

STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The Community Council meeting was preceded by representations from residents in the Strathkinness area about planning application 24/00796/FULL. Details were recorded but cannot be placed in the public domain at this stage, as prior knowledge could affect the ability of Fife Councillors to consider the application if it comes before the North East Planning Committee. Mrs Walker [Chair] confirmed that the Community Council would consider its response to the application at the end of the CC meeting, without Fife Councillors present, and encouraged those attending to submit their comments individually to Fife Council by the expiry date of 21st May 2024. Some people had experienced difficulty in accessing the online planning system and/or submitting comments, and the Community Council undertook to raise this with the Council. Comments can also be submitted by email to development.central@fife.gov.uk

The Community Council meeting commenced at 8.15pm.

Present L. Walker, J. Houston, E. Saunders, G. Brown, L. Meyer, A. McArdle, K. Topping, B. Lawrie.
Fife Councillors J.A. Liston, A. Verner. R. Lawson.

Apologies L. Jess, Fife Councillor A. Clark.

Minute of meeting of 4th April 2024 Approved by L. Meyer, seconded by G. Brown.

Matters Arising

It has been confirmed that the work at the blocked culvert at the entrance to Bishop's Wood will commence on 20th May.

Flooding Problems at 62A and 62B Main Street, and more recently at 54 Main Street: Councillor Lawson advised that he had received the report from the CCTV survey of the drainage pipework leading down to the Kinnessburn. It found that the general condition of the clay pipe sections is poor, with regular fracturing, holes and some root ingress. The report confirms that none of this ditch/piped system falls within Fife Council land or serves an adopted road, so any action on these findings will be a matter for the relevant landowner(s).

Springfield Homes

S.75 funding: Kate Balsillie, Head Teacher has recently carried out a consultation with pupils at the school on their ideas for the play area at Bonfield. The majority of pupils felt that aiming the project at older pupils would be of benefit as they feel the new park on Church Road does cater for younger children. The responses will be passed to Fife Council Parks Officers for further discussion.

In the continued absence of a response about the fenced-off steps from Bonfield Park up to the playing field, Councillor Liston will pursue the enquiry.

Standing Items

Treasurer's Report The current balance is £487.

Policing No matters raised.

Village Infrastructure Councillor Lawson observed the poor condition of the crossing on Main Street and will raise this with officers. He has also raised the condition of large numbers of road signs with rusting/collapsed poles.

Traffic and Transportation Speed Watch: the first deployment is planned for 9th May.

Community Trust Report Mrs Lawrie confirmed that the Trust will hold its Open Day at the Community Garden on Sunday 12th May at 2.00pm. Trust members have visited new residents in the Springfield development to raise awareness of the Trust's activities, and received a warm welcome.

Correspondence

Angela Anderson, Chair of Elie & Earlsferry Community Council has requested support from Community Councils for a Participation Request to the SRUC, which seeks involvement in the decision-making process over the future of Elmwood College. The SRUC proposes to sell off a range of assets at the college, remove a number of courses, close the student accommodation and demolish the main building. It was agreed unanimously that Strathkinness CC would support this, and Mrs Houston will write to Ms Anderson accordingly.

AOCB

Mr Brown reported on the meeting of the restarted Out Of Hours Group (St Andrews Community Hospital) which he attended on 16th April. There are strong concerns about many matters including a reduction in services, phones not being answered and the recent closure of the reception desk. The Group believes that many people are unaware of these issues, and is planning to invite the Dundee Courier to the next meeting and to gather personal stories to help highlight the problems.

Mrs Houston reported on the online meeting of Fife Community Councils which she attended on 23rd April. The forum agreed that it would focus at present on sharing ideas and experience in running CC's e.g. setting up and maintaining websites.

Ms Meyer confirmed that the new Strathkinness CC website is now up and running. The old site redirects to the new one.

Condolences Mrs Walker noted that two long-standing residents of Main Street, Strathkinness had died last month. Stephen Younger passed away on 6th April. He had served on the Community Council for many years, was connected to the village throughout his life and had been a great benefactor to the community. Eveline Cowden, who passed away on 26th April, had served as an officer in the RAF. Councillors expressed their condolences to the family and friends of both.

Planning Application The Fife Councillors withdrew from the meeting to allow Community Councillors to agree their response to planning application 24/00796/FULL, and the Secretary will submit this to Fife Council.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall