



BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 13th June 2014
7.00 P.M.
Burgh Chambers.

Draft Minutes.

PRESENT:

Bob Smith (Vice Chair), John Russell (Treasurer), Gordon Langlands (Secretary), John Bruce, Christine Dewar, Morag Douglas, Tim Hailey, George McLauchlan, Paul Briscoe (Burgh Buzz), Cllr Peter George (part-time), Cllr George Kay and Cllr Susan Leslie.

ATTENDING: 8 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members that apologies had been received from Alex MacDonald (Chair), Hazel McGraw, Ian McKenzie, Damien Purcell, Bruce Stuart, Bill Kirkhope, and PS Neil Ewing.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (11 April 2014)

The minutes were agreed, proposed by Tim Hailey and seconded by John Russell.

3. Notification of Community Concerns for A.O.B. (Item 8): See items 8.1 to 8.5.

4. Police Report.

Please refer to the report in Appendix 1.

Note that there is no reference to the Civic Week Parade and Motor Cycle event.

5. Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

5.1. Secretary Report.

The transfer of the Secretary roll from Isabel Smith is almost complete.

Please be aware that the new email address for the secretary is burntislandcc@outlook.com.

Action: Alex MacDonald to arrange a card and flowers for Isabel Smith in recognition of all the work she has done.

5.2. Treasurer Report.

The report and audited accounts for 2013-14 will be published separately.

There is £397.70 available to spend.

Acceptance of audited accounts were proposed by Tim Hailey, seconded by Christine Dewar.

In future it may be possible to claim from the Common Good Fund for the costs of any receptions.

John Russell stated that there was no double payment of honorariums and recommended that we consider dispensing with these in future. He also recommended that members take turns helping with the various buffets or contributing something.

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6. Environment.

- 6.1. Environment issues report by John Bruce see Appendix 2.
- 6.2. David Murdoch said that he had never seen the town in such bad condition.
His concerns included:
 - a) Broomhill steps need attention.
 - b) Broomhill Garage Site overgrown.
 - c) Slabs outside old Post Office are loose and dangerous.
 - d) Cromwell Road garden overgrown.
 - e) Surface of east end of beach esplanade is very uneven.
 - f) The condition of Lochies Road.
 - g) Bins on Links not being emptied at weekends.
 - h) Cars parking on the grass at the Links.
 - i) Cars parking on Zig Zag area in High Street are an accident waiting to happen.
- 6.3. Cllr Peter George reported:
 - a) The old picture house has a valid planning application with 2 years left to run before compulsory purchase order can be considered.
- 6.4. Cllr George Kay reported:
 - a) He is chasing up the Kirkton Burn issue for Mrs Gault.
 - b) There are issues with the vacant property next to the Green Sandwich. There are various environmental issues. Fife Council is encouraging owners to tidy up their properties however you need permission from the owner before you can paint their frontage.
 - c) He has written to BT concerning the telephone box at the putting green which has no door.
 - d) The path between Melville Gardens and Haugh Road need some serious work done on it.
 - e) He has awritten to Fife Council saying the work done on the Esplanade is not sufficient and asking them to do more.
- 6.5. Cllr Susan Leslie reported:
 - a) That the garden at Cromwell road would be attended to next week.
 - b) The flooded path at Colinswell was going to be attended to by Fife Coastal Trust in July however the banking was in the hands of the Factor.
 - c) Teams were starting this weekend to empty bins on the Links.
- 6.6. Bob Smith complained that the grass at the Cemetery was being cut but the cuttings are being left and that the compost recepticle was broken and needed replaced.
- 6.7. Ben Baron complained that the quad bike weed killer was not any good.
The spraying is not controlled.

7. Burgh Buzz – Paul Briscoe.

The colour edition had problems and the printer is compensating with colour editions of the next issues. The Buzz is also looking for volunteers to get involved.

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8. Any Other Business.

8.1 Mossmorran: Refer to Appendix 3.

8.2 Deveron Homes.

Fife Council are looking for suggestions from BCC regarding a street name.

John Bruce suggested naming a street after one of our centenarians.

Action: John Bruce to email Alex MacDonald with suggestion.

8.3 Dog Exercise Area / Blue Flag Beach

Pauline Bell came along to the meeting and put forward the following case:

With the Toll Centre now removed, the Beach no longer accessible between May and September, the shows making use of the links and the Lammerlaws no longer able to be used, there are now less and less areas to exercise/walk our dogs off lead reasonably, it would just be lovely to see a special dog exercising area for this sole purpose, just like the ones they have at Kirkcaldy Beveridge Park and Lochore Meadows to assist with the exercising of our dogs within a safe sectioned area. I am sure a great many other dog owners/walkers would very much welcome a new amenity like this to Burntisland for locals and visitors alike to use.

John Bruce thought this was an excellent idea.

George McLaughlan agreed that it was getting difficult to find places to exercise dogs.

Cllr Leslie stated that the exercise area at Beveridge Park is rarely used.

Bob Smith encouraged members of the public to use the Toll Park open green space which is for all activities not just football, the Pony field next to the Shipyard Park and the Seamill.

Cllr Kay indicated that responsibility for maintenance of the Toll Park had been agreed within Fife Council and it was now being maintained.

Cllr Kay said that the Lifeguards, when on duty, asked dog owners to co-operate by keeping their dogs off the beach.

John Bruce stated that Burntisland Community Council and Fife Council are concerned about the number of Dogs being allowed to go onto our Blue Flag Beach between June until end of September. Owners must be discouraged and show some respect to the many people who use the Beach during the summer months and not to allow their dogs on the Beach during these months. Dog owners should also be reminded to PICK UP their dog POO and BIN IT.

They can walk their dog along the promenade but are not allowed on the BEACH during this period. Burntisland Community Council recently ran a competition at the local Primary School asking pupils to design a poster in an attempt to discourage irresponsible owners not to allow their dogs to Foul our streets and Parks the winning posters have been placed around the town and along the BEACH and we trust this will get through to the community of Burntisland that our citizens are concerned and wish to make Burntisland a cleaner place to live in.

Action: John Bruce to discuss with Robbie Blyth, the head ranger for Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, to see if there is a possibility in placing more signage along the edge of the promenade which will draw our concerns to the public.

8.4 Seamill Development.

There will be a public consultation in August for a development of houses on the Seamill.

8.5 Car Parking.

This will be a major problem this year.

The three elected Fife Councillors have asked for a new car park between the Railway station and Dive Bunker. Parking on the grass of the Links is dangerous and needs to be controlled.

Action: Fife Cllrs to clarify what is Fife Council's policy regarding parking on the Links.

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9. New Business Items

9.1. Review of BCC Finances. – See 5.2.

9.2. New Community Woodlands Survey.

John Bruce filled in this survey including the Dells (Kirkbank Road), Blue Bell Woods, Walk from Golf Course to Binn etc.

9.3. Request for interview on Community Resilience.

This has been arranged by John Bruce for 25th June. John Bradshaw will also attend.

9.4. The Kirkton Churchyard.

George McLaughlan made the case for maintaining and improving this historic churchyard and indicated his concern at the lack of progress and the possible missed opportunity of an archaeological dig.

Cllr Kay indicated:

- a) Much had been done in the background and £62k of Lottery funding was being applied for.
- b) This churchyard must be accessible to the public, hence the padlock has been removed.

There appears to be a lack of communication on what is happening.

Action: Alex MacDonald to invite Ian Sommerville and John Burnett of Burntisland Heritage to attend the August meeting of the BCC to update the BCC on this project.

9.5. Forth Estuary Forum (Membership).

As per last year, Tim Hailey recommends we do not take up membership.

9.6. Exiles Reception and Parade.

The parade has been applied for and insurance organised.

Letters of invite will be sent out imminently.

Volunteers are required to assist with the reception.

Action: John Russell to obtain 3 quotes for the buffet.

10. Ongoing Business Items

10.1. Review of Local Planning Applications.

There are 3 single storey extensions plus a listed buildings consent for the old Inchview Hotel to change it to a single house.

10.2. Royal Burgh Branding – No update.

11. Awaiting Update

11.1. Common Good Fund Property Review Report.

Stil no progress. This should stay as a separate item from 11.4.

11.2. Burntisland/Kinghorn Sports Hub.

This project is about to be handed over to officials to make a start.

There is a slight shortfall of £600.

There will be an application to the Common Good Fund for this amount.

The BCC agreed in principle to support this application.

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11.3. War Memorial.

Update by email from Alex MacDonald:

“A second set of invoices have been received and I am awaiting the release of funds in order to enable settlement. Valuation certificates in respect of the work done so far have been provided by our QS and our architect. Our QS recommended an interim retention of 5% on the stonemasonry, which has been taken into account.

The blacksmith has been doing preparatory work on the railings off-site but his availability was delayed by other work. The War Memorials Trust have agreed to extend their original deadline for completion of the project so that the railings can be installed.

Once that has been done, the project will be complete and final invoices will be drawn up. The value of those invoices will be subject to an on-site meeting with me, Bob Smith and our QS, in order to identify any unreasonable variation between the work as originally costed and the work as delivered.

Thereafter, there is one possible source of funds which might enable us to carry out the environmental improvement of the adjacent land. However, we can only make the initial application for funding once all work on the memorial itself has been completed.”

11.4. Proposed Community Action Plan/ Strategic Projects Group.

a) Update by email from Alex MacDonald:

“The re-constituted Strategic Projects Group met in May and included Geoff Robotham (Surveyor), James McIntosh (Project Manager) and Ben Barron (Parent Council). The discussion focused mainly on the need to develop robust proposals for the conservation and future use of the entire Burgh Chambers complex, including the re-building of the clock tower. It was agreed that Cllr George Kay would ask the Fife Historic Buildings Trust to provide information on other projects which might be considered exemplars. Once that information has been provided, each project will be allocated to two members of the group for further investigation. Earlier proposals outlined by John Russell will also be circulated to the group members at that time.

In parallel, I will update the Community Council’s prioritised list of potential projects and submit that for further discussion.

We have still to set up a formal, short-life working group comprising local representatives and Fife Council officials, as agreed in our earlier discussion with Cllr Neil Crooks. I understand that preparatory work in that respect is in hand within Fife Council.

A date for a second meeting will be set as soon as information has been received from FHBT and the group members have had time to review the example projects in order that they can brief the others accordingly.”

b) Cllr Leslie confirmed that Fife Council is committed to a Short Life Working Group and that the Local Office may have to move to the Library due to deterioration of the present office.

They are waiting for plans. If they do move then the Common Good Fund would lose £4.5k per annum rent,

12. Date of Next Meeting

BCC Meeting - Friday, 8th August 2014 at 7 p.m. Venue: Burgh Chambers.

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Appendix 1:



UPDATE FOR BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL 13TH JUNE 2014

PS946 Neil Ewing

CRIME FIGURES

- 31 Crimes Reported since last meeting
- 20 Detected
- 55% detection rate
- 11 new undetected crimes from last month. 4 have named suspects and will be detected. Remaining 7 undetected crimes require further enquiry to try and identify the person(s) responsible.

LOCAL ACTION

- Continued monitoring of the public houses within the town, ensuring compliance with licence.
- Increased usage of speed gun around the town
- High Viz patrols and cycle patrols with lighter nights.
- Action plan in place to tackle youth disorder within the town, with lighter nights and fair arriving on the Links.

INCIDENTS OF NOTE

UPCOMING ACTION/EVENTS

- Burntisland Highland Games – 21/07/2014
- Media Strategy in place. This will highlight concerns regarding suitable parking and request people travelling use public transport.
- Stagecoach to run an extra bus from Kirkcaldy Bus Station direct to Burntisland.
- Fife Council parking attendants aware of the event and attending to enforce parking issues.
- Increased police presence on both dayshift and backshift hours.

- Commonwealth Games
- Increased police presence required at all venues.
- All division including Fife will supply officers to assist at these venues.

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Appendix 2: ENVIRONMENT ISSUES FOR MEETING FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 2014

PALIAS STAIRS

The steps have been sprayed with weed killer and the Ivy cut back from the wall thanks to Charles McPhee in getting this work done.

PATHWAY LAMERLAWS LEADING TO SCOTT TIMBER YARD

This pathway is overgrown I have reported this to Fife Council and they are in the process of investigating who are responsible for the maintenance of this pathway if it is Fife Council they would arrange to have the edging of the path strimmed and made clearer for walkers.

HIGH STREET SHOP FRONTS

I am concerned at the appearances of some of the empty shop fronts and wondered if Fife Council could approach the owners of these shops and ask them to clean up the frontage as they are an eyesore and brings down the look of our high street many of the existing businesses have made an effort to clean up their shop fronts and it is a real shame that those empty premises are left to deteriorate. I understand that the owner of the sandwich shop is trying to get permission to board up the shop front next to him and paint it this will certainly make some difference.

Burntisland have again entered for Beautiful Fife and Beautiful Scotland this year and all the efforts made by Floral Action Burntisland to make Burntisland look Fabulous may be in jeopardy if something cannot be done to make our high street look more attractive.

GATE ENTRANCE TO PLAY PARK AT COLLINSWELL ROAD

This has been reported to Fife Council indicating the possible danger to children and motorists I have been informed that the Gate has now been permanently locked and only used for maintenance personnel. There is now a new entrance located at the west end of the park making it much safer for all.

STEPS FROM COLLINSWELL ROAD DIRECTLY ONTO ABERDOUR ROAD

There is a safety issue as these steps lead directly onto the busy Aberdour Road I have suggested a Barrier to be placed there and this matter is now in the hands of Transportation Department and I am waiting on a reply from them.

UNSAFE STEP LEADING FROM RUSSELL GROVE TO MCRAE CRESENT

This has been reported to Jane Falconer from Kingdom Housing she has passed this to Jillian Rodgers Lead Officer Neighbourhood Management. Jillian has informed me that these steps are not the responsibility of Fife Council and has referred this matter to Building Control and requested they make contact with me direct I am now waiting on an update.

INSECURE STEP AT TOLL CENTRE LEADING FROM KIRKCALDY ROAD

This has been reported to Karen Allen development manager at the Toll Centre and she informed me that they would have this step repaired and made safe. Note: This has since been repaired.

BURNTISLAND CEMETERY

I have again received complaints from the public about the condition of the cemetery and recently visited cemetery and found near to the entrance shrubs have been removed and the ground just left not cleaned up I noticed that the grass had been cut but the ground round the gravestones untidy still requires some top soil spread round the stones to make them more respectable. Hopefully we will see an improvement in the maintenance of our cemetery in the near future. I will be meeting Cllr Kay and a representative from Fife Council at the cemetery on Wednesday 18th June 14.

ROSE GARDEN KINGHORN ROAD

I have noticed that the stones along the edge have been removed and lying on the pathway requires some attention to tidy this area up this is next to a memorial seat and not very respectful.

BROOMHILL VIEW POINT AND STEPS LEADING TO AND FROM

This area is overgrown with weeds and very untidy both west and east end steps are a mess and requires some attention.

ARCHES ROSSEND CASTLE

Stone still missing from Arches this was reported at our last meeting.

PATH WAY FROM CROMWELL ROAD TO DICK CRESENT

This path way is again overgrown with weeds had been cleaned last year by the pay back team but as we are approaching the opening of the new school this path way may be used more often by children and parents hopefully we can have this cleaned before August.

OLD PICTURE HOUSE SITE

Can we receive some update on what is happening at this site as a few local people are enquiring about the condition of this ground.

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Appendix 3: Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Liaison Committee 12th June 2014

Shell

Shell have been running a twilight basketball scheme in Lochgelly since 2013, from 8-10pm on Fridays. Police have reported a drop of 58% in calls about anti-social behaviour during those times, and a drop of 42% in such calls overall. There are similar schemes running in Levenmouth and Dunfermline, as well as another 19 locations throughout the UK, with similar results. Further information is awaited.

A recent Family Science Day at St Colme House, Aberdour attracted 1,100 people, as well as pupils from local schools over the previous few days.

Small donations over the past three months include two to organisations in Burntisland.

ExxonMobil

A recent investment of £100,000 will see infra red and ultrasonic cameras installed which will help to identify fugitive emissions and / or faulty vales.

Small donations over the past three months include four to organisations in Burntisland. Other donations include £10,000 to the Safe Drive Stay Alive roadshow, which will be held in the Rothes Halls in November and is aimed at senior school pupils. In addition, £5,000 was donated to the Ecology Centre which helps to run the company's pond-dipping programme for primary schools.

It is over 18 years since there was a lost time injury to any personnel working onsite.

SEPA

Noise complaints were investigated but no abnormal operations were identified.

No reportable incidents and no areas of concern were identified in the site inspections which took place in March.

Regular site inspections are scheduled for June, July, September and November.

Other

Both Shell and ExxonMobil were visited by Fergus Ewing, MSP, Minister for Energy and Tourism, as part of his tour of petro-chemical installations in Scotland and off-shore.