

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present:

V Salvage (Acting Chair)	S Bridges (Secretary)	W Morris (Treasurer)
M Ashworth	M Syme	H Ironside
Cllr Holt (part)	Cllr Porteous (part)	

Apologies: S Collier, B Buchan, C Hogsden and Cllr Docherty
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.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

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

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

Exploratory discussions are ongoing. Feedback received by Mrs Salvage suggests the introduction of information story boards around the old yard sites would be popular.

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

Ongoing. Cllr Porteous (when he joined the meeting later) noted he is still waiting for officials at Fife Council to report back to him on their plans to make the right of way safe for public use.

2.3 Lochay Homes development – street naming

Mr Bridges confirmed that no decision had yet been taken on street names for the new development. Fife Council will consult with the developer and the Community Council on possible names. Officials suggest that this consultation could start as early as next month.

2.4 Dangerous condition of Newark castle ruins

Mrs Ashworth confirmed that Balcaskie estate did not own the castle or the immediate grounds. Mrs Salvage also confirmed that she had written to Fife Council to report the deteriorating situation and had requested better security fencing. Fife

Council do not own the property and would look to the owner to make the site secure. However, the owner is believed to live in Canada and has not been contactable.

2.5 Roadside litter along Colinsburgh to Abercrombie

Cllr Holt advised (when she joined the meeting later) that this matter was still to be raised with Fife Council. Cllr Holt

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

3. Chairpersons Report

Mrs Salvage noted that she had received a letter from the chair of the Jim Matthew Camera Collection Trust, thanking the Community Council for its support of the Common Good Fund application. He was delighted to report that the Trust had now secured legal title to the building and the collection, for the community and the nation. The Trust was looking forward to opening up the museum to the public as soon as possible after the covid restrictions were lifted.

A resident had emailed Mrs Salvage to ask that the Community Council review the planning application for a new house in Braehead. It was agreed that Mrs Syme would look into the application. M Syme

The 'Top Up Larder' is a scheme is run by Fife Council to combat food poverty. Mrs Salvage noted that a similar initiative 'The Community Larder' is being set up by the Residents' Association in coordination with Fife Council and the parish church to augment and eventually replace the Council's effort. Mrs Salvage and Mr Bridges had attended these exploratory discussions on behalf of the Community Council. Mrs Salvage read out an update provided by Mr Philip Riding on behalf of the Residents Association ('RA'):

- The Community Larder will replicate models already in place in various communities across NE Fife. This consists largely of a fridge and freezer manned by volunteers to distribute food one-three times a week. Food is provided by local charitable schemes as well as supermarkets. While it aims to alleviate food insecurity, the model can be a vehicle for addressing other social problems, such as loneliness, or a lack of information on public services. We are tapping into the knowledge and experience of other Community Fridges and Larders to make our project a success.
- The RA has successfully applied for £1300 of initial funding from a Scottish government initiative specifically targeting food insecurity. Now this has been received, the money will be used to purchase the fridge and freezer needed for the Larder.

- Next steps: Purchase fridge / freezer; make arrangements for premises (Town Hall) and necessary insurance; advertise for volunteers and identify necessary support and training; make arrangements with Fareshare food box scheme and explore other food donation options.

4.

Secretary's Report

An email had been received from a resident expressing concern about the increasing use of electric fencing in the surrounding farm land and the possible safety to residents. Mrs. Ashworth confirmed that the small electric current was safe and, if touched, provided no more than a slight tingling sensation. She reminded the meeting that the estate manager had written to the Community Council to explain that the fencing was to allow for the grazing of sheep and cattle.

Another resident had asked whether the derelict land behind the Vets practice could be used as a temporary car park during the summer months – particularly given the expected increase in 'staycations' this year. Unfortunately, it was pointed out that the land was owned by the developer, Muir homes, and was therefore unlikely to be agreeable to such a suggestion.

Finally, Mr. Bridges reminded the meeting that the monthly community police report was available on the website. He noted that of the 35 calls received from within the villages, four had been recorded as crimes.

5.

Treasurer's Report

Mr Morris noted that the outstanding invoice for the hanging baskets had been paid. Otherwise, the bank balance remained relatively healthy.

6.

Members Reports

Planning matters: Other than the application referred to earlier, Mrs Syme advised that there had been no contentious applications in the previous month.

Community support initiatives: Due to Mr Collier's apologies, there was no update on community initiatives.

Cllr Porteous joined the meeting.

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

- We have been awarded £109,000, the full amount we applied for.
- A parent who makes soap as a hobby has sold her latest batch to raise funds for the park. She has messaged to say all the bars have sold and has raised £224.

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- Lucey & James have now added facemasks to their tie dye adventure and at the moment have raised £80 of their £100 target.
- Crowd Funder is currently sitting at £3705.
- Business donations are sitting at £150.
- The top shop, spar/post office and Murray's chippy all have collection tins.
- Application to the Fife Environmental Trust Application is almost ready to be submitted.
- We have applied to the St Andrews University Common Good Fund. This fund supports project in St Andrews and surrounding areas. Other trusts are being sought and we are still waiting to hear back from the ones we have applied for. Depending how often the trustees meet can depend on the length of time before we hear back from them. Hopefully we should have an update on some of the applications we have made by the next meeting.

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

7.

Councillor Updates

Cllr Holt joined the meeting.

Cllr Porteous was asked for his views on the planning application at Braehead. He noted that soe residents had already objected. However, as a sitting Councillor on the planning committee, he couldn't comment on the actual case. He also mentioned that at the next meeting of the East Neuk Forum, there would be an exploratory discussion about the possibility of East Neuk and Landward becoming a national park.

Cllr Holt reported that Fife Council had proposed a budget for parks, streets roads and open spaces without any cuts in funding. in particular, she noted that an extra £3 million had been made available for pothole repairs. While the meeting agreed that this would not be sufficient to address all the problems in Fife, it was a positive result. Cllr Holt noted that the public attention that Mr. Lewis Heaney had recently attracted over the poor state of the local roads was a factor in forcing Fife Council to re-appraise their roads budget. Fife Council was being over-whelmed with complaints. Cllr Porteous agreed and thanking Mr Heaney, encouraged everyone to follow his example and report every road repair to Fife Council at every opportunity.

Cllr Holt agreed to send an email update to the Community Councillors, summarising the budget changes.

Cllr Holt

8.

Public Questions

Mrs Salvage then invited questions from the public. A resident reported that over the last three weekend she had noticed teenagers heading in the direction of

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Newark castle ruins with alcohol. Nothing was being done to stop them from going into the dangerous site. Mr Bridges agreed to email the PC Steckla to advise him of the incidents and the dangers of the site. S Bridges

The resident also wanted to express her disappointment that Lochay homes had only notified a few residents about the commencement of the development works. She was aware that residents in Newark St had been given leaflets, but nothing for residents on Castle Street. Mrs Syme also noted that she had not received any communications. There hadn't been much information about the works starting and there was agreement that better communication with the local community would be beneficial to the developers. Cllr Porteous was looking to meet with the directors to discuss this and Mr Bridges also advised that he had written to Lochay Homes CEO, on behalf of the Community Council, to ask for a meeting with the site management.

9.

AOCB

9.1 Speeding throughout the area

Mrs Ashworth noted her concern that speeding remained an issue in and around St Monans and Abercrombie despite the national lockdown. She particularly noted the number of speeding motorbikes. Cllr Holt agreed to raise the matter to the new, recently appointed leader at Fife Council's Traffic Management team. Cllr Holt

9.2 St Monans outdoor swimming pool

Mr Morris noted that some residents were using the outdoor swimming pool and asked whether it would be possible to have the pool dredged to make it safer for swimmers. Both Councillors agreed that this would be a worthwhile project but would need to make enquiries with Fife Council as both were unsure how this could be achieved. Cllr Porteous agreed to speak to Council officials. Cllr Porteous

10.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 19 April 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