

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 30th August 2023
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 21 villagers and Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Peter Sinclair – Community Police Officer, Gareth Shields – SSE, Karen Anderson – SSE

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Bailie Rhona Brock, Barry Fisher, Richard Graham, Carol Graham, Ulrika Hollas

2. Police Report

Sgt Iain Gilles has moved to Perth, Sgt Millar is his replacement.

Peter reported that there had been six incidents in the St Fillans area since the last meeting, one 999 for man who had fallen, two for suspicious behaviour around boats, one for a drink driver, two for reports of assault and anti-social behaviour.

Request made again about speed checks at the East End of the village.

Bikers revving their engines in the layby by the Four Seasons, villagers would have to put in a formal complaint to the council.

Peter mentioned the importance of reporting incidents, if it's not possible to get through on 101, please use the Contact Us link on the Police Scotland website. Crimestoppers can also be contacted anonymously.

Peter also discussed the Rural Watch Scheme, which has been running for several years. CC to look into the scheme and distribute to villagers if it can be useful for us.

3. Visitors

Gareth Shields, Karen Anderson - SSE

Alan Greenwood has moved onto another project, Gareth Shields has taken over on the Glentarken Wind Farm Project

Karen Anderson reported that the project is on track, technical surveys are currently being carried out. Next summer there will be a "design chill" then a new exhibition at the end of 2024.

Locations of turbines are still under discussion, decisions will be made after the technical surveys are completed. The Impact Assessment Report should be available November/December 2023, a paper copy will be available for review once submitted.

The virtual room on SSE website will remain active.

The infrastructure routes from turbines are dealt with by a separate division, no further information yet.

Completion of the wind farm could still be many years away.

Donna Littler has been in contact with other communities who have gone through the process for information and advice.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last Meeting on 10th May 2023 were proposed as a true record by Lorna Kennelly and seconded by Johnston Brown.

5. Matters Arising

- a. Drummond Hotel have resubmitted planning and are hoping for approval in September. They have had to redesign following SEPA's concerns. Hopefully we will have an update at the next meeting.
- b. Car park area at the Drummond has been fenced off and working well, Thank you to Stewart Gavigan and Richard Graham for their efforts. The car park has been used for village events.
- c. Bus shelter at the Four Seasons has been removed and a temporary pole put in place. Bus stops on hold currently, CC and Cllr Stewart Donaldson following up with Bear to discuss what the village require.
- d. Public toilets, the gents were closed due to vandalism which left them unusable. The current condition of the ladies toilet and the unisex option is not working well. P & K have committed to placing two portaloos on site for the remainder of the season. A longer-term plan will be discussed at a meeting in September. P & K have said the portaloos will be cleaned daily by their team until a decision is made. There has not been any investment for public toilets for 15 years, many public toilets have been closed apart from Pitlochry and Dunkeld. National Parks have also been contacted. A survey for visitors has been organised at the toilets although volume of responses to date have been low.

6. Planning applications received.

From Loch Lomond and Trossachs Planning:

2023/0216/DET – Date received 10th July 2023

Proposal: Installation of holding tank extension and associated infrastructure

Location: St Fillans WwTW, South of A85, St Fillans

Applicant: Scottish Water

2023/0227/DET – Date received 17th July 2023

Proposal: Amendment to planning permission 2014/0050/DET for change of house type

Location: The land west of Earn View, St Fillans

Applicant: Mr Milen Vlad, Healthy Eco Homes

2023/0069/DET – Date received 31st July 2023

Proposal: Tree works within a conservation area – fell 1 no Eucalyptus tree

Location: 3 Earn View, St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Loraine Telfer

2023/0250/NOT – Date received 7th August 2023

Proposal: Works for the restoration of peatland

Location: Land at Ardvorlich

Applicant: Mr Alexander Stewart

Received from P & K Planning:

23/00659/FLL – Date received 15th May 2023

Proposal: Change in the use of land at former mink farm to form storage area

Location: Land 120m Northeast of Dun Fholain, St Fillans

Applicant: G and M Bennie

7. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group (Including Still)

A recent work party took place at the layby near the Four Seasons preparing for Still to return, thank you to all those that helped.

Still Project – The artist has completed his work. The project is delayed whilst Take a Pride Association are arranging a structural certificate for the base.

b. Paths Group

Anne Patrick is organising a schedule for ongoing maintenance of the railway path, anyone wanting to help please contact the group.

The new section of the railway path is complete. Three more phases to go, nothing more planned for this year, it is hoped that phase 7 will commence in 2024.

c. Festive Committee

A successful Festive Weekend, numbers are still be gathered, further update next meeting.

d. Play Park Group

Pebble Patch project now completed with thanks to our contractor Struan and to the Council for the funds to complete the project.

We have been delighted to recently receive some money which will be used to support the ongoing maintenance of the park - this includes painting, replacing some damaged signs and work to replace some wooden posts and installations that have got wet rot.

Thanks to the work party that took some time in July to tidy up the park in the middle of the summer holidays - lots of hands make light work! We will probably have another work party to tidy up the park before the end of October - focussing on removing any brambles.

Thanks for everyone's support for the park - always appreciated.

e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group

Group are still waiting for the results of the Local Place Plan.

f. Cultural Heritage Group

Ten people meet every month, anyone who would like to join in, please contact Murray Henderson.

Rev Armstrong's great grandson visited last month.

More information on the old village in the future.

Friends of Dundurn Cemetery, it is hoped the village can get a group together to help maintain it, anyone wishing to help please contact Murray. Robert Ross of P & K's Cemetery Group is leaving, Mark Hunter is taking over.

g. Local Place Plan

Meeting coming up Tuesday 5th September, further details next meeting.

8. AOB

a. Councillor's updates

i. Bailie Rhona Brock to give an update on Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park next meeting.

ii. Early days, but P & K are looking to submit an application for a new park, Tay Forest Park, to link up with LLTNP & the Cairngorms.

- iii. There have issues around Comrie regarding rights of access. P & K want to protect rights of way and preserve the rural access code, between Cultybraggan and the Ruchill.
- iv. Road surveys for St Fillans, it's been five years since the last one which was placed in the slowest part of the village. It was noted that Comrie had three monitoring points recently, one at each end of the village and one in the middle, St Fillans has had nothing. It is impossible for Transport Scotland and Bear to know what the requirements of the village are without any data.
- b. Sam's Boat on the A85, investigate the possibility of removing it. Garden Group not able to maintain and the new owners of Corranour are not interested in its upkeep.
- c. A blocked drain was reported to P & K and Bear Scotland, it was repaired the next day, the response was excellent. Bear Scotland advised that villagers need to report damaged drains so that they can be repaired.
- d. Village assets to be added to the Welcome Pack, these include the village trailer, rotisserie, log splitter.
- e. There are two sets of deer roaming in the village, there are concerns about road safety, Donna Littler will contact Drummond Estates.
- f. Villager magazine update, there have not been many paper copies sold within the village. The trial period has been running for three months, with one month left. Based on sales, the St Fillans paper copy is unlikely to continue after this. Bruce Montgomery is leaving the village soon, so a volunteer is required to pick up the St Fillans Bit for the magazine. If someone cannot be found, then St Fillans will no longer be included in the magazine.
- g. There are complaints about the Achray Hotel bins, the bin area is a mess and smells terrible. The bins haven't been cleaned throughout the summer. The bins are on a private road which is access to several properties and the Sandison Hall and residents are finding it unacceptable. Cllr Stewart Donaldson will provide contacts within P & K to help.
- h. Date and time of the next meeting changed to 1st November 2023

9. Date and time of next Community Council meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall.