

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 10th May 2023
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 27 villagers and Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Baillie Rhona Brock, Sgt. Iain Gillies, Alan Greenwood – SSE, Emma Hadden – SSE, Karen Anderson – SSE, Graeme Archibald – National Parks, Gareth Kett – National Parks

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Noah Khogali, John Littler, Isobel Howell, Blair Cramond, Shelia Cramond, Ruth Graham

2. Police Report

Sgt Iain Gilles reported that there had been seven calls in the St Fillans area since the last meeting, one to an RTC on the South Loch Road.

There was a recent day of action, a total of fifteen vehicles were stopped for speeding, none were prosecuted but were spoken to.

Sgt Gilles was asked where the day of action took place and was advised that it was at the layby on the loch side, it was requested that action be taken at the east end of the village as well. It was agreed to concentrate on various locations within the village.

The question of how many have been prosecuted for speeding in the last five years was raised and Sgt Gilles advised that a request would have to be made under the Freedom of Information Act.

The question of how the Police catch motorbikes, Sgt Gilles advised that they would be pulled over as any other vehicle.

During the season there are additional patrols planned with Special Constables to engage with campers.

3. Visitors

a. Alan Greenwood, Emma Hadden, Karen Anderson - SSE

SSE thanked the Community Council for advertising the event held at the Sandison Hall on the 20th April, there was a good attendance with sixty people turning up.

P & K have approved permission for a meteorological station at Glentarken.

Community benefit package is currently £5000 per MW for the lifespan of the site. The possibility of Community ownership requires further discussion with the village. The site will consist of 14 turbines, 180m high.

Scoping and computer modelling currently, SSE will share more details later in the year.

Technology improving all the time, many issues from previous farms now resolved.

Access to be from Ardveich, a transport assessment is required.

No selection of manufacturers as it's too early in the project, would like to purchase from UK but it may not be possible.

Electric storage being investigated, cost prohibitive but SSE working on this.

At the end of life of the site, design redone, recycled or reused. SSE retain ownership.

Job opportunities for the area during construction and afterwards for maintenance.

The CC has raised questions, Alan Greenwood to respond in writing for distribution to the village.

b. Graeme Archibald – Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Loch Lomond byelaws reviewed but Loch Earn was not included as there was not enough time.

From 31st March 2023 there has been an amendment to the Merchant Shipping Act after the case of two jet skis colliding. Under Section 58 of the act if a PWC is being used in a dangerous manner the owner is responsible and could be charged, even if someone else is using the craft and in the case of child use the parents would be responsible.

LLTNP would like to test the changes and hope to have a marine unit on the loch in conjunction with Police Scotland, to encourage better behaviour on the loch and inform the public of the statutory rules.

The LLTNP issued a code of conduct two years ago, part of which should ensure that all users of PWC are registered and insured. The Caravan Park should be taking responsibility for policing. Illegal PWC launching is a civil matter.

LLTNP are working on their five-year plan, villagers can have an input to the plan, comments can be made until the 19th July 2023. Link to the survey to be sent to the village.

Regarding dirty campers, major patrols ongoing daily. Day of action to be held again this year.

The camping management byelaws are due to be reviewed and LLTNP will be engaging with communities, review to completed before 2027.

Scott Kennedy is the new National Parks Police Officer and any concerns contact Graeme.

c. Gareth Kett – Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Ranger.

Gareth gave a detailed and informative presentation of how invasive species are spread. There are four main species discussed, those being Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Skunk Cabbage and Himalayan Balsam.

Strimming where there are invasive species should be avoided, if they are broken into fragments these can spread the species.

The law states that you can have Invasive Species on your land but must not allow it to spread to neighbours and the recommendation is that it should be destroyed, either by special weedkillers or dug up and burnt.

If Knotweed is spotted, please inform the rangers, they will come and treat.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Two changes made to the minutes from the 15th February 2023

6 b Paths group – “from the bridge” amended to “from *Tarken* Bridge”.

6 g Local Place Plan – “The group have received £4000” amended to “The group have been *awarded* £4000”.

With the changes, the minutes of the last Meeting on 15th February 2023 were proposed as a true record by Richard Graham and seconded by Barry Fisher.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Update on The Community Councils finances, CC have investigated ways to reduce costs, including the cost of insurance and the festive committee will be looking to organise their own insurance for activities. The CC have approached local businesses to pay a nominal fee for advertising on the St Fillans Website.
- b. Noah Koghali unable to attend, so discussion on the opening of the public toilets during the winter months to be discussed next meeting.

6. Planning applications received

2023/0053/HAE

Proposal: Erection of ancillary accommodation

Location: Glenalbyn House, Station Road, St Fillans

Applicant: Mr and Mrs MacMillan

2023/0025/DET

Proposal: Erection of cabin for use as short term holiday let (retrospective)

Location: Tigh Na Mar, St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Paula Linton

2023/0069/DET

Proposal: Change in the use of land to caravan site for 1 No. mobile cabin (for holiday use)

Location: Little Port Farm West View Cottage, St Fillans

Applicant: Lorna McLarty

2023/0093/HAE

Proposal: Erection of outbuilding (retrospective)

Location: Dundurn Lodge, St Fillans

Applicant: Anne Patrick

2023/0100/HAE

Proposal: Installation of 2 No. heat pumps

Location: The Sheiling, St Fillans

Applicant: Shelia Campbell

Still no news on the development at Dundurn Field, still waiting on information from P & K and affordable housing.

7. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group (Including Still)

Thank you to all those that helped with the annual Spring litter pick.

Bear Scotland will be mowing the verges every four weeks and the garden group are looking for new volunteers to help with six cuts per year in between the Bear schedule.

Big thank you to Barry Fisher for undertaking the grass mowing at the church, and to Cherry and Brian Neale, Roddy and Adele MacMillan for their maintenance of the Field of Hope.

Lorna Kennelly is going to be standing down at the end of the current season.

Still Project – The sculpture has had the strengthening work done and has a new base, it is ready to transport to A B Gairns who will be making the base for Still.

Waiting for a firm date to install into the loch, which has to be after the 1st June.

The group will notify the village as soon as a date is agreed.

b. Paths Group

The new section of the railway path is almost complete, it is hoped it should be finished by the end of May.

c. Festive Committee

Festive weekend to be held over the weekend of 25th to 27th August this year and will be back to its original format. There will be a pub night on Friday, live music has been booked for Saturday night and a lunch on Sunday. Volunteers will be required to help.

d. Play Park Group

Thanks to P & K who have renewed the bottom of the slide area. The pebble patch project has moved forward, lots of work going on in the background. A maintenance day was held, thank you to those that turned up to help.

e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group

Group are still waiting for the results of the Place Plan.

f. Cultural Heritage Group

Murray Henderson is proposing a Heritage group meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month.

g. Local Place Plan

Kelly Clapperton-Bates is still analysing the responses for the place plan after the session on the 26th March. A meeting is to be held on 17th May.

There is the opportunity to join a working group, which will look at climate change and alternative energy options, please advise Carol Graham if you would like to join. There will also be opportunities for local businesses to engage with the St Fillans Place Plan Steering group to add in any ideas or concerns.

Once the draft plan has been prepared there will be a chance for villagers to give feedback via a short survey. This will allow the Steering group to determine the final priorities. The draft plan will then be shared with PKC and LLTNP for scrutiny. Once complete the plan will be published then printed. A copy will be shared with the community. It is hoped that the process will be completed by August /September.

8. AOB

- a. Drummond hotel are having issues with planning, they are looking at a redesign of the ground floor. The project is about six months behind, and they are looking at October 2024 for launch.
- b. There will not be people onsite at the Drummond Hotel during the summer because of the delays and given the issues experienced last season, Drummond have asked about the car park area being fenced off or a chain mail fence which is managed over the summer. Villagers voted for a chain fence with padlock and Richard Graham, Stewart Graham and Jim Brierley have volunteered to be key holders. The Drummond will also remove the boards off their jetty.
- c. Thank you to all those that completed the Sandison Hall survey. A list of events that are being organised has been sent to the village. The next event is a Family BBQ on Sunday 4th June, all villagers welcome, tickets available from Audrey Gavigan.
- d. Jim Brierley thanked everyone who has raised money for the Sandison Hall, the response has been fantastic.
- e. The bus shelter was raised again as it is in a bad state of repair, Stewart Donaldson to investigate further.

f. Date and time of the next meeting changed to 30th August 2023

9. Date and time of next Community Council meeting

Wednesday 30th August 2023 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall.