



Minutes of the Royal Burgh of Pittenweem Community Council

Meeting Held Monday 9th April 2018 in the New Town Hall

Apologies: Cllr Linda Holt, Billy Hughes, Margaret Wardlaw.

Present: Jim Taylor, John Bowman, Brian Ortmann, Ken Horsburgh, Alex Innes, Cllr Bill Porteous, Cllr John Docherty.

Adoption of the Minutes of the March 2018 meeting:

Proposed: John Bowman Seconded: Ken Horsburgh.

Chairman: in the absence of Billy Hughes Ken Horsburgh chaired.

Cycleway: a presentation was made by Elizabeth Riches and Gerald Cooper from the Anstruther Sub Group. To summarise, the idea of a cycleway from Kirkcaldy to St. Andrews was initially suggested as far back as 2007. In 2014 the Anstruther Sub Group was formed from the Anstruther Community Council, in partnership with Fife Council they have worked on the section from Kilrenny as far as Kirkclatch in Pittenweem. The route from Anstruther to Pittenweem will now run to the north of the main road joining the villages. Funding is in place to complete this section and negotiations with the various landowners is progressing well. It is envisaged that the route will be lit with solar studs. It is worth noting that the estimated cost of the 4.5 miles from Kilrenny will cost in the region of £1 million. The project will be part financed by Sustrans matched by Fife Council. In passing it was mentioned that they are currently implementing a feasibility study to extend the route to Crail at the same time the University of St Andrews is involved with section from St Andrews to Crail.

What still needs to be addressed is exactly how the route negotiates Pittenweem. There is a suggested course of action which includes public consultation, grant application by a Constituted Body such as the Community Council. We need to decide how or if we progress this stage of the project as well as establishing exactly where PICT fit into the picture. The only feasible way forward is to have dialogue with David Stutchfield to verify what his current involvement is regarding PICT and the cycleway initiative as it is believed he has already got access to funding.

Apology: immediately after the above presentation Cllr Bill Porteous left to attend the meeting of Anstruther Community Council.

Matters Arising:

Abbeywall Road: There are continuing signs of deterioration, exacerbated by the harsh winter and excessive rainfall in late winter early spring. Dealing with this issue is a matter of urgency as any failure of the wall will effectively close the only road to the harbour. The knock on economic implications of this for the fishing fleet don't need spelling out. It was agreed that Cllr John Docherty would arrange a date for a site meeting with Fife Council officials.

Cllr JD

Roads: Despite the reply from Kevin Smith concerning our request that South Loan be prioritised in which he maintains that University Avenue is in a worse condition and therefore the priority we disagree. Whilst not denying that the road surface in University Avenue is poor and in need of repair we believe that South Loan is at least as bad and in addition is the main access route to the High Street both for visitors to the village and for delivery vehicles. We would request that Fife Council reconsider.

Playparks: We have still had no update from Cllr Bill Porteous as once again he left the meeting before the topic was discussed. We will continue with this as an agenda item until we have been fully appraised as to the current situation.

Arts Festival: Because of a misunderstanding on dates the Transport Sub Group Meeting went ahead on the 12th March without any Community Council involvement, in addition two out of the three Local Councillors did not attend. Subsequently we have received a copy of the application for the Use of Open Spaces as submitted by PAF. We were asked to respond within 14 days with any areas of concern which we undertook to do. It was agreed that KH and AI would evaluate the application and raise areas of concern as appropriate.

KH / AI

The subject of our attendance at the forthcoming Liaison Meeting was discussed and everyone was in full agreement that the only course of action open to us was non-attendance. We will prepare a statement giving the reasons for this decision and will ask Janice Laird to read this out at the meeting, prior to which all three Local Councillors will be copied in.

KH / AI

Local Councillor's Report: Cllr John Docherty reported that he had attended the recent Fishermen's Memorial Day event as well as the last New Town Hall meeting. There had been an SNP Group Meeting in the Old Men's Club. He held his last surgery on the 6th April in the library.

Secretary's Report:

There was nothing of note to report during the last month.

Treasurer's Report:

The monthly bank statement shows a balance of £1690.97 on the 31st March 2018.

Planning:

There were thirty-two notifications, of which thirteen were new.

New Town Hall Committee: Rainwater running down the inside of storeroom has been reported to Fife Council, they attended and did temporary repair. Note: as part of a costing revue there is now no hall keeper, as a result hall users will be expected to tidy up after they finish

AOCB:

Once again, the unsatisfactory state of the Cemetery was noted, this needs to be addressed. There was the question of Lair Plans for the Old Cemetery, do they exist and if so who is likely to have them.

Jim Taylor wished to clarify the process regarding applications for monies from the Common Good Fund. The Community Council has no power to grant or block an application. If the application is for less than £2000 then a council official has the power to decide the outcome without involving the Community Council. Above £2000 the decision is made by Fife Councillors. The Community Council gets notified and is invited to put comments forward to the Policy Officer, which they feel, should be considered during the decision-making process. If the comments are relevant they will be included in the report, however, there is no way to ensure that Fife Councillors will take them into consideration when reaching a decision. If we want to influence the outcome the only way is to ensure our local councillors fully are aware of our position.

Jim Taylor noted that whilst we had expressed our regrets that Ken Horsburgh had taken the decision to resign from the Community Council we had not formally thanked him since he came back to us, for his time in office as chairman.

Next Meeting: Monday 14th May 2018