

**Lochgelly Community Council**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017**  
**385 Social Club**

**1. Present:** Brian Schulz (BS), Alan Gardiner (AG), Stevie Murray (SM), George Kinnell (GK), Jimmy Mann (JMa), Davie Hemseed (DH), Tam Durham (TD), Craig Dempsey (CD) and Jean McDonald (JMC)

**Apologies:** Carol Mackie Raymond Wilson, Jim Haddow, & Billy Baxter.

**Councillors Present:** Councillor Linda Erskine (LE) & Councillor Mark Hood (MH)

**2. Presentation(s)**

Tam Kirby (Fife People's Assembly) provided a very informative presentation about the work undertaken by the group FPA were formed in 2103 across the UK they have affiliations from all trade unions except GMB. Fife's local assembly was the first one of its kind and was formed before the Scottish assembly. They have support from the main political parties trade union groups although they do not support any political party. Much like community councils they represent and support local people with no political ties.

Their primary function is to support people who are suffering hardship caused by sanctions placed upon them by welfare cuts and to campaign against austerity. They attend several demonstrations wherever they can to further the campaign.

Roger Mullin, the local MP is preparing an early day motion against benefit sanctions. They have also successfully lobbied Fife Council who supported 99% of their position to provide support for those who suffer the most as a result of the sanctions.

They were heavily involved in the demonstration against the cuts made by the Health & Social Care Partnership recently and have sought discussions with Shona Robison (Health Secretary) on this area. They organised the I, Daniel Blak film showing recently which drew in over £500 from the showing.

**Questions**

JMC – what is the effect of the Brexit decision on the work of your area, worker's rights and social chapter?

Tam responded by explaining they nationally they are campaigning on this matter. It is too early to say what they effects will be.

LE – HSC Partnership budget was approved, despite 4 votes against and a further £20 million to be cut next. Is there anything that they can do to help? Tam welcomed the offer and explained that any members of the public can join the group.

DH have you been in contact with CARF

They work with CARF and many of their activists are also employed in that area. Where people are suffering because of the cuts they always direct them to CARF.

BS thanked Tam on behalf of the Community Council for his contribution tonight.



**Police Scotland**

Unfortunately Police Scotland were unable to attend the meeting

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

SM pointed out that Raymond Wilson had been recorded as submitting apologies and being present.

Proposed as accurate - JM, Seconded DH

**4. Matters Arising**

- (a) SM advised that, as agreed, they had attended the Civic Ceremony which celebrated the achievements of the volunteers across Fife. It was heartening to hear of the achievements of groups in different areas. Ellen Ross from the LCDF had collected the award on behalf of Lochgelly achieving the most improved town award. Credit was given to those groups whose work to improve the town over a number of years in Main street and Bank Street, the town house redevelopment and public park improvements had help achieve the award.

MH presented the Community Council with a presentation for their part in helping the town achieve the SURF award.

**5. Financial Matters**

GK advised

- General Account = £3,081.55
- Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)

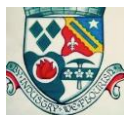
SM advised that he had contacted Stephen Duffy (Streets, Parks and Open Spaces) about the outstanding invoices. They were aware of the 2016 invoice, but not the 2017. The invoice for 2016 should include the additional floral grant received from 4 Winds Trust.

Finance report approved.

DH asked that adequate provisions be made within the accounts which ensures we remain in a position to pay outstanding invoices. If we get requests for funding we do not want to agree and then find that we cannot pay any invoices. Agreed that provisions should be made.

**6. Communications Received**

| Sender                               | Substance   | Action needed   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3<br>Fife Council                    | Weekly Planning Applications  | Circulated as necessary, particularly when there are any plans submitted which may require statutory consultation or are of specific interest to Lochgelly. |
| Beth Flynn (Fife Council)            | Unconventional oil and gas in Scotland consultation notification  | Circulated to Community Councillors   |
| Louise Mcrae (Fife Council)          | Notification of West Planning Committee   | Noted   |
| Jenni Whittle (Fife Council)         | Fifeplan Supplementary guidance consultation  | Circulated to Community Councillors   |
| George Kinnell (Lochgelly CC)        | Extracts of correspondence from forestry commission and floral grants   | Requested copies of full letters.   |
| Stuart Duffy (Pink Saltire)          | Notification of Fife Rainbow Lunch on 27 <sup>th</sup> March and volunteering opportunities to help in Fife Pride event.  | Circulated to Community Councillors   |
| CLlr Linda Erskine                   | Notification of road closure on 29 <sup>th</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> April to allow maintenance work on railway bridge  | Added to social media and websites  |
| Stephen Duffy (Fife Council)         | Information relating to the development of plans for the mining heritage cottage in the Public Park.  | Circulated to Community Councillors   |
| Gordon Robertson (Edinburgh Airport) | Information relating to Airspace consultation   | Circulated to Community Councillors and added to website  |
| Beth Flynn (Fife Council)            | Notification about consultation being carried out by the Improvement Service on improving parking.  | Circulated to community councillors   |
| Peter Burman (Falkland CC)           | Copy of their CC response on Planning consultation  | Noted   |
| Linda Bisset (Fife Council)          | Notice of complaint against Community Councillors relating to alleged failure to disclose conflict of interests caused by political party memberships and employment with Fife Council. | Jimmy Mann will investigate.  |



|                               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| David Campbell (Fife Council) | Notice of change of lease for the Pavillion in the Public Park. Transfer to 'The Gym' an unincorporated group. The building is on the common good register, so any views the community council has will be considered before agreement. | Highlighted that the building is in need of some repairs, including the exterior. Agreed to the lease arrangement with 'The Gym'. |
|-------------------------------|---|---|

BS asked if there were any questions relating to the communications received. DH asked about the substance of the complaint. SM advised that, although they would be covered in the investigation the complainant, James Glen, alleged that 3 Community Councillors (BS, JMC & SM) had influenced the community council to support Fife Council's proposals on the development of lochore meadows. DH responded that this wasn't the Community Councils position. BS advised that the whole matter will be investigated and a response will be provided in due course.

## 7. Groups which CC attend

### a. Health Centre

JMa advised that there hadn't been a meeting of the sub group. The NHS are still working up the proposals as advised during their presentation, this being the case they don't expect any further update over the next couple of months.

### b. Public Park Improvement group

SM advised that the work had been completed on the paths around the Community garden, turf would be getting laid over the next week or so. The bedding plants will be supplied for planting by early May. Although the schools were contacted previously we would be contacting them again to make arrangements. The lower level was planned to be developed into a play area for older children and discussions have been held with Fife Council about engaging youngsters with the plans.

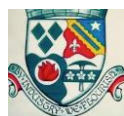
The Skate park development should commence in June for completion over the summer and new signs have been installed. The group had previously put aside £1000 to contribute to path repairs, given the work on the Skate Park will commence soon it was felt that it would be better to delay till after its completion.

The group had agreed to fund a campaign to tackle dog fouling in the park.

There have been concerns expressed on social media and users about the amount of damage being caused by youngsters at the weekend. The weekend previous had seen significant problems and complaints about the lack of response from Police Scotland.

DH advised that there is a shortage of Officers allocated to Fife and this will affect the response times.

GK said that there was 38 Officers allocated to Fife and that this would be reduced at weekends. They are not going to respond to someone smashing a bottle.



SM corrected GK and advised that whilst there is recognition that there are more serious crimes being committed in Fife, it is completely wrong to suggest that the complaints are only about a single smashed bottle.

JMC asked for an update on the Fabtek site. SM advised that this is an ongoing project and that he had chased Fife Council up on this recently. MH advised that they hope to be in a clearer position in the summer. SM confirmed that this Community Council will continue to press for action on this area.

SM advised that they had been invited to attend the next meeting of the heritage group to discuss proposals on the heritage centre. SM reaffirmed the Community Council view that this project would be a great asset to the park and will encourage people to attend and use the park. The main concern is about the siting of the centre. From experience of late in the clearing up the park you can see where most damage is caused and there is more being done in car park area. If the centre is built in specific areas then it could be in the way that people walk and they could start congregating closer to the houses.

c. **Mossmorran Safety Liaison Committee**

JM advised that he had thanked Mossmorran on behalf of the old folks committee and other old age pensioners who had attended the pantomime and burns suppers. It had been greatly appreciated by those who attended. There had been one accident on site an agency worker had cut themselves. No anticipated flaring scheduled onsite, although maintenance work was scheduled for Braefoot Bay.

d. **4 Wind Development Trust**

SM advised that the next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

e. **Lochore Meadows Advisory Board**

GK advised that tree felling tidy up was complete and that trees were due to be planted, however this has been delayed due to the nesting season. The Centre rebuild is on track and scheduled to be completed on time. The University boating club planning application is ongoing for the replacement Boat shed. Various fish stock will be put into the loch although there were concerns about brown trout being added as there was no way to control their migration.

SM asked that the minutes of these meetings should be circulated to the Community Council.

## 8. Councillors Report

Councillor Erskine reported on a number of areas which she had been working on over the previous 4 weeks. These included

- Opposed planned budget cuts and proposed increase in charges to clients for meals on wheels, community alarms within Health & Social Care. Highlighted that they had failed to carry out a equality impact assessments.
- Appointments sub-committee St Kenneth's Primary
- Dealing with numerous constituents issues relating to;



- Housing allocation
- wet floor showers
- anti social behaviour
- sound proofing and dampness
- Flooding in houses
- Met with Cardenden environment Group and Lochgelly Heritage Group developing the plan for the Happyland project
- Cardenden Heritage Group and Cardenden Community Development Forum about playpark strategy and future events,
- Dealing with reduction of cleaning hours for community centres
- Supported the coffee morning arranged by Lochgelly Community Development Forum
- Area Council Capital Budget - Lochgelly £150,000 for Public Park. £50,000 for playpark strategy and £50,000 to complete the MUGA in Cardenden. £200K for Happyland heritage project in Lochgelly, signed over to Lochgelly Heritage group to lead working with other Heritage groups in the area.
- Agreed £30,000 for youth holiday provision for Easter and summer playschemes.
- Fife Council Meeting – Moved motion on Fife Council Adopting and Ethical Care charter – no to zero hours contracts, ensuring staff are paid living wage and given time to care.

### Questions of LE report

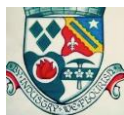
- a. JM asked if there had been any comment relating to the demonstration at the HSC board meeting?  
LE advised that there was some concern about the noise levels as some folk couldn't hear.
- b. JMC asked whether the care village was on schedule to be completed?  
LE advised that there had been some early delays, however it was scheduled to be completed on time.

Councillor Hood reported on a number of areas which she had been working on over the previous 4 weeks. These included

- £1.6m investment in Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre had been agreed.
- Reintroduction of free swimming for primary 1's, in reality this will benefit them when they are progressing into primary 2.
- Free swimming during summer months
- Work commences on the the Cycle Circuit development is starting on 24<sup>th</sup> April and should be completed by October. This will be open to both elite users and members of the public
- Rockgelly phase 1 will be completed in June, phase 2 funding is in place and plans have been submitted.
- Wallsgreen synthetic pitch will be open in the summer

### Questions of MH report

- a. JMC asked about the removal of any mess left on site when the build the cycle circuit?



MH advised that it would be removed by the contractors.

- b. JM asked about the opening times associated with the park?

MH responded that he isn't certain, however it will be variable during the year and the floodlights are likely to be similar to the muga court

- c. SM asked about the Football Hub

MH advised that £10k had been agreed for a feasibility study for full size synthetic pitch and changing facilities. This would free up other pitches which can be used by other teams in the area. It will link in with the development of the Public Park.

## 9. AOCB

- a. No questions from the members of public in attendance

- b. GK advised that a member of the public had expressed an interest in the vacancy on the Community Council. SM advised that they should put they should contact himself as the secretary through the normal channels.

- c. GK said that he had been asked by the Gala Committee about the Community Shop and the transfer of funds from LCDF to themselves.
  - i. Members of the Gala Committee wanted to know whether the money made by the shop was for general circulation to other community groups or not?

- ii. They have continually tried to get over £2000 transferred across into the Gala Committee funds with no success.

BS advised that the Gala Committee need to discuss these issues with the LCDF directly. It is not a matter for the Community Council. They can contact Fife Council to help if they need more advice or if they are not satisfied then the Gala Committee can contact OSCR.

GK said that they had tried to get information about the LCDF but hadn't been able too.

DH repeated that this was not a matter that the Community Council can help with or get involved in as it was between two different community groups. GK confirmed that he was aware that it was not something we could help with or get involved in.

- d. JMC asked about the amount of chewing gum on the paths on Bank Street? MH to contact Parks, Streets and Open Spaces.

- e. JM asked about the problems of parking in Knockhill Close area.

LE to pick this up with the local Community Police

- f. DH reminded all present that we are a non-political, non-religious organisation and he hoped that people who wanted to get involved in the community council are aware of this and that people had used the community council to pursue their own petty arguments as opposed to engaging in health debate.

- g. SM circulated a draft community council 'manifesto' which outlined the key priorities of the council. It was hoped that this could be circulated to all candidates in the area for them to pledge support. Agreed to seek confirmation that this was permissible and progress if so.

- h. SM had sought an update on the Fab Tek site. Fife Council are still working on the project and looking at ways to develop the site. There is a great deal of damage to the land on the site itself.

- i. CM asked whether there was any truth in the suggestion that MP's were not allowed to help with benefit claims and welfare associated problems? LE advised that this isn't the case.



- j. BS thanked all of the existing Fife Councillors for their contributions to Lochgelly. He wished LE well in her campaign and noted that had Cllr Chisholm been able to attend he would wish him the very best for the future. In recognising the contribution made to Lochgelly, including Health Centre Campaign, 3G pitches resurfacing at the High School, Cycle track from the High School to Lochore, Public Park improvements, Rockgelly, Town House refurbishment, Fife Cyle Park and so on, BS thanked MH for his support in each of these projects. BS hoped that he could continue to support specific projects in a co-opted position on the Community Council. Agreed  
MH thanked the Community Councillors for the support he had received, most of the time, during his terms in office since 2007. He wished the Community Council every success in the future and was pleased that the projects were progressing so well in the area.
- k. Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 6.30 pm in the 385 Social Club**

