

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the St Monans and Abercrombie Community Council held on Monday, 16 December 2019, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

V Salvage (Chair)

S Bridges (Secretary)

H Ironside

W Buchan

M Ashworth

In attendance: S Potjewijd

Members of the public: 5

1. Welcome and Apologies

P Copland, V Bland, B Morris, S Collier, M Syme, Cllrs Docherty, Porteous and Holt, G Bell and PC Stecka had all sent their apologies.

No declarations of interest were noted.

2. St Monans Community Development Officer Update

Ms Potjewijd was invited to provide a brief update on the various activities within the community:

Following her last update, Sonja was pleased to report that a small grant £750 had been awarded to create a 'Youth hub' within the village. Fife Council is considering providing a youth worker to help establish such a club, but this would only be a temporary appointment. To be successful, the Youth hub would require a number of local volunteers from the community. The Head of Waid Academy is aware of these exploratory plans and is supportive of them.

The Walkie Talkies community winter walk will take place on Saturday 21 at 3.30pm. It will involve a Christmas treasure hunt for children and finish up at the local bowling club for festive drinks. The Community Choir will also be on hand to sing a few carols

Finally, a reminder that two, free adult courses on first aid and food hygiene will be available in February. Details will appear in the St Monans website.

Mrs Salvage thanked Sonja for her comprehensive report and all the positive community initiatives she was pursuing on behalf of everyone in the local community.

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

All other matters were considered closed, except for the following:

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3.1 Community notice board replacement

Discussions are ongoing.

3.2 Common Goods asset Register

Mrs Salvage is continuing to look into this matter.

V Salvage

3.3 Gully cleaning at Abercrombie

No change since last meeting.

3.4 Repairs to railings on Station Road

Ongoing. The Tenants & Residents Group continues to follow up with Fife Council.

3.5 Road Sweeping on Station Road.

The Road sweeper has not been seen in the village for nearly two months. It was suggested that we ask Fife Council for a rota to check how often it should be in the village. Mr Copland agreed to follow this up. Action outstanding.

P Copland

3.6 Solar powered Christmas lights

Mrs Salvage noted that her enquiries with Fife Council had not been particularly fruitful and their only advice had been to get battery operated lights. Ms Potjewijd noted that Crail community had raised money locally through fundraising events and, with business support, had purchased appropriate lighting. A local resident had also kindly offered to fund the costs of the electricity. It was also noted that a similar approach had been adopted by Pittenweem. It was suggested that St Monans take a similar approach to acquire community Christmas lights in 2020

3.7 Defibrillator

The defibrillator has now been paid for and the East Neuk First Responders are currently co-ordinating with the Harbour Master to get it installed as soon as possible on the side of the Harbour Masters Office. East Neuk First Responders will contact Mr Copland once an unveiling date is available. Outstanding.

3.8 Speeding problems through Abercrombie

Ongoing. This continues to be an issue with near accidents happening a couple of times a day.

3.9 Drug related items found in public street

There has been no further incidents reported in this matter.

3.10 Burns Supper – Saturday 8 February 2020

It was confirmed that Willie Rennie MSP would provide the 'Immortal Memory'. Tickets should be on sale from the second week in January or can be booked before then by contacting Mrs Salvage or Pete Peddie.

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There being no other comments, Mrs Ashworth proposed (Mr Buchan supported) that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were approved.

4. Community Police Report Update

There was no update available for the meeting.

5. Chairpersons Report

Mrs Salvage read out the following report prepared by Mr Copland:

5.1 Citizens Advocacy Service ('CAS').

This service relies on volunteers to act as advocates for members of the community who cannot act for themselves. Following appropriate training, the advocates liaise with relevant agencies on behalf of vulnerable adults to make sure they receive the correct entitlements and support. The CAS can provide speakers to talk about their services in more detail. It was agreed that an invitation to one of the Community Council meetings would be considered by Mrs Salvage. It was also suggested that the annual senior citizens tea party would be a good venue to host such a speaker.

5.2 East Neuk Community Council Forum meeting.

A speaker from Fife Council's Parks, Streets and Open Space Services presented some of the challenges that his team are facing in the East Neuk of Fife. There was also a brief discussion on the main areas of public concern, including:

- Grass cutting
- Weeds on pavements
- Illegal dumping
- Overflowing litter bins
- Cutting of woodland walks and rights of way.

5.3 New housing development to the west of the Old Manse.

Mrs Salvage advised that she and Mrs Ironside had attended the Fife Planning Committee meeting to discuss the proposed housing development plan for 86 houses. Mrs Salvage provided a brief overview and Mrs Ironside outlined the following points:

- Allotments are to stay.
- A 2 metre barrier to assist in noise reduction for the houses on the main road will be included.
- It was unclear from the meeting where the new 30mph speed zone would start in relation to the development.
- Fife Council officials believe that the existing school and health facilities

will be able to cope with the increase in population.

- Councillor Porteous tried to argue against the through road into 'established' St Monans' via Queen Margaret Street - but that was quashed as none of the other Councillors supported leaving the new development isolated from the established village.
- Fife Council, SEPA and Scottish Water have all confirmed that the clean water and dirty water drainage arrangement will be satisfactory. A number of residents expressed surprise at this, as many were aware of neighbours who had complained about the poor water pressure and or poor drainage within the area.

The Council passed the plans and consent was given. It is expected that construction will begin in the summer of 2020.

6. Secretary's Report

Mr Bridges read out a Briefing Note produced by Fife Council (Flooding, Shoreline & Harbours). This document specifically relates to the Fife Council current position on the matter of the proposed 'development' options available for the St Monans Harbour.

A copy of the Note (Slipway proposal for St Monans dated 06 December 2019) is produced as an appendix to these minutes.

7. Treasurer's Report

There was no update available for the meeting

8. Members Reports

There was no update available for the meeting.

9. Councillor Updates

Due to the apologies of all three Councillors, there were no updates available for the meeting.

10. Towns Team Update

There was no update available for the meeting.

11. Public Questions

11.1 Bicentenary of Millers boat builders in St Monans.

A resident noted that 2020 was the bicentenary of Millers boatyard and asked if this should be marked in some way by the Community Council. Mrs Salvage

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thought this was a good idea and a practical project for the proposed St Monans History club to adopt. Mrs Ashworth noted that a historic timeline and story board for the Millers had been previously discussed at the Community Council, but had not progressed due to lack of funds. Mrs Salvage agreed to consider this further. V Salvage

11.2 Common Good Fund and general funding of community projects

Another resident asked whether there was any co-ordination amongst the various community groups around prioritising common funding applications to grant award bodies. Given the variety of events and projects that the community hoped to complete, there was a possibility of inadvertently competing for similar funding. The meeting considered this a sensible and practical suggestion and agreed that the creation of a St Monans register of funding applications would be useful. Mr Adrian Rathbone kindly agreed to coordinate this and reach out to all the community groups to see if there was any appetite to create such a register.

12. AOCB

12.1 Assistance in putting out bins onto kerbside

Mr Buchan noted that recently he has had difficulty in putting out his bins onto the kerbside for collection. As a result, his bins were not emptied. After contacting Fife Council, he established that Fife Council provide a service for residents who cannot take their bins to the kerbside. This "Take out and return bin collection" service is available to everyone who has difficulty in taking out their bins. Fife Council can provide more information. Mr Bridges agreed to put a notice up on the community website about this service. S Bridges

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 20 January 2020 at 7.30pm.



Chair

Fife Council

Briefing note for Elected Members (and other elected representatives/officers, etc. as appropriate)

From: Ross Speirs, Service Manager – Structural Services

To: Cllrs Holt, Docherty & Porteous, St. Monans & Abercrombie Community Council

Subject: Slipway Proposals for St Monans – Fife Council Position

Date: 06 December 2019

Author and contact for information: *Dr Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant Flooding, Shoreline & Harbours, 0345155555 Ext 450496, Rick.Haynes@fife.gov.uk*

This briefing note is being issued because...

Following the recent conversations with regards to the use of the west slipway at St Monans harbour, it now appears to be prudent to set out the current position of Fife Council. This is to ensure transparency and awareness to those community representatives in the Community Council who have not been included in discussions outwith the Community Council events.

Background

Fife Council currently own the land covering St Monans harbour from the navigation beacons to the south up to and including the West Shore / Mid Shore / East Shore roads, and from the car park and garages to the west up to and including the end of East Shore to the east.

This Briefing Note will solely focus on the west slipway, adjacent winch house (winding shed), and the land immediately around the two. Any other area discussed here will be as a consequence of activities in these two areas.

At present, both structures are not being used for their intended / constructed purposes; the winch house is non-functional, and the slipway is not being used for boat related purposes (it currently hosts the 'Welly Boot Garden').

Fife Council (Flooding, Shoreline, & Harbours Team) have a position to bring in funds to offset the shortfall between what the Council centrally allocates to the Harbours, and what our expenditure needs to be to keep all Fife's harbours functional. As a result, the Council have entertained offers of use of the west slipway to bring in funds both to the Council and potentially to the local community.

At the current time, there is an Approved Planning Application and Listed Building Consent that cover St Monans Harbour, and include specific reference to the winch house and the west slipway. The Approvals were granted on 04 Dec 2017 and 28 Aug 2017 respectively. The west slipway would be converted into a car park, and the winch house converted into toilet and washing facilities. No works have been started in the period between then and now.

Concurrently, discussions were tentatively started between the Council and representatives of a restoration project for an East Neuk fishing vessel known as the Manx Beauty. The proposal includes the temporary leasing of the slipway for the purposes of restoring the boat, and the conversion of the winch house into a (temporary) shop.

Key Points

Fife Council are and will remain the owner of the harbour (wholesale) irrespective of any proposal taken forward.

Currently, there are two proposals in the public domain with regards to the use of the west slipway and the winch house.

Fife Council believe the two proposals, as presented, are not mutually exclusive. This would, however, be subject to agreement of project phasing between the two parties.

Fife Council held separate meetings with the two parties on 25 November 2019, to understand each project, including history, status and next steps. At these meetings Fife Council recommended a joint meeting to explore a more combined / collaborative approach for the use of the slipway. To date, no joint meeting has taken place.

Fife Council will be the sole authority on approving the project/s to be taken forward on the slipway / winch house but will listen to the pertinent views of the local community.

Fife Council have no preference or obligation towards either proposal, irrespective of the approved Planning Application.

Action Required/Next Steps

Fife Council await a firm, detailed proposal, including programme, evidence of financial support and all necessary applications and licences for either project.

Subject to the above, and prior to commencement of works on the ground, Fife Council will notify all parties of the outcome.

Supporting Material (if any):

16/02129/LBC – Construction of new harbour wall with associated guard rail as part of related works to part demolish and infill of the existing slipway – WITHDRAWN

16/02162/FULL - Erection of walls including replacement harbour wall (removal of part of slipway of harbour wall), refurbishment of winding shed including installation of replacement rooftiles, SVP, rooflights, new doors and re-cladding and provision of parking, vehicle turning and boat storage area; erection of fencing and control barrier and refurbishment and painting of existing walls and provision of safety bollards and seating area – WITHDRAWN

16/02485/LBC - Listed building consent for erection of new harbour wall with associated guard rail – WITHDRAWN

17/01690/FULL - Erection of walls including replacement harbour wall (removal of part of slipway of harbour wall), refurbishment of winding shed including installation of replacement rooftiles, SVP, new doors and re-cladding and provision of parking, vehicle turning and boat storage area; erection of fencing and control barrier and refurbishment and painting of existing walls and provision of safety bollards and seating area – APPLICATION PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS

17/01729/LBC - Listed building consent for erection of a harbour wall, associated guard rail and reconditioning of a section of wall – APPLICATION PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS