

# St Fillans Community Council

## Minutes of the Community Council Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 23rd February 2022 at 7.30pm

**Venue:** Sandison Hall, St Fillans

### Welcome:

Chair Stewart Gavigan welcomed 20 villagers

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Andrea Hudspeth, Lorna Kennelly, Steve Howell, Trish Forrester, Dave and Lynda Pryde, Police Scotland

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting on 20th October 2021

Two amendments to minutes from the last meeting,

- a. Apologies from Dave and Linda Pryde added
- b. Under AOB 7a, "GoDaddy are upgrading their systems" wording amended to "Inspire Web Development wanted to move everyone to Microsoft 365"

**Approved by:** Don Forrester

**Seconded by:** Johnston Brown

#### 3. Matters Arising

- a. No councillors available at the meeting to ask if there is anything further from P & K regarding materials used for the repair of Dundurn Bridge.
- b. Drainage and road repairs in St Fillans have been carried out, surface much improved, however drains need to be cleared of tarmac as some are completely blocked after the works and a lot of debris left on the paths.  
Thanks to Lorna Kennelly for reporting the debris that has been left on the pavement to P & K who have said it will be passed onto the relevant department. The blocked drains were also reported.
- c. Speeding in the village, it was not confirmed if the planned traffic meeting on the 25th October took place, so there is no feedback. Stewart Donaldson continues to campaign for average speed cameras. It was noted that there is once again traffic monitoring in Comrie and Crieff but not in St Fillans.

- d. Update by Crieff Hydro regarding Drummond Arms Hotel.  
Building surveys have taken a lot longer than had been expected, and still have a few bits to complete. Hydro have now agreed an overall plan to submit to planning in the next few months and budget has been signed off. They hope to be onsite near the end of the summer with a 12-to-15-month conversion if planning and tender for contracts go to plan. The upper floors of the hotel are now fully cleared, and ground floor will be completed in the spring. The roof on the rear will be improved but not fully put back in place until planning agreed and contractors onsite.  
Crieff Hydro are hoping they will again run the water sports and have a pop-up food and beverage offering on the front. They will not be allowing any jet skis to launch and do not expect moorings to be reached from our side of the loch. They still have the brewery, cider equipment to sell and if anyone knows anyone who needs chairs or kitchen equipment let the CC know.
- e. No councillors available for an update on any feedback from Sustrans regarding signage for the railway path.
- f. New village email system is up and running, Stewart Gavigan expressed thanks to Don Forrester for his continued efforts.
- g. Station Road Caravan Park, the response from the National Parks planning, following the request for details under the Freedom of Information Act was sent out to the village. There is an enforcement order under negotiation between the Parks and the owners of the caravan site. It was felt that there wasn't any appetite within the village to take this any further, especially as much of the information provided by the Parks planning was redacted as they considered it unhelpful to the negotiations or in the public interest. (Even though it is the public that are interested).  
Stewart Gavigan has been in touch with the Forestry Commission responsible for permission to fell trees around the site, they confirm the permission was approved in October 2021 and this is valid until October 2022, they have until March 2025 to restock the area. The application was placed on the public register from 16th July to 13th August 2021. Stewart Gavigan has asked for the biodiversity report and if there was authorisation for the felling of trees last May

#### **4. Police Report**

In recent weeks there have been no community issues highlighted in respect of St Fillans. Police Scotland would like to make rural landowners and workers aware that there has been an increased theft of Quad bikes across central Scotland, they request that residents remain vigilant and ensure machinery is secured.  
Police Scotland will again look to work closely with National Parks when the camping season returns.

#### **5. Planning applications received**

The Community Council will continue to report planning applications at meetings but if an

application pertinent to the village comes up in planning, in future the CC will also send out via the village email when it comes through. Invariably if anyone wishes to comment on an application, by the time it comes round to the CC meeting the closing date for comments has passed.

2021/0401/TRE – 30th November 2021  
Tree works within conservation area  
Applicant: John Littler – 13 Dundurn Walk

2021/0418/HAE - 19th November 2021  
External alterations to relocate entrance door and formation of covered canopy on front elevation.  
Applicant: Mrs Laura Hill – The Coachhouse

2021/0436/TRE – 30th November 2021  
Tree works within conservation area  
Applicant: Murray Henderson – The Birran

2021/0441/DET – 15th December 2021  
Erection of dwelling house within curtilage of existing dwelling house  
Applicant: John Floyd – Tarken House

2022/0005/DET – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Erection of public art sculpture  
Applicant: St Fillans Community Council (Stewart Gavigan)

2022/0006/ADV – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Erection of timber framed lectern style interpretation panel  
Applicant: St Fillans Community Council (Stewart Gavigan)

## **6. Village working groups**

### **a. Garden Group (including Still)**

The Garden Group had their AGM and end of season get together in December. Plans have started for the upcoming season and any new volunteers are always welcome.

“Still” project, the planning application was submitted in December 2021 and approved on the 17th February 2022. The next stage is for “Take a Pride in P & K Association” to raise the funds to complete the project. The association will identify suitable funders to approach and submit applications on behalf of the Garden Group.

### **b. Path Group**

Work on the new section of the railway path began in January and looks set to complete by the 25th February 2022. If anyone encounters any problems, please notify Geoff Hardman-Carter.

**c. Festive Committee**

The Festive Committee are still looking for volunteers.

This year there will be a one-day event like last year, rather than a full festive weekend. Date to be confirmed but it will be between Comrie Fortnight and Crieff Highland Games.

There is a possibility an event might be arranged to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Ulrika Hollas intends to step down from the committee at the end of 2022.

**d. Play Park Group**

Ongoing maintenance carried out. The Group is looking for further volunteers to help with the pebble patch, which still needs to be completed, any suggestions as to how the stones could be affixed would be welcome. Quotes would be required; funds need to be raised to complete.

**e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group**

The study was formally put out to tender to five architects by Gary Loudon, two declined to tender but three did, Denholm's awarded the contract with a mandate that everything should be completed by the end of February.

Ongoing work currently, trial pits being dug on the preferred site, results to follow but the site looks satisfactory.

The study is on track to complete so that everything can be invoiced by the end of March in line with the conditions of the funding.

**f. Cultural Heritage Group**

A bench has been donated for the burial ground by Norman Butter.

Snowdrops donated by Cambo and the "Snowdrops for Pollinators – Green Graveyard Initiative" were planted in the ancient burial ground and in Dundurn churchyard.

**7. AOB**

- a. Community Place Plan, still looking for volunteers to help with this.
- b. Volunteers required for several committees and groups including the Community Council, new appeal to go out to villagers.
- c. Connectivity to the village. Village still on copper wiring to properties and still no fibre optic cabling at all to the west end of the village. The box in the exchange is full, so a new box is required. It is understood that this will not be possible until the end of next year (2023). Fraser Ballantyne to pass on information he has received to the CC.

Villagers at the east end of the village, Tynreoch, Tynreoch Bungalow and Dundurn Lodge have been quoted £20,000 to £30,000 per household to connect to fibreoptic.

- d. Shelia Cramond has also reported that the drains are blocked and has a reference number if anyone should need it.
- e. Jim Brierley raised the issue of the damage that beavers are causing to trees on the riverside and around the loch, Stewart Gavigan will contact the National Park.
- f. Bruce Montgomery asked about the other pathways created during recent construction of the railway path. Geoff Hardman-Carter reported that the original drainage had been located and cleared. The stone area was a large hole which has been filled in and used as a soakaway. A new path from the zigzags to the railway path has been created.

**Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm Sandison Hall**