

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 21st February 2024
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 17 villagers, Baillie Rhona Brock and David Fettes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Noah Khogali, Cllr Stewart Donaldson, Police, Rico Hollas, Steve & Isobel Howell, Gordon McDowall, Gary & Moira Loudon, Daisy Murray.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last Meeting on 1st November 2023 were proposed as a true record by Stewart Gavigan and seconded by Richard Graham.

3. Police Update

Police unable to attend due to rest days and a training course on the day of the CC meeting. They have sent us the following report.

There has been one road traffic accident, reports of deer, fallen trees during storms and a report of suspicious activity by a group of visitors to the village.

4. Matters Arising

- a. Bus Shelter and Bus Stops, the plans have been updated and were circulated to the village over Christmas. The plans have removed some of the bus stops and the plans are with Bear, Transport Scotland and P & K. It was requested that the bus shelters would be in keeping with the village.
- b. Public Toilets, Councillors are looking into funding for the toilets from the Rural Infrastructure Fund on behalf of St Fillans. P & K are also exploring the working businesses for comfort scheme, which pays local businesses a small annual fee to open their toilets for public use.
If the toilets are not updated before the start of the season, two portable toilets will be supplied.
- c. Drummond Estates gamekeeper, Jimmy Anderson, will be moving into Sunnybrae Cottage, at the top of Station Road.

5. Planning applications

None received since the last Community Council Meeting in November 2023.

6. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group (Including Still)

No report for the garden group.

Still Project.

The project is still progressing, a meeting was held on 20th February 2024, the Structural Engineer has contacted SEPA, who don't have any issues with the proposed base and its placing. The final design is expected in the next couple of weeks. The base will be certified by the structural engineer as requested by the Take a Pride in P & K Association.

The Structural Engineer will recommend a contractor to construct the base.

The first proofs of the interpretation board have been received and once approved this will be manufactured.

b. Paths Group

Thanks to Richard Graham for helping to remove fallen trees from the path.

It is hoped that Lochearnhead and Strathyre will take over the Phase 7 section of the railway path.

Path maintenance will take place once the weather improves.

Anyone spotting a problem on the paths, please report to Geoff Hardman-Carter.

c. Festive Committee

There have been a couple of planning meetings, the festive weekend for 2024 will be held 23rd/24th/25th August. The weekend will be held in the field this year and it is planned for a themed weekend. More details will follow when finalised.

d. Play Park Group

The Play Park has secured some funding, and it is planned to tidy and plant new trees and shrubs. The work needs to be completed before the end of March.

The pebble patch still requires some more work.

The group will require more funding to help with continuing maintenance.

e. Community Centre Feasibility Study Group

This is currently paused.

f. Cultural Heritage Group

The group is not currently active, but it is hoped that once the Place Plan is complete that the group can be resurrected, probably April time. It will start with asking who would be keen to take the group forward and begin with a couple of projects initially.

Thank you to Jim Brierley who has supplied information for the village website and thank you Don Forrester for implementing uploading.

An open day in the church annex containing the history of St Fillans is suggested, as this may be of interest to new folks in the village.

g. Local Place Plan

The Local Place Plan has been validated and the information will be added to the village website.

It will be launched on Sunday 3rd March at 2.30pm in the Sandison Hall, open to all villagers.

Representatives of the village groups are invited, and it is hoped that new villagers may want to get involved in some of the groups and activities.

Huge thank you to Carol Graham and the team for all their work on the Local Place Plan.

7. AOB

a. Councillor's updates

Baillie Rhona Brock advised she is holding a meeting at the village with Donna Littler and Heather Reid who is the Environmental Officer for LLTNP. There will be feedback at the next CC meeting. She is also helping us with potential funding for WiFi in the village Hall. Salt bins – one has appeared in Dundurn Walk.

- b. Dundurn Walk Planning update – The CC put in an objection to the application in December 2023, regarding the waste infrastructure, Local Place Plan and lack of correspondence with villagers that had raised an objection. The decision has been referred to the Planning and Access Committee which is to be held on Monday 26th February 2024 at the Four Seasons Hotel at 1.30pm, all villagers welcome to attend. The recommendation from LLTNP is that the application should be approved, but it is hoped the outstanding issues the CC has raised may be considered as part of the decision making.

- c. Drummond Arms – Civil drawings have been issued in response to an objection from Transport Scotland.

The delay in planning approval is having an impact on the works for the hotel and the owners are disappointed that the plans for the loch front have not been approved yet. Baillie Rhona Brock trying to assist.

d. Wind Farms

Invergeldie Proposal

An Open Letter from Ian Thomas who is a Chartered Forester & Chartered Environmentalist to Richard Stockdale who is MD at Oxygen Conservation (an associate company of Low Carbon), has been received, this is available to villagers.

Low Carbon Proposal

The CC have heard from Sam Greer of Low Carbon, they are not expecting their Energy Consents Scoping opinion until mid-February so it's too soon to give an update. They would be happy to attend a later meeting to update villagers.

SSE Proposal

The CC's contact at SSE has left the company and they are in the process of recruiting a replacement.

SSE have been working on baseline surveys which will inform the design work which will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Once SSE have carried out their design workshop, they should have more information to share with the village. The design work will determine the exact site layout and turbine positions, when complete work to develop visualisations will be undertaken.

The proposed development adjacent to Glentarken Wind Farm has been raised with SSE, this will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, as will any other developments in the surrounding area.

It is expected there will be more information available at the next CC meeting.

- e. Transport Scotland have ordered speed monitoring for the village and is it expected that we should have monitoring in place around the middle of April 2024. They are avoiding the holiday period over Easter as the suggestion is this isn't a true reflection of traffic within the village.

Transport Scotland are meeting with authorities to discuss the possibility of a 20mph speed limit and new signage.

- f. The CC proposed that the village send a copy of the telephone directory and a location map of the houses to the Air Ambulance Service, to assist when they have an emergency call out.

Villagers voted in favour of this to be actioned.

- g. £401.19 was raised for Poppy Scotland in November 2023, thank you to villagers for supporting and thank you to Richard Graham for his efforts on behalf of Poppy Scotland.

- h. The village marquees used for events including the festive weekend are in need of some repairs, there may have to be some village fundraising to enable repairs.
- i. Two dates for future events were announced, Saturday 1st June, a Krazy Gang event, location to be confirmed, and Saturday 14th June at the Sandison Hall, details of both events to follow soon.
- j. It has been noted that there are a lot of branches, leaves, and debris along the kerbs on the footpaths, particularly outside the Four Seasons and Drummond. This is blocking drains, and it is suggested the village requires the P & K road sweeper to visit.

There are also overhanging trees and hedges along the footpath at the East end of the village past Station Road.

- k. It was requested the CC obtain a copy of the Village Welcome Pack so it can be established what is currently in it.
- l. The question of using QR codes within the village was raised, this is potentially a project. Killin have one QR code which takes visitors to the village webpage.
- m. Any profits from Festive Weekend in 2024 will go the St Fillans Community Trust.

8. Date and time of next Community Council meeting.

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall.