

STRATHKINNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: L. Walker [Chair], J. Houston, G. Brown, L. Jess, B. Lawrie. Fife Councillors J. A. Liston, A. Verner, A. Clark, R. Lawson.

Apologies: E. Saunders, L. Meyer, A. McArdle, K. Topping.

Minute of meeting of 5th September 2024 Proposed by B. Lawrie , seconded by G. Brown.

Matters Arising: None

Springfield Homes

Fenced-off steps from Bonfield Park up to the playing field: despite promises from Springfield made in June, there has still been no action to reinstate the path and steps. Councillor Liston will ask for an online meeting with Council officers to try to resolve this.

Drainage/flooding on Bonfield Road: Mrs Walker observed that there are no drawings on the planning portal of the plans for porous/non-porous finishes on the site. Councillor Verner undertook to enquire about this with Chris Smith in Planning. Mrs Walker also reported that the ditches on Bonfield Road have not been cleared, and asked whether Springfield is required to reinstate the road when the works are complete. Councillor Liston will enquire with Roads whether planning conditions are/can be imposed on developers to reinstate road surfaces following completion of development works.

S.75 funding: Following discussion at the previous meeting about the poor drainage at the Bonfield playing field, Councillor Verner had written to the Parks Department to raise once again the CC's longstanding concerns about the site. Roger Honeyman had replied restating the Council's position that they are able to operate the grass-cutting machines without issues, apart from an area nearest the trees. Councillor Verner will revert to him to advise that the Community Council does not agree that the problem is minor, and estimates that approximately one quarter of the area is affected by poor drainage.

Standing Items

Treasurer's Report The current balance is £487.

Policing No matters raised.

Village Infrastructure Councillor Lawson had asked for repairs to the hazardous gullies on the road going towards Claremont crossroads to be reclassified from low priority, and he will follow this up.

Traffic and Transportation

Low Road Crossroads: Councillor Lawson has been trying to get Council Officers to visit the crossroads to look at the speed signage, and is now raising the matter with the Chief Executive. Councillor Liston has also been pressing for action. The Chair of Kemback, Pitscottie and Blebo Craigs Community Council has been in touch expressing their concerns about the crossroads as well as the dangerous bends on the B939 at Blebo. Willie Rennie MSP has offered to attend a meeting, and it was agreed to arrange a public meeting for residents of Strathkinness and Blebo as soon as possible. Councillor Lawson undertook to video the approach from Main Street to the crossroads from his car to demonstrate the difficulties drivers face.

Proposed cycle/footpath on High Road to St Andrews: Councillor Lawson reported that at a recent Ward meeting with officers, all four Councillors had insisted that the cycle path must be prioritised. He confirmed that the path is now included in the Active Travel Survey. Councillor Clark suggested that they should ask for a report on the matter to the Area Committee.

Speed Watch: Mrs Houston had asked PC Dawn Doherty about the automated community speed watch to be piloted by Giffordtown CC. The police were not involved in the purchase of the equipment and the pilot is not yet live. Mrs Houston will contact Giffordtown CC directly for details.

Community Trust Report Mrs Lawrie reported that the Trust would like to thank all those who attended their recent 'Apple Day' fundraiser, which was also part of the Fife Climate Festival, and who made it a wonderful success. It was lovely to see so many villagers, friends and family enjoying the garden. A grand total of £1,750 was raised and Mrs Lawrie thanked everyone who contributed in any way.

Fife Community Councils The Secretary of Fife CCs had written to Helena Couperwhite, Democratic Services Manager at Fife Council seeking agreed timescales for officers to respond to enquiries made by Community Councils. Ms Couperwhite had replied that she was not in a position to agree collective timescales across Services, and directed us to the Council's Customer Charter and the process for making a complaint, neither of which satisfactorily addresses the issue raised. It was agreed that if the CC does not receive a timeous response to an enquiry, we should contact the Fife Councillors.

Correspondence A resident had asked that the CC discuss two matters of concern. First, the lack of a direct bus service through Strathkinness to Guardbridge, Leuchars and Dundee. Fife Councillors advised that bus services are currently being reviewed and the Council is looking at how to achieve a better and more reliable service. Second, the suggestion that park and ride facilities should be provided in St Andrews. Fife Councillors advised that a study carried out in 2016 had concluded that a park and ride scheme in St Andrews would not be feasible. Amongst the reasons for this were lack of available and affordable land, the bus companies were unwilling to operate a scheme, and the majority of drivers would not use it.

Penelope Fraser, Secretary of the Out of Hours Group, St Andrews Community Hospital had written to ask local CCs for feedback on the current health services available at the hospital, and services we would like to see in future. Mr Brown and Ms Jess undertook to prepare a questionnaire to obtain residents' views. This will be published on the community Facebook page, with posters on notice boards etc. Paper copies will also be made available. Mrs Houston will reply to Ms Fraser to inform her of the action we are taking.

AOCB

Remembrance Sunday: Mrs Walker is waiting to hear about arrangements for the service on 10th November. Mr Brown and Councillor Clark will lay the wreaths on behalf of the CC and Fife Council respectively.

New bin collection day: Councillor Clark confirmed that **the new bin collection day will be Wednesday for all of Strathkinness**. The Council's website had incorrectly stated a different day for Bonfield Park, and this was being corrected.

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

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall