

# St Fillans Community Council

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th October 2022  
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

**Welcome:** Chair Stewart Gavigan welcomed 20 villagers and Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali, Baillie Rhona Brock

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from John Wilkie, Sheila Cramond, Blair Cramond, Rico Hollas, Paula Linton, Malcom Linton, Barry Fisher, John Littler, Kathy Moncrieff, Ian Moncrieff, Carol Graham, Dave Pryde, Lynda Pryde, Steve Howell

### 2. Minutes of last AGM meeting

Minutes of the last AGM Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were proposed as a true record by Richard Graham and seconded by Russell Cunningham.

### 3. Chairs report

Firstly, welcome to you all for this, my final address as Community Council Chair. I would like to thank you all for putting up with me. I would also like to thank, my arms for being by my side, my legs for always supporting me and my hands, I could always count on them.

My sincerest of thanks go to St Fillans Council especially Ulrika & Rico. Again, a special thank you to Don Forrester for his diligence on managing IT and compliance throughout my term.

Thank you to all the volunteer groups including the Church and the Community Trust for continuing to keep St Fillans the wonderful place that it is!

Thank you to all P&K councillors for their support.

And again, thank you to St Fillans community for your support throughout what turned out to be an eventful three years.

A final and special thanks goes to my wife Audrey for her patience, understanding and help. I don't think I would have finished my term as a sane person without you.

On reflection, in the position of chair I have learnt more about myself than I realised, not least developing an ability to listen, decipher & understand what is being said to me. I feel I am now a better communicator and perhaps less belligerent than in the past.

I also recognise a failing in me, that being the ability to delegate effectively, for this I apologise to my fellow councillors.

St Fillans Community Council has over the past year tried to keep business going as usual.

### **Transport Scotland**

A change of heading from last year's buses. During the year myself and Rico had a walk through the village with Neil MacFarlane of transport Scotland. (My apologies to Fraser Ballantyne, however it was requested that only councillors should attend.)

After what seemed to be a potentially fruitful talk. With discussions about reduced speed limits from 50 to 40mph within west end zone, blocked drains, bus hard standings, the need for up-to-date traffic recording system records and the potential for trialling of ultra-modern APNR & audio cameras.

Things have gone very quiet. To the extent that no records of the meeting were produced as requested, or records of the last traffic recording information for speeds, also requested.

Over the past 3 years I have requested traffic monitoring. Apparently, there is a waiting list!

### **Camping and jet skiers 'PWC'**

All in all, I think a reasonable year with regards camping and PWC's with a few notable exceptions.

The near misses for swimmers in the bay area by PWC users.

The other two from our point of view are the campers' vehicles that are left in the layby by the sailing club. No authority seems to want to take ownership of this issue. Nice for the folks that are getting free holidays for the whole of the season and preventing the use of parking for others to enjoy the countryside.

The other was the group that camped outside the Drummond Hotel and partied there with impunity.

### **Policing**

After being in productive correspondence with the local constabularies and having productive meetings 2020-21. I reported last year via Inspector Craig Stephen that Police officers are better informed of our local bylaws. With a request that residents witnessing anti-social behaviour or crime should report it on 101.

I felt totally let down by the police, as did St Fillans residents involved with the camping partying group incident of the weekend Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

All our work was undone, when the village was abandoned by the police and virtually accused of being nuisance callers.

After sending emails to our Councillors, MSP's, Police Scotland, and our inattentive MP John someone or other.

I was eventually contacted by Safer Communities Scotland (SCS) who assured me a Commander Tom Leonard would contact me. After ten days I contacted SCS again.

Eventually I was contacted by an Inspector Heather MacDonald of Tayside Constabulary. She apologised for their failings, then went on to the same old rhetoric about how these people that making our lives a misery need educating.

I corrected her and asked why is it that there are different law applications for towns and cities and the countryside.

Apparently, the law is at the discretion of the officers attending.

## **Bridges**

P&K's Senior structural engineer has confirmed it is his understanding that lime mortar was specified by the council and used by the contractor. He also confirms his understanding is that cement was not used.

So, the bags of cement I saw being used and discussing with the workers why they were using cement turns out not to be cement! Or that's the understanding anyway!

Time to put this one to bed. It says to me P&K have paid for expensive lime mortar and got cement.

## **Paths Group**

LERP has been busy with Phase 5a being completed and opened by MSP Jim Fairlie on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. This was followed by tea and cake at the Sandison Hall. Well done Geoff and all those involved. And also, with the continued maintenance of the path.

## **Gardening Group**

Fund raising is underway by an outside project management group to return the artwork 'Still' to the Village. The management group was appointed by Take a Pride in P & K. To date over half the £25K has been raised. It has been a long-drawn-out process, well done to Audrey and Geoff for sticking at it.

## **Festive committee**

Great to have bonfire night back in the field and a festive weekend again, both well attended. The festive weekend had our own version of Highland games for young people, a quiz night and a local band playing some fantastic tunes.

## **Sandison Hall Groups**

The Sandison Hall is open, residents are welcome to put forward what they would like to see happening within the building. Strathearn Arts of Crieff did a presentation and may want to use the premises regularly in the future.

## **Community Action Plan**

The CAP 2017-22 is ending this year, to be replaced with 'The Local Place Plan.'

This is being headed up by Carol Graham. She along with Kelly Bates gave a very informative presentation on LPP, highlighting that communities will have more say in what happens in their area with a legal obligation to be heard. (Still, nobody listens to me!)

## **The Cultural Heritage Group**

This group headed by Jim Brierley has focused mainly on Dundurn Cemetery. However, Jim opened the archive behind the church on the morning of the festive weekend. If you ever get the chance to go along it is worth a visit.

### **The Community Centre Feasibility Study Group**

This was set up as the village is full and looks as though it is going to be expanding. Funds were raised and studies of locations made, with the field behind the war memorial being chosen. More on this later.

### **Other Projects**

There are three construction projects within the village.

The Drummond sale went through, planning permission has been applied for and reconstruction is starting, Scaffolding is going up.

Drummond Estates, Dundurn Walk final phase. Concerns and objections have been raised with P&K, National Parks, and Drummond Estates.

The Caravan Site (Caledonian Lodges) Station Road. Despite questions being asked about the destruction of Grade B listed structures and other planning issues Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Planning department decided they had an enforcement case file open and to disclose their information was not in the public interest. Despite it being the public that are interested. Over the past year I have continuously contacted Scottish Forestry with regards tree felling around the caravan site. They have been dreadful as highlighted by the email I read out at the last meeting. I replied and received an email. I have passed this on to our P&K Councillors.

### **Welcome to New Villagers**

I haven't changed this statement much from last year as it still stands true. Thank you, Paula Linton for meeting and giving out warm welcomes and welcome packs to even more new residents. I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you all get as much pleasure from living in St Fillans as I have and do.

On a personal note, I again would like to thank you all for making the Village what it is and for supporting the community throughout the exceptional times we've had, (sorry for the cliché). A big thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work, and for the support of the Community Trust and church.

In conclusion we have had yet another busy year. I think this final report has demonstrated my frustration with public funded organisations and their dealings with our community. Hopefully with the new LPP there may some legal recourse.

I will be taking a short break, with a view to possibly starting a new project in the future that may ultimately benefit the village, if it comes to fruition and I may be joining another group within the village.

Thank you all! I will now pass you on to P&K councillor for the EGM and the seating of new council members. I look forward to supporting the new Community Council.

Stewart Gavigan

#### 4. Treasurer's report

The accounts have been prepared and audited. At the end of the previous financial year (31<sup>st</sup> August 2021) the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £203.72

Since then, our **income** for the current year was **£798.12** made up of

1. Advertising revenue from the Community Council Website of £100
2. A P&K Council Insurance Subsidy of £91.84
3. A P&K Council Administrative Grant of £496.84
4. A personnel loan of £110 to pay for insurances due to lack of funds in account

**Expenditure** over the financial year was **£993.45** made up of

1. Community Council Insurances of £300.65
2. Rent of the playing field and play park of £112.00
3. IT annual maintenance of the village website of £340.80
4. Rent of Sandison hall for CC meetings of £140.00
5. Partial repayment (£100.00) of the £110 personnel loan – rest has been written off.

Our surplus at the end of the year was -£195.33

At the end of the current financial year the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £8.39 being £203.72 (carried forward from last year) -£195.33 (this year's surplus).

It is therefore anticipated that we will get a "top up grant" from P&K to cover administration costs as the bank balance is below £700 in the amount of **£691.61**

The following items falling into this tax year will be allocated to next year's accounts:

1. Hire of the Sandison Hall of £200

Finally, a big thank you to Johnston Brown for auditing the accounts.

Rico Hollas

#### 5. Date of next AGM

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall