

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2023
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 21 villagers, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Baillie Rhona Brock and Crieff Community Council Chair Brian Wilton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Angela Lamont, David Gow, Cllr Noah Khogali, Police, Johnston & Frances Brown, Don & Trish Forrester, Steve Howell.

2. Minutes of last AGM meeting

Minutes of the last AGM Meeting on 19th October 2022 were proposed as a true record by Stewart Gavigan and seconded by Richard Graham.

3. Chairs report

Firstly, welcome everyone this evening and for your support in my first year as Chairperson for the Community Council.

It's been a very eventful year. Firstly, I'd like to thank some people for their support and guidance provided throughout the year.

Firstly, to the previous Chairperson Stewart Gavigan for all the information and advice provided during handover, particularly in the early days of last year. More recently Stewart has been supporting (along with Richard Graham) by providing background information in discussions with BEAR and P&K on the ongoing bus stop upgrade works. Knowing you are both there to support with context and history has been helpful and reassuring – thank you.

I would also like to take a second to thank Don Forrester for his ongoing volunteering. Don keeps the community website and emails service ticking over and helps to ensure that all the village communications happen through the various groups. Don has also been incredibly helpful with ongoing email support and guidance on the website and email provider.

There is also a sad cheerio to Bruce and Kathy Montgomery who will be missed when they move out of the village in the very near future. Most of you will all know the work Bruce has put in to ensuring the Village had a contribution to the Villager magazine. We are also about to lose Malcolm and Paula Linton from the village. Thank you, Paula for looking after the village welcome packs.

I also feel it's very important to highlight all the important work that's gone on and continues to go on from all of the various Groups that look after the village, its heritage, and help make St Fillans a beautiful place to live and visit for villagers and visitors alike. There are many of you and the hours and effort that you put in on a voluntary basis, I am sure I can say, are very much appreciated across the village. This also applies to all the effort put in by

the Festive Committee helping us villagers get together socially. These events continue to be a huge success and the hours that are put in to make these happen should not be underestimated.

This year has also seen a substantial amount of work undertaken to pull together the Community Place Plan for St Fillans by the Local Plan group led by Carol Graham. The Community Council is looking forward to seeing the final version when it is ready to help give a steer in how we carry forward the needs and wants of the village in the coming years ahead. I wait with anticipation to see how much bearing it will have in local decision making by our council, National Park etc. The Community Council will work to ensure the villagers wishes contained within it are considered in important local decisions.

A thank you also to the ongoing support of the Community Trust and church to the community council and the village. Both are very important, and we hope to continue working with both, building relationships and ways of working together. Particularly on the challenges faced in maintaining the beautiful church we have.

Finally, I would also like to thank the members of the Community Council for their support during the year. This includes Audrey for arranging our insurance during transition back to P&K, for being so organised around actions and minutes and also being there to bounce thoughts and plans off of. This is on top of all the other groups and activities she is involved in. Thanks also to Ulrika and Angela for their input and help throughout the year and to Rico for same as well as looking after the grant monies and other incomings and outgoings. Ulrika has also now taken over the village Welcome Packs from Paula.

One of the biggest frustrations for me this year has been trying to do this post to the best of my abilities versus the amount of time I have available due to working full time job, balancing parent duties and family time. On that note, I find that I cannot always get to as many community events and activities I would like so apologies to those who may have noticed that as Chairperson I may not be as visible at times as I ideally would be.

As a Community Council, we are all working full time or part time jobs and several of the council also have roles in other community groups. With that in mind, we have space on the council so would like to take this opportunity again to ask for anyone that can spare an odd day time or evening hour or two and feels comfortable talking to and building relationships with other organisations, to please consider coming onboard as a Councillor over the coming year. Looking to next September, I may also be going back into studies study part time for 4 years alongside my day job so its I would love to fill any vacant positions by then to ensure a good level of coverage of ongoing council activities for the village.

St Fillans Community Council has over the past year tried to move forward on all the work completed by Stewart as previous Chair and the Councillors. I've prepared a summary of some key points.

Community Council Budget shortfall

As a Council we started this last year with a shortfall in monies to cover costs for the year. With the support of Don and local businesses, we have taken opportunity to work on

building an offer for our St Fillans website to help businesses advertise and help generate a small amount of income to support the ongoing usage and development of our St Fillans website and email. Rico will be providing a better update on our income and expenditure as part of the Treasurers report shortly.

BEAR/Transport Scotland

As mentioned in my introduction, we finally managed to arrange a meeting with BEAR in conjunction with P&K to understand what was happening with the bus stops plans across the village. This was also attended by Stewart Donaldson and Rhona Brock and has resulted in some updated plans being drafted for this work. I will update further on this in the ordinary meeting

Meantime, I am hoping to take forwards discussions with BEAR and Transport Scotland in regard to the lack of speed monitoring in the village. I have certainly noticed that as a small village on the outskirts, we do need to have to push for every single thing we would like support with.

Public Toilets

Following the news that our gents had been closed due to the condition is has arrived at following 15 years of no investment and the ladies being in a condition that can be best described as poor, the council were advised yet again the public facilities were at risk of closure.

P&K Waste team arranged 2 porta loos to be present over the summer period that are now gone however, following discussions with P&K, and a good idea put forward by Sheila Cramond, we launched a survey on the facilities. I will update in more detail during the ordinary meeting however, the survey is now closed, feedback submitted to P&K and we have been advised that the toilets will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Policing

All in all, Police presence at our Community meetings has improved hugely. Recently we have had to start relationship building again with Peter Sinclair and Rebecca Miller laterally taking the lead as village liaisons. I look forward to meeting Rebecca in due course and Peter and or Rebecca joining our next meeting in February to update on village activity.

All in all, we still need more patrols, particularly in the summer to support management of dirty campers and issues caused by groups of youths. We would continue to encourage the village to report all incidents to help evidence the attention the village needs.

Sgt Gillies earlier in the year, did complete a 'weekend of action' providing some speed monitoring in the village. We look forward to more of this taking place to act as a deterrent as well as hopefully catch out some speeders.

Dirty Campers/Jet Skiers

Graeme Archibald from the National Park joined our Community Meeting early in the year and laid out their plans for visitor management this year. Graeme has provided an update on the summer season which I will cover in the ordinary meeting. He is keen for feedback from the village on how they feel the season has been.

Aside from a small number of reported incidents, it feels it was a reasonable season but feedback will be gathered on villagers' thoughts shortly and relayed to Graeme.

Windfarms – Glentarken (SSE) and Glen Lednock (Low Carbon)

This has proven to be one of the most notable developments to impact the village in the last year. Firstly, the SSE held a public open event in April this year which was very well attended, and SSE have been engaging via Community Meetings. SSE plans currently are for 14 wind turbines and environmental checking is ongoing. SSE will continue to engage with the community in the coming year and plans are due to be submitted to Scottish government energy consents by end of 2024.

More recently, we have now also been contacted by Low Carbon who are in the early stages of plans for a (up to) 25 windfarm development in Glen Lednock. This proposed to be next door to the SSE site and spread across the St Fillans and Comrie CC areas with some visibility to St Fillans.

We look forward to some plans for both showing visual impact to the village which have not yet been forthcoming. An open event is planned for the Glen Lednock windfarm in the Sandison Hall on 13th November 2023 and we hope to get a much better understanding at this point of the impact this will bring to the village. Moving into the new year, the Community Council will need to work with both organisations to determine for the village the impact on our beautiful village and local landscape of two substantially sized windfarms considering the community benefit from both.

Other Projects

The Drummond Hotel – Final planning permission stalled this year due to an objection from SEPA. Nic submitted revised plans in September to the National Park and SEPA have now withdrawn their objection. There has been a further delay with Transport Scotland looking for some additional time to review the revisions.

Dundurn Walk final phase. This planning application has been quiet for some time. Planning was asked for an update and have confirmed that there is still affordable housing elements to be agreed and they are still waiting a response from P&K in relation to parking amendments.

Welcome to New Villagers

Finally, a warm welcome to all new villagers and I hope you all enjoy our lovely village as much as we do. I hope some of you will consider getting involved in the Council or the various groups across the village to help share the load so to speak.

In conclusion, it has been a very busy year with lots to be getting on with and interesting times ahead for St Fillans. My biggest observation has been the frustration in pursuing our public funded bodies for movement in activities required to support our village. As a Council, St Fillans needs to continue to push forward with tenacity to do the best we can for the village in the coming year in line with the content of the much anticipated Local Place Plan to help fulfil the wishes of the village for years to come.

4. Treasurer's report

The accounts have been prepared and audited. At the end of the previous financial year (31st August 2023) the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £8.39

Since then, our **income** for the current year was **£1062.79** made up of

1. Advertising revenue from the Community Council (CC) Website of £240
2. A donation of £30.00
3. A P&K Council Administrative Grant of £487.84
4. A personnel loan of £304.95 to pay for bills due to lack of funds

Expenditure over the financial year was **£1071.18** made up of

1. Rent of the playing field and play park of £112.00
2. IT annual maintenance of the village website of £409.18
3. Rent of Sandison hall for CC meetings of £250.00
4. £300 partial repayment of the £304.95 personnel loan

Insurances were provided by P&K directly hence no additional cost to the council.

Our surplus at the end of the year was -£8.39

At the end of the current financial year the Treasurer's bank account held a balance of £0 being £8.39 (carried forward from last year) -£8.39 (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 **£700**.

It should be noted that P&K queried the community councils' costs for insurance last year and did not provide us with the anticipated top up grant. Consequently, we have decided to use the P&K insurance directly for this year – although we can add additional cover at our cost separately (e.g., for the fireworks display).

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

5. Elections

Cllr Stewart Donaldson took charge of the meeting, he thanked the Community Council members for their work.

Donna Littler was re-elected as Chair

Proposed by Bruce Montgomery, Seconded by Stewart Gavigan

Donna Littler thanked Cllr. Stewart Donaldson and resumed the meeting.

Audrey Gavigan was re-elected as Secretary
Proposed by Carol Graham, Seconded by Liz Cunningham

Rico Hollas was re-elected as Treasurer
Proposed by Richard Graham, Seconded by Barry Fisher

Tom Green was seconded onto the Community Council
Proposed by Alison Smylie, Seconded by Lorna Kennelly

Ulrika Hollas and Angela Lamont have stepped down from the Community Council, Donna Littler thanked them both for their service to the Council.

6. Date of next AGM

Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall