

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the St Monans and Abercrombie Community Council held on Monday, 19 April 2021, at 7.30 pm by video conference

Present:

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

Apologies: V Bland and Cllr Porteous
Members of the public: 14

1. Welcome and apologies

No declarations of interest were noted at the beginning of the meeting and the Secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate. It was also noted that Mr. Collier was having technical difficulties in joining the meeting.

2.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021, were taken as read. Under matters arising:

2.1 Roadside litter along Colinsburgh to Abercrombie (B942)

This remains an ongoing problem and to date, Fife Council has not responded to Cllr Holts request for an update on its policy for roadside cleaning.

2.2 Planning matters concerning new house development at Braehead

Mrs Syme advised that she had visited the site and could not find any substantive matter on which the Community Council could object to the application.

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

No update due to Cllr Porteous' absence. (Still waiting for officials at Fife Council to report back on their plans to make the right of way safe for public use).

2.4 Dangerous condition of Newark castle ruins

Mr Bridges confirmed he had written to the Community Police to advise them of the situation of illegal drinking parties at Newark Castle ruins. It was noted that Fife Council has been attempting to get in touch with the overseas owners and will improve the barriers around the site.

2.5 Speeding concerns around B942 and junction into Abercrombie

Cllr Holt advised that she had written to Lesley Craig at Fife Council regarding this matter and was waiting for a response. Meantime, Mrs Ashworth confirmed that speeding on this stretch of the road continued to make junction access difficult. She also reported a road rage incident had occurred in the area.

2.6 St Monans outdoor swimming pool

Cllr Porteous had emailed the Secretary to confirm that Fife Council did not have a policy regarding the maintenance or liability for outdoor pools.

Cllr Holt confirmed this and noted that she was pushing Fife Council to develop and adopt such a policy. She pointed out that that Pittenweem community had been advised by Fife Council to establish a Trust to take on responsibility for their outdoor pool, which had resulted in the creation of the West Braes project. After taking this advice, Fife Council were now pushing the Trust to pay rent and arrange public liability insurance. Combined, both costs came to approx. £1800 per annum. There was complete agreement with the view expressed that Fife Council had seriously let down the Pittenweem community regarding this opportunity to rejuvenate this pool. Cllr Holt also noted that Cellerdyke, like St Monans, had an outdoor pool that had the potential to become a community asset for promoting healthy exercise.

Mrs Salvage, on behalf of the Community Council, publicly thanked the enterprising people who, in late March and early April, worked so hard to bring the St Monans tidal swimming pool back to life again. She noted it was a real pleasure to take a walk along to the Windmill and see the pool studded with the bobbing heads of (the rather brave!) 'all seasons swimmers' taking advantage of the cleaned-up pool. Residents of all ages and abilities joined in to help remove huge rocks, eels, rubbish, broken glass - and much more. Some also swept, tidied, and rearranged all areas of the pool and the surrounding area. It is an impressive makeover, but without changing the way the pool has always looked.

Thanks, were particularly due to the group of six individuals who took the initiative to quietly start to sort out a facility that they saw could be used again. Instead of asking for it to be done - they did it themselves! Their enthusiasm and technical ability allowed for the pool to be completely drained. They started the hard work that lead to many others - who followed the posts on Facebook -to turn up and join in this superb community effort to revitalise the outdoor pool, which is now over 90 years old.

Cllr Docherty also expressed his thanks and support to the residents who had transformed the pool. He also suggested that if future funding was required to make improvements to the pool, then a sponsored swim by the Community Councillors and Councillors should be arranged. He also agreed to support the

efforts of Cllr Holt in trying to convince Fife Council of the need to have a more supportive attitude to outdoor pools.

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

3.

Acting Chair's report

Mrs Salvage mentioned this as she had received some complaints from residents about the failure to supply water to the St Monans cemetery. This had been raised at previous Community Council meetings and estimates to install a water pipe had suggested a cost of approx. £10,000. It was noted that the Fife Council Bereavement Services were undertaking a survey about water supplies in cemeteries and it was hoped that they would come back with revised figures and proposals to reinstate the water. Mr Buchan asked whether this should not be something that the Community Council took on itself. Mrs Salvage agreed, but suggested waiting until the outcome of the Fife Council review. Cllr Docherty noted his disappointment that this matter had been ongoing for six years. He asked Mrs Salvage to be copied into her email exchange with Bereavement services. Cllr Holt also suggested that if the Community Council had to take this project on itself, possible funding could be found at the North East Fife Community Planning budget (50% matched funding).

i. Community larder Update – April 2021

Mrs Salvage then read out the update from the Residents Association in connection with the St Monans Community larder initiative.

Having successfully applied for funding from the Scottish government earlier this year, the Residents' Association has, as of last week, taken delivery of a new fridge for the Community Larder. This is set up in the Town Hall and will be used by Fife Council staff operating the Top Up Larder starting next week. The Residents' Association is now concentrating on coordinating training for volunteers, applying for further funding and arranging other administrative matters, such as liability insurance.

We hope to advertise openly for volunteers to help with the Community Larder next month, once the details of training can be arranged in conjunction with Fife Council, who will be delivering food hygiene instruction and other support. The Community Larder will be an independent initiative run by the Residents' Association to offer support to local people as Fife Council's emergency provision is withdrawn, most likely by the middle of the year. The Community Larder aims to assist those who are struggling with affording basic goods, as well as curbing food waste.

On behalf of Caroline Berry, who runs the Council's Top Up Larder in St Monans, we would encourage as many people as possible to make use of the service currently

being offered every other Friday in the Town Hall. As well as fresh and dried food, other necessities are available, such as nappies and cleaning products. While demand from the community has been consistent, there is still more on offer. Please encourage those you know to attend, especially if they require extra help.

4.

Secretary's Report

Mr Bridges referred to an email from a resident in connection with the collapse of the wooden steps and accessibility to the associated right of way down to the beach next to 30/31 West End. He had written to Fife Coastal & Countryside Trust, Fife Council, and the Scottish Rights of Way Society to ascertain who had responsibility for the wooden steps. The meeting briefly discussed the possibility of the Community Council working with the relevant agency to replace the steps as it was considered important to retain this right of way. Mr Buchan noted that several years ago, the local gravedigger, Jimmy Patterson, had maintained the wooden stair.

Mr. Bridges also reminded the meeting that the monthly community police report was available on the website and on community Facebook. He noted that of the 35 calls received from within both villages in the previous month, three had been recorded as crimes.

5.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that there was no movement in the accounts for the previous month.

6.

Members Reports

Planning matters: Mr Hogsden and Mrs Syme noted there was nothing of significant concern in any planning applications submitted for the previous month.

Community support initiatives: There was no update on community initiatives.

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

Unsuccessful with Ryvoan Trust Application.

Very pleased to report that the St Andrews University Common Good Fund has awarded the project £1,245.

Crowd funder is currently sitting at £4,064.

Overall raised so far is just under £115,000.

The committee are in conversations with Bowhouse about possible permission to fundraise at their June weekend market.

Still researching and applying to different trusts and considering other possible fundraising opportunities once restrictions have eased further.

Fife Council have completed their tender process and we plan to meet with the relevant Parks Development officer shortly to discuss next steps.

7.

Councillor Updates

Cllr Docherty noted that the East Neuk Community Forum is looking for local communities to provide a list of damage road signage through the East Neuk. If residents have any suggestions, please contact Cllr Docherty with the details.

8.

Public Questions

Mrs Salvage then invited questions from the public. The Chair of 'Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland (RAWS) asked whether a decision had been made regarding the naming of the new streets. Mrs Salvage advised that this was the next agenda item and invited the Chair to summarise the work of the Society. There was such interest in the topic, that the meeting agreed that the Chair of RAWs should be invited back to do a short presentation on its work at a future meeting.

8.1 Street names for the new housing development beside the old Manse.

Mrs Salvage began by thanking everyone who sent in their suggestions for street names for the new housing development to the west of the old Manse. After considering the fifty suggestions, the Community Council has decided to submit the following six names onto Fife Council. The rationale for each name is also provided below.

- Burn Drive: Adjacent to the Inverary burn
- Manse Place: Adjacent to the former Manse of St Monans
- The Fifies (or Fifie Road): In recognition of the traditional fishing boats on the East coast of Scotland from the 1850's
- Sandilands Avenue: James Sandilands, 1st Lord of Abercrombie and former owner of Newark castle
- Maggie Morgan Drive: To commemorate the lives and deaths of women in the East Neuk who were burned as "witches" in the 17th century. In St Monans, the last "witch" to die in this way was Maggie Morgan. It is a horrendous story and some sort of atonement is due to this innocent young woman
- Railway Terrace: The new houses are next to the old railway line that used to run through St Monans

It was stressed that these were only proposal and that the ultimate decision did not rest with the Community Counsel

9.

AOCB

9.1 Lack of lairs within St Monans Cemetery

Noted that there is community concern that there are very few lairs left within the cemetery. Mr Bridges reminded the meeting that this had been previously raised at

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a Community Council meeting and that Fife Council was looking into setting aside capital budget to purchase land to extend cemetery space throughout Fife. Cllr Docherty confirmed this and agreed to raise the matter again with Bereavement Services team for an update.

Cllr Docherty

9.2 Lockable bollard to prevent vehicles access onto coastal path from Rose St

Cllr Docherty also agreed to contact Fife Council regarding the unlocked bollard at the end of Rose Street as this now allowed unlawful vehicular access onto the coastal path.

Cllr Docherty

10.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 17 May 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.

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


Chair