

# St Fillans Community Council

## Minutes of Community Council Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 10th August 2022 at 7.30pm

**Venue:** Sandison Hall, St Fillans

### Welcome:

Chair Stewart Gavigan welcomed 35 villagers, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Cllr Noah Khogali, David Fettes NP and guest speaker Gordon Wright of Strathearn Arts

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Rico Hollas, Richard and Carol Graham, Johnston Brown, Lorna Kennelly, Bailie Rhona Brock, PC Donnie Florence, PC Peter Sinclair, Sgt Iain Gillies, Alison and Elspeth Smylie, Colette MacLeod.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 11th May 2022 were proposed as a true record by Sheila Cramond and seconded by Steve Howell.

### Guest Speaker

Gordon Wright from Strathearn Arts gave an overview of the organisation and how it may be of benefit to St Fillans. He explained that there are plans to expand Strathearn Arts in the future and that he would like to meet members of the Sandison Hall Committee to discuss the possibility of using the Sandison Hall for future events whilst the expansion is underway.

### 3. Matters Arising

- a. Dundurn Bridge - Cllr Khogali was informed that the bridge had been repaired with lime mortar, Stewart Gavigan confirmed this wasn't the case, Cllr Khogali will investigate further.
- b. P & K Councillors confirmed that Sustrans have said that it is National Parks responsibility to supply signage for the railway path. Sustrans have passed back to Geoff Hardman-Carter.
- c. Stewart Gavigan gave an update on Crieff Hydro regarding Drummond Arms Hotel; planning has been submitted and details have been sent out via the village email system.  
Crieff Hydro have installed metal posts on the slipway at the hotel in addition to the boulders that were already in place to discourage any launching of powered craft from the hotel site.
- d. Rico Hollas and Stewart Gavigan met with Neil McFarlane from Transport Scotland on the 7th July, a summary of the points discussed:

Neil McFarlane has been in touch with the Casualty Reduction Team to advise on the possibility of “40 mph buffer” in place of the 50mph for St Fillans. It should be noted that if these are warranted their introduction will be prioritised and programmed accordingly.

Safety Camera Partnership are aware of the concerns on speeding and the surveying of the same however nothing new to add to what was advised on the day i.e. their efforts are primarily focussed on casualty reduction and on a national basis. That being said the Partnership are still to announce their plans for the next year.

BEAR advised that when they come to improve the road drainage, and put hard standings at the four other bus stops in the village, they should do away with the fifth bus hard standing at the Four Seasons altogether.

Early days on the speed/noise APNR technology discussed however Neil McFarlane has asked his colleague in that project to bear St Fillans in mind for a future trial site.

Regarding verge cutting, Transport Scotland are keen to explore opportunities to play their part in meeting the Scottish Government’s challenging target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and realise its recovery by 2045. This will require changes to their management approaches in various areas and are actively investigating this as part of the development of a new biodiversity strategy. They have already introduced a reduced cutting regime for many of our rural routes to develop swards that are more diverse and species-rich, helping to improve ecological connectivity and providing more habitats in support of pollinator species.

At the same time, they believe there are many locations across the network where it remains appropriate to continue a higher level of maintenance for safety reasons and the wider aesthetic appearance, also for the benefit of those who live close and visit. This includes towns and settlements on trunk road through-routes, of which St Fillans is a good example.

There is no intention at this point of altering the current cutting regime through St Fillans.

Neil McFarlane has stated that drainage with red dots are still to be repaired.

Neil McFarlane would be happy to meet again when passing and will certainly keep up dialogue with the CC.

- e. The question was asked why we are having hard standing for buses when no buses run. The 115 service is still running it was requested that the timetable for the 115 be placed at the bus stops.
- f. Stewart Gavigan had a response from Scottish Forestry regarding the tree felling at the Caravan Park in Station Road, after making a formal complaint about the lack of response to emails.

Their response follows:

We were made aware of some tree felling that had taken place here prior to the formal request for permission and carried out a brief investigation that determined that the trees that had been removed were suffering from serious root decay and

were a threat to life therefore removal of them would not have required permission, hence an exemption. At the time of that investigation the site owner made the investigating officer aware that they would like to remove further trees on the site boundary in advance of the site being refurbished and he was informed that he should apply for formal permission.

In the application we were informed that he had spoken with immediate neighbours of the site.

No environmental impact assessment is required for this work, or ecological report as that is all covered in the permission approval through reference to Wildlife and Nature conservation.

You indicate that your ecologist believed that there were Red Squirrels, bats and Pine Martens in the area? While there might have been sightings of these in the woodlands, they would be of transitional animals as the small woodland area would not have a viable holding capacity for animals to be resident.

A conservation area is identified on our constraints mapping but does not extend into that area of woodland as per the information provided by Perth and Kinross Council, although as the area falls within Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park then they have responsibility for these as a Planning Authority. They were also consulted on this application but made no response.

Stewart Gavigan was not happy with their response, there was no root decay or foliage damage and no consultation with the Community Council, after discussion it was agreed that Stewart Gavigan should follow up further with Scottish Forestry.

- g. With reference to the caravans that have been parked in the lay-bys outside the village, it is still not clear what the legislation is regarding these vehicles. Cllr Khogali will follow up.

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

Nothing to report from the Police since the last Community Council Meeting.

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

2022/0205/DET – 4th August 2022

Change of use and refurbishment of existing hotel (Class 7) to form 22 no. serviced apartments (Sui Generis) for holiday use; refurbishment of existing ancillary building for use as manager accommodation and alterations to car park

Location: Lochearn Brewery Hotel St Fillans Crieff

Applicant: St Fillans Holdings Ltd

2022/0206/LBC – 4th August 2022

Change of use and refurbishment of existing hotel (Class 7) to form 22 no. serviced apartments (Sui Generis) for holiday use; refurbishment of existing ancillary building for use as manager accommodation and alterations to car park

Location: Lochearn Brewery Hotel St Fillans Crieff

Applicant: St Fillans Holdings Ltd

2022/0191/INST – 27th June 2022

Erection of new double 33kV pole and laying of cable

Location: St Fillans Power Station

Applicant: Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Stewart Gavigan to forward email from SSE regarding the possibility of a wind farm between St Fillans and Lochearnhead to Councillors.

## **6. Village working groups**

### **a. Garden Group and Still Project**

The Garden Group had a successful work party in July followed by a BBQ at Cairndhu.

Lorna Kennelly has spoken to National Parks who will come and spray any Knotweed in the village, in August (any person who is not aware of what Knotweed looks like let us know). Knotweed is very invasive and can cause severe damage to building structures.

Lorna Kennelly and Audrey Gavigan had a meeting with Bear who are the contractors for Transport Scotland regarding the areas for verge cutting on the A85. Their map showing mowing details is available for anyone who wishes to look at it. Verges are cut by Bear every 4 weeks, as many of you know the garden group have a mowing roster for the weeks in between. Bear cut the verges for road safety purposes and also advised that they are required to remove any Ragwort from the verges.

There are a few hedges within the village that are encroaching on the pavements, for safety reasons it would be appreciated if these could be cut back.

Fundraising for The Still Project is progressing, to date funding has been from Arnold Clarke and The Thompson Charitable Trust, decisions still to come on other applications. We applied to the National Lottery but were unsuccessful, other funding possibilities are being investigated. There is currently £4000 towards the project.

### **b. Path Group**

Successful opening of the recently completed phase of the path on 10th August 2022, with thanks to Susan and Duncan Macleod, Sheila Cramond, Elma Brierley and Moira Loudon. Jim Fairlie MSP officially opened the path, the event was attended by councillors, many of those involved in the project and by villagers.

The next phase of the path is currently being worked on with hopes that work will begin later this year.

Thanks to villagers who have helped with path maintenance. Two culverts have been cleared with help from Gareth Kett from National Parks.

**c. Festive Committee**

Festive weekend to be held 19th and 20th August, with tickets available to purchase. Friday night is a Quiz night, Saturday night is a BBQ and a Ceilidh band. Any donations for raffle prizes would be gratefully received and help with the marquee erection.

**d. Play Park Group.**

The group has been catching up with maintenance in July.

The group will share a list of remedial works to see if anyone can help with the requirements.

The play park is a great asset for the village and the group have contacted P & K for funding possibilities.

Pebble patch still needs to be done and it is hoped that someone on Comrie might have the skill set to help with this.

**e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group**

There have been a couple of questions since the feasibility study was issued and Bruce Montgomery has done his best to answer these.

The group have met with Denholm, who have undertaken a couple of tasks and their response is awaited.

**f. Cultural Heritage Group**

Jim Brierley informed that the Church annex with the history of St Fillans would be open on 19th August 2022 at 10am.

**7. AOB.**

- a. Lorna Kennelly sent a question asking if it was possible to run another training session for CPR and how to use the defibrillator. Don Forrester is hoping to organise another course in the Autumn. Three defibrillators are located within the village, one in the porch at Lochearnside, one at Maryfield courtesy of John and Christine Wilkie and the Golf Club.
- b. The AGM in October will be Stewart Gavigan's final address to the community as the Chair and Collette MacLeod as Secretary. Anyone wishing to stand please let Stewart know.
- c. The inspection hole in the grass by the Village Shop car park which has been covered over and a cone placed on top, the land has been identified as being owned by Drummond Hotel. Nic Oldham is aware, and discussions are ongoing about the repair.
- d. Pauline Jenkins reported that there has been a pool of sewage in Dundurn Walk, Scottish Water are investigating and trying to repair the issue.

- e. Pauline Jenkins raised the issue of visitors parking in Station Road, there are many cars being parked daily with little respect for the villagers living there and on occasion driveways have also been blocked. Pauline requested that Transport Scotland survey the road to find a solution, perhaps signage or double yellow lines may be an answer.
  - f. Cllr Stewart Donaldson advised that Community Investment Fund is open and that applications should be submitted 17th November 2022.
  - g. Bailie Rhona Brock to be a board member of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Parks from 1st October 2022.
  - h. Stewart Gavigan thanked everyone within the village for their time and efforts to make St Fillans a better place and for raising issues you feel need to be addressed.
- 8. Date and time of the AGM and next Community Council Meeting**

Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.30pm at the Sandison Hall