are very short staffed. They are receptive to having more engagement with local CC’s.</p> | |
| <p>14 A.O.C.B</p> | <p>JS – Suggestion for incorporation of a rolling list of actions from walkabouts as additional agenda item that can be worked through at meetings. Chair recommended sticking to the current agenda structure as much as possible and items can be added to this where necessary.</p> <p>Chair – proposed having a summer break for month of August reconvening in September. Agreed unanimously.</p> | |

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th September, 2022 at 7:00 pm in Falkland Community Hall