



BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 14 February 2014

7.00 P.M.

Burgh Chambers.

Draft Minutes

PRESENT

Bob Smith (Vice Chair), Isabel Smith (Secretary), John Russell (Treasurer), Hazel McGraw (Joint Minutes Secretary), Gordon Langlands (Joint Minutes Secretary), John Bradshaw, John Bruce, Morag Douglas, Tim Hailey, Ian McKenzie, Bruce Stuart, Cllr Peter George, Cllr George Kay and Cllr Susan Leslie, Paul Briscoe (Burgh Buzz), Alan Henderson (Kingdom Housing), Ian McLean (Locogen), Julie Samuel (Kinghorn Ecology Centre) and Alison Crook (Kinghorn Ecology Centre).

ATTENDING: 7 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Apologies for Absence

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members that apologies had been received from Alex MacDonald, Christine Dewar, Damien Purcell, PS Neil Ewing and Bill Kirkhope (Burgh Buzz).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (10 January 2014)

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

3. Notification of Community Concerns for A.O.B. (Item 8):No items raised for discussion

4. Police Report – PS Ewing.

PS Ewing was not present but had provided a written report. 27 crimes had been reported since the last meeting with 15 detected (55%). Local officers remained proactive in tackling road safety, deterring crime and conducting stop/searches targeting underage drinking. An increased presence on Friday/ Saturday nights was maintained targeting anti-social behaviour. Fife Council traffic wardens had been in the area and PS Ewing would continue to liaise with supervisor for continued support. The Burntisland Front Office Counter would close on 3 March 2014 however the station would remain open with the front door open during normal working hours when officers were available, with access at the back door outwith normal hours. Drop in clinics would be set up at the Beacon with Crime Prevention Officers available for information and home security advice.

5. Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

5.1. Nothing to report

5.2. The Treasurer indicated a balance available of £946 - See Appendix 1.

6. Environment.

6.1. John Bruce provided an environment report which is attached at Appendix 2.

6.2. A summary of issues and updates is included at Appendix 3.

7. Burgh Buzz – Paul Briscoe.

The 50th edition of the Burgh Buzz was published with good feedback received.

8. Any Other Business.

No other business was raised.



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9. New Business Items

9.1. Community Council Vacancy – adverts had been placed in the Burgh Buzz and Fife Free Press, to be discussed at March meeting.

9.2. Proposed Single Wind Turbine at Balbie, Orrock. Alan Henderson (Kingdom Housing) and Ian McLean (Locogen) presented a revised planning application, which has been recently submitted, for a single wind turbine at Balbie. The proposed development is a single wind turbine of 67m total height, at Balbie Farm, approximately 1.5km north of Burntisland. It is a 50/50 jointly owned venture between Kingdom Housing Association and Locogen Ltd, a Scottish owned renewable energy company based in Edinburgh.

The revised proposal addresses concerns raised with a previous application which was withdrawn in September 2013. The overall height of the turbine had been reduced.

Fifty per cent of the total turbine revenue would, through Kingdom Housing, be spent directly within Fife on furthering Kingdom's charitable and sustainability objectives, which include the provision of social housing stock and supporting the Association's wider role projects. In addition a dedicated fund has been proposed, that would provide almost £100,000 to nearby community groups over the 25 year life of the turbine. It was however noted that these community benefits should not be taken into consideration when assessing planning applications.

The Community Council would have the opportunity to respond formally when the planning application was received.

9.3. Grass Crete on Links. Grass Crete had been installed on the Links to provide protection to the paving edges.

9.4. Common Good Fund Application Toll Centre Wed. Social Club. A Common Good Fund application from the Toll Centre Wednesday Social Club was discussed. The application sought 5% of the total funding required to replace the original flooring in the hall and foyer of the Toll Centre.

SUPPORTED.

9.5. Ecology Centre Plans for Kinghorn Loch. Julie Samuel and Alison Crook (Kinghorn Ecology Centre) introduced the Centre's plans for a new building at the east end of Kinghorn Loch. The lease on the current building was coming to an end and there was no opportunity for renewal. The Centre had therefore purchased land to the east of the Loch and would be seeking to raise funding and submit a planning application for a single storey educational building at that site. The land would remain open to the public and would include access for fishing, a play area, wild orchard and dipping ponds. In developing the plans due regard was paid to objections raised to a previous application on this site.

SUPPORTED. The Chairman would write a formal letter of support from the Community Council.

10. Ongoing Business Items

10.1. Review of Local Planning Applications.
No applications for attention.

11. Awaiting Update

11.1. Burgh Chamber Clock Tower Repair / Common Good Fund Property Review Report.
The Chair would request regular updates from the Area Committee

11.2. Burgh Chambers Furniture.

Renovation work would commence week beginning 17 February 2014.

11.3. Burntisland/Kinghorn Sports Hub.

A tender would go out in the coming weeks for the synthetic pitch. A possible £30k funding had been identified subject to the Group raising an additional £3k.



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11.4. Strategic Projects Group: War Memorial
Work has commenced

11.5. Gas fracking in Fife.

John Bruce provided a summary to date which is attached at Appendix 4. A meeting date has yet to be proposed by Dart Energy.

11.6. Proposed Community Action Plan
No update

12. Date of Next Meeting

BCC Meeting - Friday 14 March 2014 at 7 p.m. Venue: Burgh Chambers.

Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 – see below.



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Appendix 1

Burntisland Community Council			
Treasurer's Report			
14th February 2014			
Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Balance Carried Forward 31/03/13	£2,216.12		
BCC Accounts to 14/02/14 (See Notes)	£11,437.04	£4,599.39	£9,053.77
Notes:			
The overall Community Council Account Balance includes balances held for the individual projects listed below.			
Burgh Chambers Furniture	£7,722.00	£0.00	£7,722.00
Burgh Chambers Furniture balance held in BCC Account 31/03/13	£0.00		
Total Burgh Chambers Furniture Balance @ 14/02/14			£7,722.00
Exiles Reception	£260.00	£284.32	-£24.32
Exiles Reception balance held in BCC Account 31/03/13	-£30.87		
Total Exiles Reception Balance @ 14/02/14			-£55.19
Chimes balance held in BCC Account 14/02/14	£330.20		£330.20
Total held on Account for Projects			£8,107.39
Total held on Account			£8,107.39
Balance available to Community Council @ 14/02/14 (See Notes)			£946.38

BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT ISSUES FOR MEETING FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 14

EMPTY HIGH STREET SHOPS

There are a few empty shops on Burntisland High Street with some boarded up others have dirty windows and the paintwork is peeling off which makes our High Street look really untidy.

I have noticed that a number of existing business owners have taken an effort to paint up their frontage and this does make a difference.

I would suggest that the Fife Council contacts the owners of these empty shops and requests them to clean up their premises on the High Street and keep them in a more respectable condition which will go a long way to improve the overall environment in our High Street.

I am sure if these premises were in better condition from the outside it might attract interested parties to the area and also benefit the existing businesses.

MIDDLE TUNNEL LINKS

I have received complaints regarding the bad condition of the steps at the middle tunnel on the links steps are badly worn and could cause harm to individuals it would be a suggestion to place a hand rail down the centre of the steps to assist people to access the beach more safely. I spoke with Cllr George last year and he advocated that something had to be done to these stairs for public safety.

BURNTISLAND CREST STICKERS

The Burntisland crest stickers on all the planters and waste bins along the High Street are badly faded. Floral Action Burntisland have been speaking to the D-signs printers who have recently moved into the town taking over the old post office premises they have informed FAB that if they could obtain a copy of the print they would run off copies free of charge as a token of thanks to FAB in their attempt to improve the look of our High Street. We have now obtained a copy of the crest print and FAB have presented this to the printers.

We must thank Allan from D-signs for this offer which I am sure will help to make our High Street environmentally friendly.

DOG FOULING

This is still an issue in the town we are presently waiting on a poster being designed by the primary school pupils and the winner of the completion will be presented with a small gift from BCC the poster will be circulated throughout the town in an attempt to persuade the irresponsible dog owners to pick up their dog poo, bag it, and bin it.

We must take a serious stance and where people do not pick up after their dogs they can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice

Dog fouling is not only dirty but is dangerous as parasites in the Faeces can cause illness and blindness in children.

I would encourage anyone who sees this happening to report it immediately to the authorities even just noting the place and time and if possible the type of dog this information can also be passed to your local elected councillors or community councillors.

Appendix 2

FIFE COASTAL PATH (AT COLLINSWELL ESTATE BURNTISLAND)

Derek Abbot the Fife Coastal Path Ranger has been dealing with Bett Homes after we complained about the state of this stretch of path. Bett homes have recently arranged to lay turf on the embankment which is an improvement but not fully completed.

The condition of the pathway at this stretch is terrible wet and muddy Bett Homes had indicated to Derek Abbot that they intended to have some drainage work done on this path and have it re-laid and made more respectable for people to walk and cycle on. We are presently waiting for an up- date on this matter.

BURNTISLAND CEMETERY

I notice that work has been carried out at the cemetery and must say it certainly looks more respectable thanks to Liz Murphy and her team in doing a good job and also thanks to Cllr George Kay for his attention to this matter

Appendix 3

Environmental issues

Issue	When Reported	Description	Current Status	When Resolved	Who Responsible
8	June 2012	Dog Fouling. Dog bins requested for Colinswell Road / Kininmonth Av., Craigkennochie and Coastal Path.	This appears to be getting worse. Public encouraged to report offenders	On-going.	Cllr George, 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. Bett homes are turfing the bank and will install drainage and re-lay the path	On-going.	John Bruce
11	January 2013	Shipyards Steps	Community payback to clear steps. Hurd Rolland purchasing adjacent land, they may take responsibility for making the steps safe	Still on-going.	Cllr George Cllr Kay.
13	February 2013	Stairs at Harbour Place need attention.		Been reported.	Cllr George
16	March 2013	Red Tunnel needs stairs repaired and a railing.			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.
25	April 2013	Old Admiralty ground needs cleared.	MoD land		Cllr George.
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.	Planning permission for roof and windows.		John Bruce
31	June 2013	Cemetery	Verges and earth around graves improved. Red chip paths to be fixed.	Currently work continuing into next year.	John Bruce Cllr Kay.
36	August 2013	Path from Glebe Place to Meadowfield.	Lamp post needed		Cllr George.
38	August 2013	Safer route to school	No update.		Cllr George.
39	September 2013	Kirkton Cemetery	Initial cut back completed. Walls inspected. Funding being sought for renovation and signage		Cllr Kay.
41	October 2013	Haugh Road pavement.	Badly needs maintenance. Holes to be filled.	New surface in 2014/15.	Cllr Leslie. Cllr George.
42	January 2014	Promenade - Areas needing resurfaced/ repaired	Is due to be cleared up w/b 13/01/14	Reported	Cllr Kay
43	January 14	High Street	Areas of High St and cobbled parking areas need re-surfaced	Due pre- xmas Investigate	Cllr Kay
44	February 14	Centre tunnel , steps badly worn	Hand rail needed		Cllr George

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

UNCONVENTIONAL GAS FRACKING

Hazel McGraw and myself attended a meeting in Glenrothes in November 2013 organized by Pitteuchar, Stenton, Finglassie Community Council in conjunction with Friends of the Earth Scotland.

The purpose of our attendance on behalf of Burntisland Community Council was to understand the concept of Fracking and what effect it may have on our communities.

We were informed that there are currently a number of areas in Scotland licenced for onshore oil and gas exploration and development and that the most advanced unconventional gas development is at Letham Mass Near Airth where a company called Dart Energy is using horizontal and vertical drilling techniques but not currently Fracking to extract coal bed methane.

This pilot project is Darts most advanced European venture and still at the testing stage. The project has already 14 wells drilled.

In September 2012 Dart submitted planning applications to Falkirk and Stirling Councils for 22 new wells at 14 sites, a waste treatment facility and a network of pipelines to take the development to its commercial production phase.

Dart Energy also have a further two licences to explore large areas of Fife and the Midland Valley and are hoping to explore Shale reserves in the Lothians.

In 2014 the UK Department for Energy and Climate Change will launch the tendering process for its 14th round of onshore licencing during which a vast swathe of Central Scotland could be put out to tender for unconventional gas and exploration.

Fracking (Hydraulic Fracking) is a controversial unconventional energy source that involves high volumes of fracking fluids into underground shale seams this fractures the rocks releasing methane. Friends of the Earth Scotlands position is even if it was safe to extract this gas if we want to prevent the worst impacts of culture change it is not safe to burn it, investing in unconventional gas now will lock us into dangerously high greenhouse gas emissions and make it extremely difficult to meet our legally binding carbon reduction targets by 2050

Friends of the Earth Scotland are also concerned of the following issues which may arise whilst Fracking for Shale Gas these are as follows

- Environmental Risks
- Health Risks
- Soil Contamination
- Earthquakes

This is what we learned from Friends of the Earth Scotland we are now waiting to hear from Dart Energy who have stated they would visit Glenrothes to discuss their position and their plans for extracting shale gas in Fife.

John Bruce
Hazel McGraw
Burntisland Community Council

Hazel McGraw 7 March 2014