

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the St Monans and Abercrombie Community Council held on Monday, 18 November 2019, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

P Copland (Chair)	H Ironside (Minutes)	V Salvage
M Syme	M Ashworth	B Morris (Treasurer)
W Buchan	G Bell	S Collier
Cllr Porteous	Cllr Holt	

In attendance: S Potjewijd

Members of the public: 17

Before the meeting started, Mr. Copland read out the following statement:

Ladies & gentlemen, after last months' meeting, I have been giving consideration to the lack of manners and etiquette shown by both members of the public and community council and council officials.

At the last meeting there were not only constant interruptions during guest speakers' updates but also whilst members of the public were trying to ask questions for further clarification and questions addressed to the community council.

I am aware that this is a public meeting and we all have the freedom of speech, but I am disappointed at the lack of manners shown by all. Backchat and under-breath comments are not acceptable and are more at home in the playground than at a properly convened meeting.

From now on I would ask, and expect, that if any attendee whether a member of the public, community or council official has a pertinent question or observation, that they raise their hand and wait to be recognised by the chair. Only then will they be afforded the opportunity to state their point.

I trust this gives clarification and I would now expect any attendees to think before they speak.

1. Welcome and Apologies

V Bland, S Bridges, Cllr Docherty and PC Steckla had all sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

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

3.1 Community notice board replacement

After the meeting held on Monday 28th October, ideas on how to proceed will be discussed at the Residents Association meeting on Wednesday 20 November.

ST MONANS AND ABERCROMBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

3.2 Fife Health Board out of hours consultation

The new hours have started, but it is not yet known how it is currently working. Both Councillors asked that if anyone who has used the out of hour's service and had a negative experience to contact them directly.

3.3 Common Goods asset Register

Mrs Salvage is still looking into this, said that there is a lot more involved, and may take a while.

3.4 Update of the St Monans Charity

The ongoing issues with the bank account have now been resolved.

3.5 Gully cleaning at Abercrombie

No change since last meeting. Due to recent weather, a large pothole has appeared in the road and is likely to cause an accident. Cllr Porteous continues to follow this up with council officials.

3.6 Fence post on right of way to 24/26 Station Road

Unfortunately, there was no update available regarding this issue.

3.7 Repairs to railings on Station Road

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

3.8 St Monans Residents Group

The next meeting will be Wednesday 20th November in the Masonic Hall at 6.30pm. All welcome.

3.9 Muga Request

Pittenweem Tennis Club have been using the Muga for few weeks now. Unfortunately, there is a problem with the floodlights, which is causing issues with lessons later in the evening. Cllr Porteous agreed to follow this up with Fife Council

3.10 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.

3.11 Solar powered Christmas lights

Mrs Salvage has looked at possibilities and is currently checking with Fife Council to see if it will be possible.

3.12 Update the information on the Community Notice Board

Ongoing and dependent upon the new notice boards being in place.

3.13 Bins at Queen Margaret Street Park

The bins in the park at the ~~bottom~~^{top} of Queen Margaret Street are still not being emptied on a regular basis. Rubbish is building up and ending up all over the park area. Mr Buchan agreed to follow up with Fife Council.

3.14 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. Gillian Duncan of East Neuk First Responder will contact Mr Copland once an unveiling date is available.

3.15 Trees X

The Beautiful St Monans team have agreed to use some of the trees around the village and Sonja Potjewijd is going to take some to Cambo to be planted there.

3.16 Speeding problems through Abercrombie

This continues to be an issue with near accidents happening a couple of times a day. Mr Copland reminded everyone about the Community Speed Watch initiative run by Fife Police.

3.17 Drug related items found

There has been another incident of Drug related item found by a member of the public, quite close to St Monans primary school and nursery. Since this incident, Fife Police have confirmed that an individual had been approached in connection with this matter. It was also stressed that if anyone was to find any items to Tel: 03451 55 00 22 Contact Environment (lines open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

3.18 Burns Supper 2020

The date has been confirmed as Saturday 8 February. Tickets should be on sale from the second week in January or can be booked before then by contacting Mrs Salvage or Pete Peddie.

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

East Neuk Salt Company and East Neuk Salt Heritage Trust update.

4.

Mr Copland invited Mr Peattie to address the meeting. Mr Peattie discussed his ongoing proposals for the use of the slipway as a restoration site for an old fishing vessel. He believed that both projects relating to the slipway could possibly work together as the East Neuk Salt Company would be bringing a commercial element to the village whilst also maintaining the history of the village. However, he acknowledged that as both parties have very different views regarding the use of the slipway, this might not be possible.

He also noted that he had been in contact with the Legal department at Fife

Council regarding the existing planning application in place for the harbour, and believed that it would be beneficial for the relevant Fife Council Officer to be invited and present at the next Community Council meeting, as clarification is needed for both parties involved.

Mr Peattie then introduced Mr Richard Wemyss who represented the 'Bring Back the Beauty' campaign. Mr Wemyss confirmed that there were three potential site options for repairing this boat. A working group from all the East Neuk communities had considered the St Monans site as the preferred option. However, he stressed that this did not commit the campaign to any one site in particular. The logistics and costs of working at each site was still being considered.

Mr Wemyss also advised that there were no plans for any building. Instead, it would be a temporary shelter, involving scaffolding, to protect both the vessel and the volunteers working on it. He also stated that Dundee University Architecture department had been approached to establish if there was any interest in designing this protective shelter. He also noted;

- The shelter would be a temporary structure with a minimum three years weather survival
- Volunteers would need to be protected while working on the deck
- A sheltered space annexed alongside the vessel for preparation and construction work would be required
- The working group want a structure that externally causes the least amount of impact to the local residents (noise included). Environmental aspects, including the restoration detritus and waste would be managed correctly.

Mr Wemyss considered the opportunity to bring the boat back as an exciting means of promoting the St Monans heritage. He also stated that this project was not in competition with the Scottish Fisheries Museum.

Preliminary investigations have started about funding the project. If and when the boat arrives in the East Neuk, there will be several months of measuring up, recording and accurately costing a bid. Mr Wemyss stressed that no restoration will begin until that phase is completed.

Mr Bell noted that, as at the day of the meeting, no formal proposal had been received to bring a large boat onto the west slipway. He referred to the latest email he had received from Fife Council, suggesting that both projects could happen, but that required proactive dialogue from all sides. Unfortunately, no such approach had yet been received by the St Monans Harbour Users group and its offer of help, provided through the channel of the East Neuk Salt Heritage Trust had, so far, been declined.

5. St Monans Community Development Officer Update

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

- The Walkie Talkies. Walking group every Thursday from 9:15 am. This group is up and running and we have been awarded £670 from the Participatory Budget to defray costs. The intention is to plan a Winter Walk for the whole village on Saturday 21 December (2pm to 4pm) with Hot Chocolate, Santa and Christmas carols and festive drinks in the Bowling Club
- Adult Courses Town hall. Organised a certified food hygiene course in the Town Hall and all 12 participants passed their test. There was a lot of interest in the course so intention is to organise another one in January/February. It was also noted that the Paediatric First Aid Course would be held on 24 January (9:30 pm to 12:30) and 31 January (9:30-12:30).
- The Little Welly Club. Every week we have between 15-35 children visiting the club, so it has been very successful so far. The Little Welly Club has funds to help pay the rent for another year and continue to offer the facilities free to parents/carers and their wee ones. The Little Welly Club has now its own bank account.

In addition, Common Good Fund applications are being considered to realise the following projects in St Monans:

- Edible garden –a high priority list in the Community Action Plan was the desire for access to affordable fresh and local produce and the development of a community garden/allotment. The East men Shed group has agreed to maintain and manage these small edible gardens. It is hoped that both the Community Council and the Resident Association would be willing to take on this project.
- Following discussion with Toby Anstruther, exploring the possibility of creating a St Monans community vegetable plot at Bowhouse.
- Film Club. In conjunction with the East Neuk Men Shed group, this CAP proposal would involve the creation of a monthly family movie club. Three local residents are interested in leading this community event.

Bike path between the villages

The meeting was also updated on progress with the East Neuk multi-user path project. An application is being prepared for submission to Sustran for the bike path project between Pittenweem and Lower Largo. Crispin Hayes from Eco-Consultancy and Mark Dickson, the Chair of Elie Community Council are assisting

with the application. Ms Potjewijd asked if both the Community Council and the local Community Trust could write letters of support for the multi-use path between Pittenweem and Lower Largo. Both letters would be submitted with the application. The intention is to work first on the path between Elie and St Monans, as there are only two landowners involved with this stretch of the pathway.

Finally, Mrs Potjewijd advised that she was working on a funding application for a youth worker and she was investigating to see what other resources could be made available to start a youth club in St Monans. She will explore with various parties what the best location for the "Youth Hub" and what parties could help set this up. Morven Syme will be helping in this project too.

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

6. Community Police Report Update

In the month of October, police received 1259 calls in North East Fife; of these 66 calls were from the St Monans and Abercrombie area. Of these, 5 crimes being recorded including assault, theft and a fraud. Other calls were in relation to assist members of the public, complaints regarding anti-social behaviour, concern for persons, public nuisance, road traffic incidents, items of a drug related nature found and the remainder miscellaneous. The Police are aware of ongoing issues with youth congregating at St Monans Primary School as well as the empty drug bottle found within the vicinity of the school.

Work continues in respect of substance misuse as well as road traffic matters. Speed sites will be up and running again in the coming weeks. PC Steckla would like to know if members of the community are interested in becoming a part of Community Speed watch, three members of the public required minimum.

Mr Collier noted that the item found was a controlled drug, dispensed under the supervision of a pharmacist. He therefore queried how an empty bottle could be found in a public place. This point was raised with PC Steckla, who responded after the meeting:

'There are certain stipulations and procedures in place within the chemist's, I cannot fully confirm but I believe dependant on distance and ability of persons, some people can be brought their prescription for consumption at their place of residence. I would have to check with a chemist to confirm but most of the time the drug has to be consumed within the chemist but not in all circumstances'.

7. Chairpersons Report

Nothing to report.

8. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

9. Treasurer's Report

Cheques for Memorial Wreath, Old Folks Tea and the Defibrillator have all been issued. Beautiful St Monans has received their bill for the flowers and the Fife Council grant application has been submitted for next year.

10. Members Reports

- i. Planning Matters – Nothing to report
- ii. Community Support Initiatives

Community Police representation: At the recent meeting at Waid Academy Mr Collier raised the lack of support from Community Police Officers at the Community Council Meetings.

Caravan Park: There has been an attempted break in at the offices of the caravan park.

Bin Store: The bin store is now installed at Braid Court, but no lock has been fitted yet. This has been raised with Fife Council. Only one complaint has been received and this was to do with the appearance of it.

Residents welcome pack: An introductory guide to St Monans is near completion. This will include information such as the history of the village and information on all the groups that are held within the village. Once completed this will be distributed to new Kingdom Housing Tenants in the village.

Unfortunately, Fife Council are unable to accept the Welcome Pack as it is not a Fife Council Initiative so are unable to promote it. Ross Cameron at Fife Council contacted Mrs Salvage as they have put together something similar for new Fife Council Tenants. This pack includes an information sheet, Cleaning Products, everyday household items, Tea Towels, Tea Bags. It is hoped that this pack will make people feel welcome in their new home.

11. Councillor Updates

Cllr Holt reminded everyone that the ENCF meeting was on Wednesday 20th November in Anstruther and that members of the public are welcome to attend. Because of this meeting, Cllr Holt and Cllr Porteous are unable to attend the Residents Association Meeting on the same night.

Cllr Porteous noted that a suitable site for the replacement of Ladywalk House is being sought. One idea that is currently being discussed is to move Ladywalk house to the site at the flats due to be demolished in Anstruther and build the replacement home there with the new housing development going in on the old Ladywalk House site.

Cllr Porteous also noted that the BBC Countryfile programme had recently been

filmed on Balcaskie Estate and Bowhouse recently. It was subsequently aired and highlighted the surrounding area in a very positive light.

12. Towns Team Update

This week is Scottish Towns week. St Monans and Abercrombie are members of the Scottish Towns Partnership and use their many tools. Towns week encourages people to shop local and use local. Posters have been placed around the village.

St Monans.biz website, which promotes local businesses at no charge, continues to populate. Mr Bell wanted to thank Dave Smith who created and manages the site.

Mr Bell is representing St Monans at the annual conference of the Scottish Towns Partnership in Aberdeen later in the week. In the Initial regeneration discussions, some main areas of opportunity were identified. Food, tourism, Heritage and photography. The position of St Monans as a photographic destination has increased dramatically with several photographs winning major competitions. It is the Towns Team intention to announce St Monans as Scotland's Photographic town. We are in a unique position to claim this title with the choice of subject matter around us, being the home of the renowned William Easton and at its core an internationally important camera collection.

With conversations going on around the harbour plans, the Towns Team thought it might be good idea to remind all the plans as agreed are still progressing. Unfortunately, this has now coincided with a period of uncertainty and as the original funding applied for was European funding that has evaporated. We are in the process of looking at other funding avenues. It is hoped that an element of the plans will be up and running in the New Year. Regarding the slipway, we have noticed that the area created by filling in has been referred to as a 'car park'. This is planned as an events space and can be used to house most of the Sea Queen, International Food Festival and Community Arts Festival. It is a unique space and location and well suited to such community events. It would also provide additional income to the harbour thereby benefitting the community. It can also be used as a car park/ turning area. A meeting is planned with Fife Harbours to discuss the progress on this.

Mr Bell will be attending the Visit East Neuk Braid meeting where they will be looking at the overall offer from the East Neuk and our contribution among other things. Mr Bell will also be attending the Harbours users Group Meeting at Fife Council.

In early December, the Towns Team will be contributing to the cross party parliamentary committee on Town Centre planning.

13. Public Questions

13.1 Housing Development West of Manse

A resident asked about the proposed housing development, west of the Manse and if there had been any more progress. Mr Copland advised that he has not received any new information for a while so is unsure in its progress. Another member of the public has contacted the developer directly after the open night earlier in the year but is not receiving any updates from them.

13.2 Camera Collection

Another resident asked Mr Bell how does the public access the camera collection. Mr Bell advised that the collection is not yet open to the public due to a number of issues at the moment.

14. AOCB

14.1 Seawall at East Shore

Mr Copland has received a phone call regarding the Seawall in East Shore as it is in very poor condition. He is unsure who would be responsible as Fife Council are not responsible for it.

14.2 Community Choir Christmas Concert

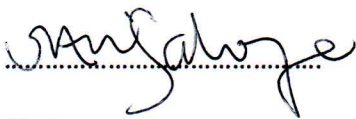
The St Monans Community Choir are holding a Winter Concert on Saturday 7th December in the Church Hall on Station Road starting at 7pm. Tickets are £6 each with money being raised for East Neuk First Responders.

14.3 Noticeboard on East Braes

A Member of the public asked if the Community Council knew who had replaced the noticeboard at the start of the Coastal Path, as the information was incorrect.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on Monday 16 December at 7.30pm.



Chair