



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

### Minute of Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 held at 7pm at Falkland Community Hall (public invited to attend)

#### Welcome from Chair,

**Present:** Rod Crawford, Jim Brown, David Anderson, Jack Reekie, Roz Esslemont p/t, Tara O’Leary p/t  
Minutes – Lauren Ballantine

**Councillors:** Cllr McDiarmid                      **Police:** nil                      **Residents: 2** (RE and TOL as candidates)

**Apologies for absence:** Gavin Lawson, Doug Young, Stuart Knowles, Cllr Holt

#### Outstanding Council Vacancies

- I. At the previous meeting it was noted that there were two outstanding vacancies for full Council members (elected members) for Falkland and 2 vacancies for Newton of Falkland. After advertising the vacancies, two nominees had come forward in respect of the Falkland Vacancies. Roz Esslemont (previously CC Secretary) had confirmed her willingness to continue on the council and Tara O’Leary had also come forward. It had originally been intended that candidates would address the council during this meeting and that the council would choose and approve the successful candidates in a closed session at the end of this meeting. JB proposed that due to the candidates being the only residents in attendance at the meeting, this process should be carried out at the commencement of the meeting. Seconded by the RC, agreed unanimously.
- II. The candidates briefly addressed the council summarising their reasons for standing for the vacant positions. JB proposed that both candidates should be approved as councillors. Seconded by DA, approved unanimously. Roz Esslemont and Tara O’Leary were duly appointed and joined the meeting.
- III. RC then nominated Roz Esslemont for the vacant position of Vice Chair, JB seconded, unanimously agreed.
- IV. JB also proposed that Stuart Knowles should be re-appointed as a co-opted (non-voting) council member due to his specialist professional knowledge on traffic, road safety and active travel issues. SK had confirmed his interest in continuing as a co-opted member. Seconded by RC. Approved unanimously

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
3 Declarations of new Interest	RC confirmed he is a Director of Fife Climate Action Network of which the CC is an affiliated member.	
4 Minute of Previous Meeting	Agreed as correct record and approved.	Approved.
5 Matters arising not on the agenda	Debrief of Remembrance Sunday activities added to CC issues.	
6 National Trust Update	RC had circulated update. RC has also shared this to community via social media.	Noted

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<p>7 Police Update</p>	<p>Report circulated to CC members. 18 calls. 4 recorded crimes. 2 dishonesty, 1 disorder, 1 Sheep worrying.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>8 Correspondence</p>	<p>I. Email received and circulated re programme of training for CC office bearers. Now postponed until January 2024. II. Letter received from commercial organisation about developing a 'Town Trail' App for Falkland. No support for using outside company for this. Could be something that the CC do themselves in conjunction with the Falkland Society. DA and JR to review. II. Email from Peter Burman forwarding communication from 'Tayscreen' organisation inviting participation in online conference regarding media production and opportunities from filming locations etc.</p>	<p>RC will make initial contact with FS.</p>
<p>9 Falklands Future Developments – Places for Everyone Projects</p>	<p>Nothing significant to report, JB and SK to meet with Sustrans contact on 16/11/2023.to review status</p>	
<p>10 Planning, Listed Building, Conservation Issues</p>	<p>Whinstone – CC have submitted objection to short term let licence to Regulation and Licensing Committee. No other significant planning applications or issues.</p>	
<p>11 Residents Issues</p>	<p>Cllr McD has received a request from the family for siting of a memorial bench for Mike Watson. He proposed location outside the Bank. The family are willing to fully fund this and like the proposed location. CC unanimously support this request, Cllr McD will take it forward.</p>	<p>Cllr McD</p>
<p>12 Flood Action Group</p>	<p>No representatives present. Meeting held on 13/11/23, Cllr McD summarised what was discussed. New Brash Screen / Leaky barrier - asked when this is going to be installed by FC. No date fixed yet. Drain gullies aren't being cleared properly – a walkabout will be held between Cllr McD and FAG representatives to review. Storm Drain Pipework under Cross Wynd outside Fayre Earth is weak and requires remedial action. No update from FC. Sewage leaks on Back Dykes Terrace/ East Loan have been repaired by Scottish Water.</p>	
<p>13 Community Council Issues</p>	<p>i. Scotch Whisky International – no update. ii. Community newsletter – JR, proposed having an annual report to the community which could go out in January and also having a</p>	

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	<p>seasonal updates. JB tabled copy of the “Muchty Matters” newsletter that is produced in Auchtermuchty and Dunshelt. RE will contact Alex Simpson to find out about the newsletter proposed by the FCDT / Community Library. Working on a single joint community newsletter with all interested community groups would be the preferred way forward.</p> <p>iii. School Nursery Equipment, Playhouse had been ordered but delivery suspended due to Fife Council approval required. RE to follow up with School/nursery</p> <p>iv. Bank of Scotland closure, a company has been in contact with CC about providing an ATM, but this would charge for withdrawals. Agreed not to follow up at this stage.</p> <p>v. Christmas lights, JB has procured replacement lights for tree but unhappy with quality so will order better specification. Hopefully they will be on before the last Wednesday in November (late night shopping).</p> <p>vi. Development Group meeting (CC, Scotch Whisky International, NTS, Falkland Estate and FC Economic Planning) has been delayed until 20<sup>th</sup> November. RC and JB will attend.</p> <p>vii. Community Council Action Plan – develop a set of targets/priorities for the next year. JB will circulate Charette information and discuss at the next meeting.</p> <p>viii. Planning subcommittee, This is an FC recommendation for CC’s to ensure timely processing– specifically looking at planning applications for Falkland. JB, TOL and DA willing to form this subcommittee. All agreed</p> <p>ix. Remembrance Sunday –ceremony went ahead as planned with high attendance and biggest ever wreath laying. Congratulations to David Anderson for his first time organising and conducting the event with guidance from John Smith. CC noted its appreciation to John Smith for his many previous years’ service in this role.</p>	RE
<p>14 Elected Cllr Issues Cllr McDairmid report</p>	<p>i) Potholes repaired on A912.</p> <p>ii) Reported lights out, outside the nursing home.</p> <p>iii) Reported light out along West Port.</p> <p>iv) Asked for a ramp leading up to library.</p> <p>v) Reported dead rodents in a resident garden.</p> <p>vi) Reported gulley’s, hoping to get a walkabout.</p> <p>vii) Ponding at Newton has been reported, agreed to off let cutting/ditching work.</p> <p>viii) No update on defibrillator.</p> <p>ix) 20mph on The Pleasance and a build out should be happening soon, its in the programme of works.</p>	
<p>15 A.O.C.B</p>	<p>RC brought to Cllr McD’s attention that card payment machine not working at the public toilets. Retail traders are having to provide Visitors at their own cost with small change to use the facilities.</p>	Cllr Mc’D

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm to be held Online.**

Access details will be provided later