

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting

Date of meeting: 11-08-2021 7.30pm

Venue: Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome:

After eighteen months of zoom meetings Chair Stewart Gavigan was able to welcome 26 villagers and Cllr Rhona Brock back to the Sandison Hall.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Rico Hollas, Colette MacLeod, Sally Crofts, Peter Rickhuss, Don Forrester, Trish Forrester

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2021 were proposed as true record by Johnston Brown and seconded by Richard Graham.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Dundurn Bridge has been repaired at long last. Although Grade B listed it has been repaired with Concrete and not Lime mortar mix. Presumably due to costs, Rhona Brock to check this.
- b. Stewart Gavigan has written to Bear regarding the condition of the A85, outside Cairndhu and the bus shelter, where stones are continually flying up from the road. Lorna Kennelly has also phoned and written to Bear. A reply is yet to be received.
- c. 40mph sign on Dundurn Bridge still to be investigated and Transport Scotland to be contacted if required. There is one that has been knocked sideways, need to establish whether the sign has been damaged.
- d. Speeding in the village, Stewart Gavigan has written to Bear and Transport Scotland but has not received a response. Rhona Brock confirmed that the meeting regarding funding for average speed cameras has yet to take place. Liam Cayless is reluctant to put benches across the road from the shop as he feels people would be put at risk. The Drummond have already had an incident with an unlicensed, uninsured driver. Stewart Gavigan has now passed onto P & K.

The Community Council would like a road survey at different locations throughout the village as has been done in Comrie, Crieff, Scone and Perth. It should be noted that Scone High Street has a 20mph limit on the A94 trunk road.

4. Police Report

No further police report other than the email sent out to the village on the 22nd July 2021.

5. Planning applications received

2021/0144/DET – 12th May 2021

Demolition of dwelling house and erection of replacement dwelling house

Applicant: Mr Alistair Wood – Cherrybrae

2021/0189/HAE – 18th May 2021

Installation of 11 No. Replacement windows

Applicant: Ms Anne-Marie McCarthy, Craigen House

2021/0235/DET – 29th June 2021

Alterations to combine Sunnybrae Bothy and Sunnybrae Cottage into one larger cottage

Applicant: Drummond Trust

2021/0256/DET – 26th July 2021

Erection of 18 No. houses with associated access and landscaping on land to west of Station Road St Fillans

Applicant: Drummond Trust

21/00894/FLL – 9th August 2021 (Application through P & K not National Parks)

Change of use from former mink farm to form a campsite, siting of two holiday accommodation units, formation of a track, paths, landscaping, and associated works at land 120m northeast of Dun Fholain

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Bennie – Dun Fholain

6. Village working groups

a. Garden Group including Still

The garden group has met twice since the last CC meeting.

The Field of Hope is now finished barring a couple more plants.

It is planned to remove the tubs along the A85, as many are falling apart and would be too expensive to replace/maintain, also the deer are eating anything that is planted in them.

For next year's project, the garden group are looking for ideas for a feature at both entrances to the village, any suggestions from villagers would be welcome. Please contact Audrey Gavigan or Lorna Kennelly with any ideas.

After a meeting with Elspeth Bruce from P & K Greenspace, the garden group (St Fillans Bloom Group) with help from Geoff Hardman-Carter, made an application to 'Take a Pride in Perth and Kinross Association' for assistance with finding funding to bring 'Still' back to the village. The application was successful, and the association have agreed in principle to assist us. They have assigned a project

engineer; we are in the early stages of information gathering and will report back at the next CC meeting.

b. Path Group

Paths group have been maintaining the railway path and more is planned, cutting back overgrown areas in the autumn.

It is hoped that the next section of the railway path at Fortrenn can be done before Christmas now that agreement has been reached with SSE. There have been changes of personnel at the association. Sustrans and The Gannochy Trust are funding this section.

Nature Scotland are funding TP&E for Project Managing the Railway Path Project.

c. Festive Committee

The Village Hug is due to take place on Saturday 14th August 2021, the festive committee look forward to welcoming everyone. This is to be followed by the Big Sing organised by Dundurn Church on Sunday 15th August 2021.

d. Play Park Group

Email sent out to the village requesting help for the future upkeep of the play park, one response to date. More volunteers would be welcomed.

Pebble patch is to be completed by Geoff Hardman-Carter and Murray Henderson, plus the resetting of the sundial.

e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group

Sites have been narrowed down to just one, the land behind the War Memorial.

An application for funding for the feasibility study has been made to that National Parks Recovery Fund, awaiting decision.

f. Cultural Heritage Group

Several work sessions have been held at the Dundurn cemetery and Chapel site. The gate has been repaired, thank you to those who were involved. Paint for the gates has been supplied by P & K Greenspace and they will be painted when the weather allows.

7. AOB

a. Station Road Caravan Park

Invitation sent to Caledonian Lodges to make a presentation to the community regarding their plans for the caravan park, awaiting a reply.

There has been no further information from National Parks regarding planning other than details that have already been sent to the village via email.

Lorna Kennelly has visited the site, feedback is that the caravans have 11-month occupancy, leases are for forty years, £3000 per year maintenance fees, and lodges can be sub-let. Two have apparently been sold so far.

There are plans to open a small store on site.

Caledonian Lodges invite villagers to go and visit the site. They have also spoken to Mal and Chris Hall about the possibility to remove some trees, so residents of the caravan park have a better view, it is understood that Mal and Chris have objected to this.

b. Drummond Arms Hotel

Invitation sent to Richard Leckie at Crieff Hydro for a presentation to the community on the future plans for the Drummond Arms Hotel, date to be confirmed.

c. Visitor management

Feedback on mid-season meeting attended on 22nd July.

From St Fillans perspective. A vast improvement on last year. Positive outcome having new signage and no parking in passing places. Plus, the Loch was high. It has been recognised that a way must be found to move people on when they say they have been drinking and can't therefore drive, police and NP are working on that.

Nearly 1000 people had been spoken to about camping in the wrong place, most comply, although 26 had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and six prosecuted. This however does mean we probably will not get the addition of no alcohol bylaws as it must be evidence based to proceed.

New code of conduct for Loch Earn users has been introduced and distributed, with input from all concerned, including St Fillans.

A central hub for all agencies has been set up on Mondays, so NP, Police and councils can better target resources. As highlighted when Balloch was overrun with visitors on the train. Partly due to the line to Troon had been temporarily shut. Police set up an incident structure with gold and silver commands deemed necessary.

Since Crieff Hydro have taken over the Drummond Hotel, things have been much improved in the bay area with jet skis launched at the hotel adhering to the Code of Conduct.

d. Book Exchange

An area in the Sandison Hall has been designated to accommodate the book/puzzle exchange and an email has been sent out to the village advising that this will start on Monday 23rd August for donations

e. Dundurn Walk Development

Invitation sent to Mike Aldridge for a presentation on the plans for the development, date to be confirmed.

A copy of the planning application, drainage, flooding, and ecology reports are available on the planning website under reference 2021/0256/DET should anyone wish to view them.

Bruce Montgomery fed back on the reports produced.

Report states that the current roadway of Dundurn Walk is of barely adequate width for the current level of vehicular traffic and has poor line of site at the corners, given that there are no footpaths or kerbs and the number of pedestrians and children using the road further traffic could make this quite dangerous.

Bidwells have described, public transport to be sustainable.

Reports have been very well prepared. There is the suggestion that the present drainage in Dundurn Walk is not suitable, and it is probably the case that the drainage is not correctly connected.

Foul drainage will be connected to existing however it should be noted that Scottish Water have not adopted the pump station.

Reports to be sent to Cllr Rhona Brock.

Bruce asked if the Community Council should make a response to National Park Planning on behalf of the villagers, this was agreed. Closing date is 21st August 2021.

f. Community Action plan 17-22 (CAP) to Local Place Plan (LPP)

The Community Action Plan is being replaced by a Local Place Plan. Carol Graham is reviewing the current plan which expires next year and is attending a meeting on the 1st September 2021 which will highlight the changes between the two type of plans. In future the plan will focus more on the geography of the area and the aspirations of the village. A steering group will be required, and Carol is looking for volunteers to help, please contact Carol if you are interested.

g. Station Road

Elsbeth Smylie raised concerns about the amount of extra traffic that will be going up Station Road because of the Caravan Park and Dundurn Walk and has asked if it has been considered that the road should be upgraded. Stewart Gavigan to contact Cllr Rhona Brock.

h. Railway Path

Cathy Moncrieff raised concerns about the number of cyclists using the railway path that don't let walkers know they are coming. The concern is that this could

potentially cause an accident and requested if it might be possible to have some signage put up. The current signs show walkers/cyclists/horses but are quite small.

Shelia Cramond suggested contacting Sustrans, Geoff Hardman-Carter reported that he had been in contact with them. Cllr Rhona Brock will take up with Sustrans on the Community Councils behalf.

i. Speeding

Blair Cramond reported that in Lochearnhead there is signage on the road indicating that it is a 30mph limit, this is repeated through the village. Cllr Rhona Brock to follow up.

Areas of potential concern for accidents are the Drummond Hotel and the coffee shop, it was suggested that maybe there could be a crossing installed at the bridge. It is understood that Richard Leckie may also be looking into a crossing on behalf of Crieff Hydro.

j. Achray Hotel

Daisy Murray raised concerns about the smells from food waste and litter from the Achray Hotel. The Achray have been contacted by residents, however they seem reluctant to seek help. This is the first time it has become an issue with the hotel in twenty years. More bins have been added to the existing bins, two for food waste and two for laundry. Although bins have been emptied, they are not regularly sanitised. If they are hosed out, the contents are allowed to wash down the lane.

The lane is a private road with public access and is used by residents, visitors to the lodges and Sandison Hall, the bins do not give a good impression and are not acceptable to villagers, who take a pride in their village.

Daisy has contacted Environmental Health at P & K but has yet to receive a response. Daisy enquired if the Community Council could help address the issue. Cllr Rhona Brock will follow up with Environmental Health.

Date and time of next meeting and AGM:

Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall