



BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 10th May 2013
7.00 P.M.
Burgh Chambers.

Draft Minutes

PRESENT:

Alex MacDonald (Chair), Bob Smith (Vice Chair), Isabel Smith (Secretary), John Russell (Treasurer), Gordon Langlands (Minutes Secretary), John Bradshaw, Christine Dewar, Hazel McGraw, Morag Douglas, Ian McKenzie, Bruce Stuart, Bill Kirkhope (Burgh Buzz), Paul Briscoe (Burgh Buzz) – Part Time, Sgt Stuart Davidson, Cllr Peter George, Cllr George Kay, Cllr Susan Leslie.

ATTENDING: 10 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the meeting that apologies had been received from John Bruce, Gary Cummins, Tim Hailey, Zoe Williamson.

Cllr George Kay was attending for the first time since June 2012.

John Russell asked Cllr Kay to apologise for his comments regarding Burntisland Community Council (BCC). Cllr Kay declined stating he only apologises for that which he is sorry for.

John Russell then stated that as per Auchtertool Community Council, Burntisland Community Councillors may want to consider their position regarding Cllr Kay.

The Chairman clarified the sequence of the most important issues raised in the Community Council Survey. Due to a drafting error by the Chairman, the article in the Burgh Buzz has Play Equipment too low down the list; the correct sequence is as per the April minutes.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (12th April 2013)

The minutes were agreed, proposed by Bob Smith and seconded by Bruce Stuart.

3. Notification of Community Concerns for A.O.B. (Item 8)

Three new items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

4. Police Report – Sgt Stuart Davidson.

Sgt Stuart Davidson introduced himself. He is in the police station from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. Crime detection has gone up 8%. 38 crimes in the area with 27 detected.

He will be keeping us informed of the Multi-Member Ward Plans.

Bob Smith asked a question regarding parking on the High Street. He witnessed 8 vehicles illegally parked at 4p.m. on Friday, on double yellow lines or zigzags.

Sgt Davidson said that Fife Council were now responsible for responding to illegal parking on double yellow lines. The police were responsible for dealing with illegal parking on zigzags. He is asking Fife Council, who have a total of 9 parking attendants, to attend randomly to enforce parking restrictions. He is also seeking clarification about issuing tickets for obstruction. Obstruction is a criminal offence and the police may be able to issue tickets for obstruction should a car parking on yellow lines cause an obstruction to other traffic.

There were two comments from the public:

- 1) We don't want to chase people away.
- 2) Parking has got worse since the street re-design.



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5. Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

5.1. The Secretary stated all correspondence was up to date and there was nothing to report.

5.2. The Treasurer indicated a free balance of £912.91. See Appendix 1.

£525 is expected from Falkland in Bloom for water bowser.

There is a hold up of 2-3 weeks in opening the new account.

6. Environment.

6.1. Environmental Report.

There was a short report forwarded from John Bruce:

- 1) Older buildings in Sommerville Square need maintenance.
- 2) Cllr Kay is dealing with maintenance of benches in High Street.
- 3) John is waiting for feedback on whether the embankment on the Coastal Path near Alcan site is to be turfed.

6.2. Cllr George gave an update of older items – see Appendix 2.

6.3. Other issues discussed.

- 1) A member of the public highlighted that on the coastal path to Starley Hall from Alcan before the waterfall is very dangerous for bikes due to the stony surface.
- 2) The Shipyard stairs are still shut to the public.
During the recent fire the firemen used these stairs and did not experience any problems. A member of the public asked Cllr Kay who had closed the stairs. Cllr Kay stated that Fife Council Housing had closed the stairs. He also stated:
 - a) The 3 elected Councillors were meeting to go down the stairs.
 - b) The archway is dangerous and may need taking down.
 - c) Payback may get involved in cleaning up the stairs.
- 3) A member of the public commented that items such as the Shipyard stairs should be inspected on a regular basis by Fife Council.

7. Burgh Buzz – Bill Kirkhope.

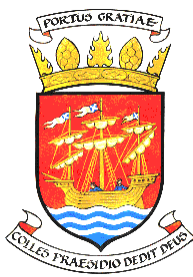
Given the comment by a member of public at the last BCC meeting, the editorial of the recent issue asked if people binned the Buzz or read it. To date there had been lots of positive responses.

The front page article has attracted lots of comments on the Burntisland Group Facebook account.

This article was put together by the Buzz Editorial Committee because there has been no publicity about the retail units proposed at the Kirkton.

There was support from the editorial committee for High Street traders. One of the committee drafted the article. The article asks for people to share their views and the Buzz has already received some letters regarding the article. Comments on Facebook accuse the article of being biased. Bill will try and analyse the Facebook comments for an article in the next Buzz however it should be remembered that the distribution of the Buzz is larger than the Burntisland Group on Facebook. Comments from the public present included:

- 1) It's 3 months to the next Buzz, it would have been better to have had a more balanced article.
- 2) Why does it say "Published by Burntisland Community Council" on the front page?
Alex MacDonald explained that the wider community benefits from a source of information which is fairly and comprehensively reported in the Burgh Buzz.



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8. Any Other Business.

8.1. Traffic Calming is planned for Leith Avenue, Laburnum Grove and Kirkcaldy Road.

These will be advertised in the press in August.

John Bradshaw welcomed this initiative and there were no adverse comments.

8.2. Public Toilets

There have been a variety of articles in the press fronted by Cllrs Kay and Leslie regarding closure of Kinghorn and Burntisland public toilets.

Apparently:

- 1) There is no budget to cover for sickness of the attendant.
If the attendant is ill then the toilet would remain shut.
- 2) There is a review by Transportation regarding public toilet closures.
Other departments are also involved.
- 3) Closure of some toilets in the Kirkcaldy area are possible.
- 4) Cllr Leslie and Kay are looking at a possible solution with the Coast and Countryside Trust.
- 5) Cllr Kay stated:
 - a) He is concerned about the lack of consultation.
 - b) £250k of saving has already been taken out of the budget
 - c) Closures have not been thought through.
 - d) Kirkcaldy West Community Council has been informed of the proposals.
 - e) Cupar are experiencing closures when the attendant is ill.

When pressed Cllr Kay stated that Pettycur Bay, Kinghorn and the main Burntisland public toilet were on a list for closure.

Morag Douglas stated that other Community Councils are being more active on this issue.

Action: John Bruce to contact Martin Dibbly of Anstruther Community Council.

Cllr George stated that the Ward meeting had suggested that the far end toilets could be closed. These are currently run by the showmen on behalf of Fife Council. He was also concerned about access for disabled people.

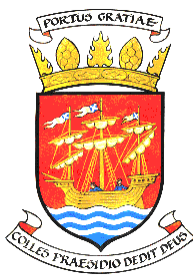
BCC has not seen anything from Fife Council regarding consultation on Public Toilet closures. John Bruce has however, in response to the newspaper articles, sent a letter to Bob McClelland of Fife Council concerning the impact that closure of the Burntisland toilets would have.

Action: Cllr Leslie to follow up on why Burntisland Community Council have not been consulted.

8.3. Website / Facebook.

Christine Dewar raised concerns about how the BCC is being represented on the internet. She is concerned at comments about the BCC made on the Burntisland Group Facebook page. She is also concerned about BCC material appearing on the Burntisland Group website for example the Beach Clean Up. She feels that this should only have been on the BCC website or BCC Facebook page. She suggests we continue communicating clearly on our own media which she is very happy with.

There was also a separate comment that any BCC communications should go through the Secretary for approval prior to publishing.



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9. New Business Items. - None.

10. Ongoing Business Items

10.1. Review of Local Planning Applications. No new applications.

10.2. Strategic Projects Group: War Memorial.

Lowest tender has declined the project.

The Quantity Surveyor has approached the second lowest tender.

Their price has increased to £71k for the reduced scope (memorial only) project.

The Quantity Surveyor has suggested an alternative organisation who have quoted £44k which is within our budget. He is sorting out the details of insurance etc.

Bob Smith requested the BCC endorse this new quotation. This was agreed by the BCC.

10.3. Potential Sale of Water Bowser.

A leak was found in the pump so the asking price was reduced from £625 to £525. This has now been sold to Falkland in Bloom. The funds have been received and will be forwarded to FAB in due course.

10.4. Burger Van on Links.

Cllr Leslie indicated that Fife Council Estates Management is responsible for the year on year rolling lease. She has passed on the concerns of BCC and these should be taken on board at the next renewal date. John Russell indicated that the van was in a Conservation Area and it was not suitable for it to be left there all year round.

Action: Alex MacDonald to write a letter to Andrew Ferguson of Fife Council to back up the concerns of the BCC.

A member of the public asked if the rental money from the Burger van was going into the Burntisland Common Good Fund. - Cllr Kay stated it was not.

It was commented that the public appears to be "paying twice".

10.5. Community Action Plan.

There has been one meeting with STAR and Alex MacDonald, John Russell, Hazel McGraw, Bruce Stuart and Tim Hailey.

Initial discussions show some contradictions:

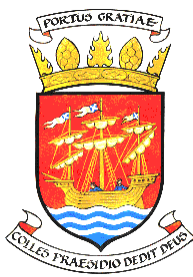
- 1) STAR will prepare the application whilst BCC will submit the application.
- 2) An application has been submitted to one of the Lottery Funds however the initial telephone feedback is that the application is "very general".
- 3) Email from Lesley Campbell of STAR indicates that other Community Councils have applied to other Lottery Funds and have been told that their applications are too specific.
- 4) Other sources of funding are being examined.

There was a meeting with the 3 elected Councillors Alex MacDonald and Bruce Stuart.

STAR is recommending that the Community Council should seek primary funding for a Survey which consists of 2 parts:

- a) Interviews with individuals and stakeholders.
- b) Interviews with showmen and visitors (needs to be done by 1st August).

This meeting did not come to any conclusion other than that the potential funding from Fife Council would be needed towards the end of the project.



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11. Awaiting Update

11.1. Burgh Chambers Furniture.

3 quotes to refurbish. The lowest quote was discounted.

The 2nd lowest tender is from a Cabinet Maker / French Polisher in Kirkcaldy.

Bob Smith visited and asked for a reference. This was given as John Cooper who when approached recommended this Cabinet Maker. We now need to get funding organised. There was some concern as the Common Good Fund is currently sitting at -£3.5k. Cllr Kay indicated that the BCC should put in an application to both the Area Fund and Common Good Fund.

11.2. Burgh Chambers Clock Tower Repair / Common Good Fund Property Review.

1) There was no news on the Clock Tower repair.

2) The Common Good Property Review.

The Property list has not changed since 2010. The BCC group has not yet met.

It was indicated that there is a move to put the Unity Hall on the market, without the knowledge or consent of the elected members. It is currently used by the Air Cadets and Fireworks group. John Russell asked Cllr Kay for a break down in the associated costs of the Unity Hall. Cllr Leslie indicated that she would ask Fife Council to slow down and consult.

11.3. Burntisland/Kinghorn Sports Hub.

Cllr Kay indicated:

1) The 60 x 40 funding is £115k from Fife Council capital fund plus £107k from SFA and there is a shortfall of £100k. He is applying to the Area Fund and may hear back in October.

2) There is £10k funding for the MUGA out of a total requirement of £60k.

3) An inventory of all the halls in Burntisland is taking place.

11.4. Beacon Centre.

The Operations Manager was not available to attend.

Ed Watson (Chief Executive of Fife Sports and Leisure) has stated that they operate the Beacon but Fife Council operates the Cafe which is losing £21k per year.

Ed is happy with Fife Council's decision to change to vending machines.

This is different to what the elected Councillors have been told.

The elected Councillors wanted the cafe to go for notes of interest but Fife Leisure Trust is not interested.

Public comments included:

1) There is going to be a cafe in Kirkcaldy.

2) The Beacon Cafe should provide healthy eating.

3) Closures due to "accidents" will affect cafe takings.

Bruce Stuart indicated that somebody should be able to make a profit out of it.

11.5. Community Emergency Planning.

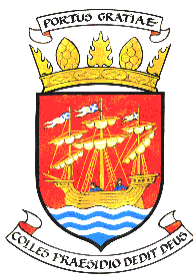
No meeting has been arranged yet with Dougie Potter of Fife Council and Leslie Community Council and our group of John Bruce, John Russell, John Bradshaw and Morag Douglas.

Action: Alex MacDonald to arrange this meeting.

Community Councillors should please note the email from Isabel regarding the 1 day seminar on Community Resilience on Tuesday 25th June.

12. Date of Next Meeting

BCC Meeting - Friday, 14th June 2013 at 7 p.m. Venue: Burgh Chambers.



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APPENDIX: 1 – Treasurer’s Report.

Burntisland Community Council			
Treasurer's Report			
10th May 2013			
Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Balance Carried Forward 31/03/13	£2,330.18		
BCC Accounts to 10/05/13 (See Notes)	£280.00	£62.62	£2,547.56
Notes:			
The overall Community Council Account Balance includes balances held for the individual projects listed below, as well as a Burgh Buzz contingency fund. This is currently £500.			
Burgh Buzz	£280.00	£0.00	£280.00
BB balance held in BCC Account 31/03/13	£524.45		
Total Burgh Buzz Balance @ 10/05/13			£804.45
Exiles Reception			
Exiles Reception balance held in BCC Account 31/03/13	-£30.87		-£30.87
Chimes balance held in BCC Account 31/03/13	£330.20		£330.20
Total held on Account for Projects			£1,134.65
Burgh Buzz contingency			£500.00
Total held on Account			£1,634.65
Balance available to Community Council @ 10/05/13			£912.91
Outstanding Income/Invoices			



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APPENDIX: 2 – Environmental Summary.

Issue	When Reported	Description	Current Status	When Resolved	Who Responsible
3	December 2012	Area outside of Jubilee Tavern leading to Kirkton Burn needs a new gate.	Ken Halley of FC has taken photos and is pursuing who owns this.	On going.	Cllr George
5	November 2012	Stairs from James Park to Dallas Avenue needs cleaned and weeded.		Done.	Cllr George
6	November 2012	Rubbish lying at Dock area near the Beacon and asbestos near Blue Shed.	Still there. Forth Ports need to give permission. In hand.		Cllr George
8	June 2012	Dog Fouling. Dog bins requested for Colinswell Road / Kininmonth Av., Craigkennochie and Coastal Path.	Still receiving complaints. One resident from Ferguson Place has been reported.	On-going.	Cllr George, Cllr Leslie
9	December 2012	Middle Tunnel on Links. This appears to be rusting. It belongs to Rail Track.	The 3 tunnels were inspected by RailTrack and are in "fair" condition. The middle tunnel will have some work done on it in 2013.		Cllr Leslie
10	December 2012	Coastal Path near Colinswell Alcan estate has deteriorated. It is very wet and muddy.	Engineers from Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust will visit on 11 th March. Some repair work carried out. Bank may be turfed.	On-going.	John Bruce
11	January 2013	Shipyard Steps	Still closed to the public. Estimate of £63k thought to be excessive.		Cllr George Cllr Kay.
12	January 2013	Graffiti outside Co-op on High Street.	Cllr George to contact appropriate department of Fife Council. Now removed.	Done.	Cllr George
13	February 2013	Stairs at Harbour Place need attention.		Been reported.	Cllr George
14	February 2013	Overgrown branches on West Broomhill Road.		Been reported.	Cllr George
15	March 2013	Chewing gum on pavements.	Payback in process of removing. Initial clean up done.		Cllr George Cllr Leslie.
16	March 2013	Red Tunnel needs stairs repaired and a railing.			Cllr George
18	March 2013	Gas main at Toll Park.	To be upgraded.	April 2013	Cllr Leslie.
19	March 2013	Two caravans at Ross Point.	Have been there for up to a year. One is vandalised. Gas bottles are dangerous.	April 2013.	Cllr George
20	April 2013	Coastal Sea Wall between Aberdour and Burntisland.	Work commencing shortly.		John Bruce.
21	April 2013	Old street lamp posts.	Need removed on Kirkton Road and Collinswell roundabout.		John Bruce.
22	April 2013	Archway to Rossend Castle.	Large crack.		John Bruce Cllr George
23	April 2013	Fly tipping near Monks Walk			Cllr George
24	April 2013	Monks Walk clean up.	All cleared by Payback.	May 2013.	Cllr George.
25	April 2013	Old Admiralty ground needs cleared.			Cllr George.
26	April 2013	Alexander's Monument needs tidied up.	Cllr George to bring up with Kinghorn CC.		Cllr George.
27	April 2013	Manhole cover at Haugh Road.	Temporary repair awaiting permanent repair.		Cllr Leslie.
28	May 2013	Coastal Path from Alcan to Waterfall Dangerous for bicycles due to stones.			John Bruce.
29	May 2013	Older houses in Sommerville Street need maintenance.			John Bruce
30	May 2013	Benches in High Street need maintenance.			Cllr Kay.

Issues highlighted in GREEN as completed will be removed in the next Summary.