

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the St Monans and Abercrombie Community Council held on Monday, 15 February 2021, at 7.30 pm by video conference

Present:

V Salvage (Vice Chair)	S Bridges (Secretary)	W Morris (Treasurer)
M Ashworth	S Collier	H Ironside
M Syme	B Buchan	C Hogsden
Cllr Porteous	Cllr Docherty	Cllr Holt

Apologies: V Bland

In attendance: Brian Rapley, Development Manager, Hourglass Scotland

Members of the public: 11

1. Welcome and Apologies

No declarations of interest were noted at the beginning of the meeting and the Secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate.

Mrs Salvage welcomed Mr. Chris Hogsden to his first meeting as a Community Councillor for St Monans and Abercrombie.

Given the national pandemic restrictions placed upon the holding of public meetings, Mrs Salvage opened the meeting by reading out guidance on the arrangements for the Councillor's and members of the public to participate in the video conference.

Mrs Salvage welcomed Brian Rapley from Hourglass Scotland and invited him to give his presentation on the work of the charity. A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes.

Hourglass Scotland is the only charity in Scotland dedicated to calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people. Its wide remit supports older people experiencing (or at risk of) harm, abuse or exploitation, and work towards safer ageing and a fairer society for all older people. Hourglass also operates a dedicated Helpline for those experiencing or concerned to about the harm, abuse or exploitation of older people. In response to a question from Mr Buchan regarding older residents seeking help in reporting anti-social behaviour, Mr Rapley suggested that individuals should call the freephone number (0808 808 8141).

During the question and answer session, Mr Collier suggested that the local ENERGI charity would be interested in the work of Hourglass and the Secretary agreed to put Mr Rapley in touch with their Support Services Manager, Norman Cowie.

S Bridges

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting, held on 18 January 2021, were taken as read. Under matters arising:

2.1 Celebration of the bicentenary of Millers boat builders in St Monans.

Mrs Salvage is exploring the idea of asking former employees of Millers and Reekies, to agree to record their experiences. She is also looking into information story boards to be placed around the site of the old yards. The next significant anniversary would be in 2024 and consideration would be given to a fund-raising campaign to support this project.

V Salvage

2.2 Right of way between residential properties on 24 and 26 Station Road

Cllr Porteous noted he is waiting for officials at Fife Council to report back to him on their plans to make the right of way safe for public use.

B Porteous

2.3 Reckless quadbike driving along the coastal path

Noted that the offending quadbikes were seen driving from St Monans towards Pittenweem. It was also reported that a quadbike was seen driving around the Mair during the snow fall. Mrs Salvage reminded everyone to report such incidents to the community police officer.

2.4 Potholes within the ward

Mr Morris noted that he had contacted Fife Council for an update to their email of 29 October which had promised action on several potholes by the end of the year. The response, which he had circulated to the Community Councillors, had been extremely disappointing. It did not provide any answers, but simply referred to the risk assessment that Fife Council used to assess potholes. Cllr Holt agreed to write to escalate the matter with the relevant official. She noted that £2 million capital budget would be accessed for potholes. However, this funding applied to the whole of Fife and it was therefore unlikely that there would be much allocated to North East Fife.

L Holt

A resident noted that Fife Council has a definitive list of all potholes within the villages and he had made a Freedom of Information request to get a copy of this list. He stated that the worst hole, in Inverie Street, had been reported in July 2020 and identified as an emergency repair. It still had not been fixed.

The meeting also noted the dangerous potholes on the A917 road near the entrance to Ardross farm shop as it was causing cars travelling at speed to take evasive action onto the other carriageway.

Mr Buchan suggested that all East Neuk Community Councils should collectively write to complain about the poor state of the roads within the East Neuk. Councillor Docherty supported this suggestion, but Cllr Porteous cautioned against this on the grounds that local escalation was better.

Mr Collier added that during the recent Fife Council 'walkabout', council officials had taken pictures of the worst potholes and therefore were fully aware of, and had evidence of, the position.

There being no other comments, Mrs Syme proposed (Mr Morris supported) that the minutes be adopted. This was approved.

3. Chairpersons Report

Mrs Salvage noted that there was nothing of immediate attention for the meeting.

4. Secretary's Report

Mr. Bridges noted that the East Neuk Communities Emergency Planning Team (ENCEPT) had been in touch with him to arrange delivery of the community emergency kit bags. These would be delivered on 19 February and stored in the church hall.

He also had been advised by Fife Council that the Electric Vehicle Charging Point had been installed at the MUGA car park. However, the EVCP would not be connected to the power supply for several more weeks.

Exploratory discussions with Fife Council, the Community Council, St Monans parish church and the St Monans Residents Association had commenced to seek ways to maintain the 'pop-up larder' initiative.

Finally, Mr. Bridges reminded the meeting that the monthly community police report was available on the website. He noted that of the 38 calls received from within the villages, three had been recorded as crimes.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr Morris noted that the outstanding invoice for lighting up the church over the Christmas period had been paid. He also noted that he would need to purchase a replacement lock for the Heritage building. Otherwise the bank balance remained relatively healthy.

6. Members Reports

Planning matters: Mrs Salvage asked whether any Community Councillor would be prepared to take on the role of reviewing planning applications. Cllr Holt stressed

the importance of such reviews as it alerted the local community to contentious applications. Further, she noted that Community Councils could object as a 'statutory consultee' and this provided additional rights during the Planning committee process (not least the ability to have the application referred to the full planning committee and thereby providing the opportunity for the Community Council to lobby the Councillors on the matter).

Mr Hogsdon and Mrs Syme both agreed to volunteer to take on this role between them.

Community support initiatives: Mr Collier was invited to provide an update on support initiatives. He noted that, in conjunction with the Residents Association, he had accompanied Fife Council officials on their regular 'walkabout'. In addition to the potholes mentioned earlier, security fencing issues and signage for the Hope Place car park, were noted for attention. Another 'walkabout' is planned for next month.

He also was aware of a worrying situation where a resident had been pressurised, and under duress, to hand over their benefit payments to another resident. He asked that if residents became aware of this, they should immediately report this to the police.

New Children's playpark at the Mair: Mrs Ironside provided an update on progress with plans to create a new playpark within St Monans.

- The CGF application has been submitted.
- An application for £2,000 to the Ryovan Trust had been submitted and work continues on the £50,000 application to the Fife Environment Trust.
- Crowdfunder will go live on 16 February. There will be Facebook links and posters placed throughout the villages with QR codes.
- There is an option to able to donate either by cheque or cash.
- Business sponsorship letters will go out week commencing 22 February.
- Unfortunately, we do not meet the funding criteria for the Ganache Trust that Cllr Docherty mentioned at the previous meeting
- A primary pupil is raising funds by making tie dye T-shirts. So far, she has raised £30.
- Bowhouse are supportive of the project and we are discussing ways in which they can help promote the fund raising.

If anyone has funding ideas, please contact the playpark committee by email or message on Facebook.

7. Councillor Updates

Cllr Porteous noted that the East Neuk Forum had been in discussions about the possibility of the East Neuk and Landward having national park status. He also noted that the developer, Lochay Homes, had started advertising plots on the land adjacent to the former manse. Mr Morris queried whether anyone was aware of

the proposed start date for construction. No-one present could confirm this. He also considered that referring to the site as 'Windmill Gardens' was misleading as the site was on the other side of St Monans. All three Councillors had not been advised of any proposed name and Cllr Docherty stated that the local Community Council should be involved in the process for naming new streets. To date, no such consultation had been offered. It was therefore simply considered a marketing strategy on the part of the developer. However, it was agreed that the Secretary should write to Fife Council to seek clarification on the developers suggested site name.

S Bridges

8. Public Questions

Mrs Salvage then invited questions from the public.

A local resident asked why the local public toilets were closed. Cllr Porteous suggested this was not the case, although he noted that it was difficult to know as there was no signage up to show that the building was open. The toilets were being maintained and cleaned, albeit on a reduced level due to covid restrictions. Another resident confirmed that she had seen Fife Council cleaning staff go into the toilets.

Another resident asked where she could get the keys to put up a notice on the community notice board. Mr Collier has the keys for the Station Road notice board and Mrs Ashworth has the keys for the Abercrombie Road notice board.

A resident reported that back in September, the Fire Brigade had successfully rescued an animal that had been trapped in a hole within Newark Caste ruin. During the rescue attempt, it was noted that another deeper hole, believed to be a well, had opened. This was a significant, potentially life threatening, hazard. Who was responsible for ensuring the site was properly secured? There was some discussion around ownership of the site. Mrs Ashworth agree to speak to Balcaskie estate to see if it was their responsibility. Councillor Docherty agreed to raise this with Fife Council.

M Ashworth

9. AOCB

9.1 Dangerous parking on Gourlay Crescent

A complaint was raised in connection with dangerous and inconsiderate parking on Gourlay Crescent (at the school 'end'). This was causing passing difficulties for other cars as well as pedestrians with buggies who were being forced onto the road to get round the vehicle. Cllr Docherty suggested the resident be reported to Fife Council traffic management team (03451 555555 ext 44426). Mr Bridges also advised reporting the matter to the police. Mr Buchan noted that the individual responsible had been approached several times in the past about this matter, but was not prepared to change his habits.

9.2 Roadside litter along Colinsburgh to Abercrombie

Despite lockdown restrictions, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of litter along the B941. The assumption is that this has been caused by residents which is extremely disappointing. Mrs Ashworth asked when would the Council come out to clean up the roadside? Cllr Holt agreed to raise the matter with Fife Council.

L Holt

9.3 Speeding along Station Road

There has been an increasing incidence of cars driving in excess of 20 mph along Station Road and it was noted that it usually by the same individuals. A dog had recently been injured by a speeding car and concern was expressed that next time it could easily be a child. The matter is compounded by cars swerving on the road to avoid the potholes. Cllr Docherty agreed to raise this matter again with Fife Council.

J Docherty

Mrs Ashworth asked that the failure of drivers to follow the 20mph restrictions through Abercrombie should also be reported. Mr Morris also asked that consideration be given to speed bumps on Hope Place (from the junction at Gospel hall towards the school).

Cllr Porteous also noted that on the topic of speeding, he was still waiting for confirmation of a speed management assessment for the section of Elm Grove from St Monans caravan park to Pittenweem.

9.4 Pittenweem recycling opening times


All three councillors noted that they had complained about the opening times and online booking facilities at this recycling centre. There was a need for a contact number as not everyone had access to the internet. There was agreement with these concerns, but Mr Collier noted that he had been advised by the Fife Councillor responsible for refuse services, Cllr Vettraino, that many people had been complimentary about the online booking service.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 15 March 2021 at 7.30pm. Due to ongoing Covid restrictions, this will be by conference call. Details will be publicised on the Community website and on social media.

Mr Buchan thanked Mrs Salvage for successfully chairing the meeting.

There being no other business, Mrs Salvage closed the meeting.


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Chair