

STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2024 in the Village Hall

The Community Council Annual General Meeting and ordinary meeting were preceded by representations from residents in the Strathkinness area about amended planning application 24/00796/FULL. The points raised were noted but cannot be placed in the public domain, as prior knowledge could affect the ability of Fife Councillors to consider the application when it comes before the North East Planning Committee. Mrs Walker [Chair] confirmed that the Community Council would consider its response to the amended application at the end of the CC meeting, without Fife Councillors present, and encouraged those attending to submit their additional comments individually to Fife Council by the expiry date of 26th September 2024. Comments can be submitted via the Council's online planning system or by email to development.central@fife.gov.uk

Minute of Annual General Meeting

Present: L. Walker [Chair], J. Houston, K. Topping, A. McArdle, L. Meyer, E. Saunders, G. Brown, B. Lawrie. Fife Councillors J. A. Liston, A. Verner, A. Clark.

Apologies: Councillor R. Lawson

Chair's Report:

This past year has, as is usually the case, thrown up some challenging issues, a few still ongoing. But first we welcomed a new Community Councillor, George Brown, who joined us in December and has been thrown in at the deep end by agreeing to be our representative attending and reporting back on the Out of Hours Group meetings. George was employed at Ninewells Hospital until his retirement so was the ideal choice to take up this role.

Unfortunately, last October, the Community Trust voted against supporting us in taking forward the purchase of the Church Hall, and this valuable Community Asset has since been sold to a private buyer who plans to turn it into a house. We wish him and his family every success in this venture. In March, Jane and I attended the planting of the Coronation Tree, a flowering cherry. Two children from the school along with a teaching assistant, Councillor Ann Verner and a few villagers attended the event. The children were invited to assist with the planting.

Due to an unusually wet winter and summer, there has been unprecedented flooding in the village. Last year the residents of 45 Main Street had water rushing down their drive into the garage and into their garden. Thanks to prompt action from Fife Council the problem has been successfully resolved. The flooding on Bonfield Road is an ongoing issue at this present time. Older residents in the village maintain this was the worst they had ever seen. This also is ongoing with Springfield Homes and Fife Council. The Section 75 funding is now available for improvements at Bonfield Park area and discussions are still ongoing on the best plan for its use. The steps leading from Bonfield Park houses to the park are still fenced off, therefore still ongoing between Springfield and Strathkinness Community Council. The cycle/footpath which we are hoping for on the High Road, despite a huge amount of support, is no further forward, with the landowners not keen to sell the land required. The plan now is to take the compulsory purchase route, but this all takes time.

Our website has been updated successfully. Our thanks to Liz for all her hard work in taking this forward. Our thanks, as always, go to our Councillors Ann, Jane Ann, Al and Robin. They give their time willingly and always support our efforts, and are always ready to listen to our complaints. Believe me when I say your support for us is very much appreciated. Last but not least, thank you to our Community Councillors who so willingly attend our meetings, to Emily our Treasurer and Jane our Secretary, who has the most difficult job of us all. Thank you everyone!

Treasurer's Report on Annual Accounts: Ms Saunders presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024. These have been examined by Mr Hugh Elliott and show a bank balance of £556.88. Ms Saunders thanked Mr Elliott for his assistance in examining the accounts.

Election of Office Bearers: The following Office Bearers were elected.

Chair: L. Walker – proposed by J. Houston, seconded by Liz Meyer

Vice-Chair: L. Meyer – proposed by L. Walker, seconded by G. Brown

Secretary: J. Houston – proposed by L. Meyer , seconded by E. Saunders

Treasurer: E. Saunders – proposed by A. McArdle , seconded by B. Lawrie.

Minute of Community Council Meeting

Minute of meeting of 6th June 2024 Proposed by E. Saunders , seconded by L. Meyer.

Matters Arising: None

Springfield Homes

Drainage/flooding on Bonfield Road: The four Fife Councillors had met with Mrs Walker and Mrs Houston at Bonfield Road in response to the severe flooding there in mid-July. Following this meeting, the Councillors have been pursuing several issues of concern. Councillor Clark reported that the Enforcement Officer visited the Springfield site, and blocked gullies have been referred to the Roads Service. Springfield Homes have stated that the impact of the site cannot be completely assessed until the development is completed. Fife Councillors are not entirely satisfied with the responses they have received and are continuing to chase up queries and monitor the situation. They urged the CC and residents to continue to report all problems and to keep any evidence (photos, videos).

Fenced-off steps from Bonfield Park up to the playing field: the Council's Enforcement Officer had been assured by Springfield Homes that the path and steps would be reinstated by mid-July, but no work has taken place. Councillor Liston will pursue the matter once again.

S.75 funding: the responses from the consultation with pupils at the school on their ideas for the play area at Bonfield Park were passed to Fife Council Parks Officers for further discussion. The Officers have provided indicative figures for types of play equipment suitable for older children, and suggested further consultation to identify and rank children's preferences. The S.75 funding of £35,000 will not go far, which implies the need to apply for grants, and/or fund-raising. Discussion took place about the poor drainage at the site, concerns which have previously been raised but dismissed by Fife Council despite being known to residents as a longstanding problem there. Councillor Verner undertook to write to Colin Davidson, Parks Department regarding the CC's concerns about the drainage.

Standing Items

Treasurer's Report The current balance is £487.

Policing No matters raised.

Village Infrastructure Mr Brown had reported the hazardous gullies on the road going uphill towards Claremont crossroads, which had broken away in the previous flooding from the blocked culvert at Bishop's Wood. Fife Council classed this as low priority, but Councillor Lawson has asked for the work to be re-prioritised. Councillor Verner will check with him whether there has been any progress.

Traffic and Transportation

Low Road Crossroads: Since the last meeting of the Community Council in June two more accidents have occurred here, with the most recent on 24th August sadly resulting in a fatality. Councillors Liston and Lawson have both written to Roads & Transportation, with Councillor Lawson raising questions about the speed limit signage of 50mph and the need for STOP rather than GIVE WAY signs.

Speed Watch: Mr Topping reported that although a few deployments have been carried out over the summer, it has been difficult to arrange these due to limited availability of both the volunteers and the equipment. He has asked the Police to carry out a risk assessment for the High Road going west. Mrs Houston noted that an automated community speed watch is being piloted by Giffordtown CC and she undertook to find out more about this from PC Dawn Doherty.

Mr Hugh Elliott attended the meeting and raised the difficulty of turning right from Danskin Place onto Main Street, where a vehicle parked directly opposite forces the driver onto the wrong side of the road, with poor visibility for oncoming traffic. He undertook to approach the vehicle's owner about parking on their property rather than the street.

Proposed cycle/footpath on High Road to St Andrews: Richard Sanderson, Chair of St Andrews Space for Cycling has contacted the CC with a view to working together on proposals for a safe cycling route. Mr Brown volunteered to be our representative.

Community Trust Report Mrs Lawrie reported that the Trust had recently hosted a fruit tree pruning workshop for Climate Action Fife, and recorded a podcast on community gardens jointly with Tayport. The annual Apple Day will be held on 29th September, when the Bothy will be officially opened.

Fife Community Councils At the previous meeting, Mrs Houston had raised our dissatisfaction with Fife Council Officers failing to respond timeously to matters raised with them. It was agreed that the Secretary of Fife CCs would write to Fife Council seeking a Service Level Agreement for such enquiries. No one from Strathkinness CC is available to attend the next meeting on 17th September, and Mrs Houston will give our apologies.

Correspondence There was no correspondence.

AOCB

Ms Saunders will order the Remembrance Day wreath for the Community Council. Mrs Walker will enquire about arrangements for laying the wreaths on Remembrance Sunday.

Mrs Walker will look into obtaining a commemoration plaque for the Coronation Tree.

Condolences Mrs Walker noted that Pauline Blake-Johnston, who was a former Strathkinness Community Councillor, had died on 7th June. Councillors expressed their condolences to her husband Ross and son Rory.

Planning Applications The Fife Councillors withdrew from the meeting to allow Community Councillors to consider their response to amended planning application 24/00796/FULL. It was agreed that the comments submitted in response to the original application should stand.

Details of other recent applications had been circulated and there were no comments.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall