St Fillans Community Council. Chairman’s Annual report 2019.

St Fillans community council has had five meetings since the last AGM with a moderate turn out at all of their meetings.

The CC membership remains the same as last year with the exception of Brad’s retirement due to his relocation out with the village. Again, I wish to record my thanks for all his effort whilst he was a community councillor and wish him and Zelda all success in their new home. His replacement will be announced at the meeting to follow.

My thanks to all of our village CC members and village volunteers once again. We are so lucky to continue to have the active, enthusiastic individuals and groups within this village. This volunteer section, who continue to maintain and upgrade it, make it a much more pleasant place to live and they all have the thanks of the village.

I will now outline some of the key achievements of the past year.

Village Infrastructure.

One of the main arrivals in the village this year, is fibre optic broadband, which is gradually spreading it’s reach throughout the village.

Roads and pavements have again been upgraded in places, although the condition in some parts is still poor.

The Sandison hall lights have been replaced as has the heating, both making it a significantly improved environment.

Although infrastructure improvement remains the main aim of this community council, this has been a frustrating year for me and I have found dealing with Perth and Kinross council, BEAR, and Transport Scotland increasingly frustrating. This led to me requesting and having a meeting with Luke Graham MP, where I on your behalf, made my frustrations clear. He listened to all my concerns and I secured his promise to look at three matters which I consider to be the most important. 1. Speeding through the village. 2. Flooding and drainage in the village and 3. Bus stops being replaced and improved. I await updates from him and will of course report back when I get them.

On a positive note, the village playpark is at last nearing completion! It looks great and will be a fantastic addition to the village. I would like to thank Russell for his perseverance and the team for their imagination and achievement.

RBS

It was with regret and not a little upset that the RBS in Comrie was closed. I and others attended a meeting with RBS officials to attempt to persuade them that it should stay open, however our pleadings fell on deaf ears.

National Park Bye Laws.

These are working with great effect. Overuse and misuse of the loch side have been greatly reduced with the delightful spectacle of families and genuine fishermen/women returning to our shores. I hope that we will continue to see as rise in their numbers.

Paths Group.

The main effort of the group has been phase four of the LERP, which has been in progress for some time now and is nearing completion. Now that the issue of access through Fortrenn has been resolved it is hoped that the section from the rear of Foxknowe to the access gate West of Fortrenn will be completed this year. It is another fantastic addition to this great project, which received a Highly Commended award from the transport Planning Society.

My thanks as always to both Geoff Hardman-Carter and the paths team and Johnston Brown and the Community Trust for all their hard work in making this happen, and wish them all success going forward.

Gardening Group.

Under the leadership of Eric and Lorna Kenelly, this group has again been hard at work. The maintenance of tubs and the mowing rota for the East end of the village makes a delightful entrance into our wee village. Litter picking around the foreshores will commence this Friday, all are welcome. Significant work has also been done in the battle against the dreaded knotweed and the unsightly mess at Dundurn walk was also tidied up. We wish Lorna a speedy recovery from her broken leg.

Festive Committee.

The Festive committee organised another very successful Festive weekend over three days with all events being sold out. Thanks to the committee and all those who helped erect marquees, lay flooring and take it all down at the end.

They also ran a very successful and well attended Bonfire Night and fireworks, with generous donations by those in attendance helping raise some very needed village funds. Thanks to all those who helped in any way.

My thanks to all those who have committed themselves to the committee for their hard work and I wish Bruce and his team all success going forward.

Great Loch Earn Boat Race.

What a shame that this event did not take place this year. On a positive note, it is hoped that the village can take the event over and run it next year. I’m sure we’d make a great success of it. In the finest traditions of this village, Russell and Liz held a, “Not the boat race BBQ”! It was a great success as always and my thanks to Russell and Liz for holding it.

Neighbourhood Watch.

We have been fairly quiet this year. However, it is of some concern that there was an attempted house breaking at Glenalbyn recently. We all need to keep our eyes open and call the police when appropriate.

Poppy Scotland.

The Poppy Scotland appeal made £342.68 in the village this year. This is a significant improvement on last year. Thanks to all villagers for their generosity.

Great funds have been raised this year for several worthwhile charities. These events included the Tunnel Party, Hogmanay and the Festive weekend.

Hogmanay.

A great evening was held in the hall. It was very well organised, we all had great fun and my thanks to Stewart, Gordon and Malcolm for organising it.

Golf Club

The course has been transformed by John Myles. It is in great condition, which is reflected in rising membership. It is also great that there are now a good number of villagers playing and supporting the club. Julie and Jo from Nutritious and delicious are back and there is a vibrant feel to the whole place, which is great.

Burns Night.

This was, as always, a sell-out. The evening was chaired magnificently by Russell Cunningham, with all performers doing a great job. It was also nice to have some music this year played by Rico and Bruce. Well done to organisers and participants alike.

Villagers Magazine.

Having been absent from the Villagers for some time, my thanks to Bruce for taking on the role of village correspondent. He has written some great pieces and it is a good thing for the village that we feature in it.

All other village groups have been active this year, and include the music group, the Scottish country dance group. The ladies and gent’s supper clubs have also been very active and my thanks to Paula and Don for organising them. A new “Soup and Sandwich” venture was started this year in the hall, which provided a great place for villagers to meet and catch up. Well done to Elma, Liz and all those involved. These groups are of great benefit to our village, especially during the winter months. Please continue to support them.

I would like to take the opportunity to remember those of our community who are no longer with us. To those who have left the village and moved on, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you again. To those who have recently moved to our village and I am delighted to say that there have been quite a few, it is great to have you living with us and we hope you enjoy St Fillans as much as we do.

For me personally, my sincere thanks to all those residents and volunteers who make this great wee village the wonderful place that it is to live and visit. I would also like to thank my fellow Community Councillors for all their hard work.

To conclude. We, your Community Council, wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year

Richard Graham.

Chairman,

St Fillans Community Council.

8th May 2019.