



Thornton Community Council

Draft Minutes of the public meeting held on

2.9.24 @ 7pm In Thornton

Bowling Club

1. Meeting Attendance:

Community Councillors	Jean Laird (Secretary) (JL), John Laing (JoL), Christine Ross (CR), Izzy Anderson (IA), Ray Duncan (RD), Sal Henderson (SH). Dawn Taylor (DT) Gordon Mclay (GM)
Fife Councillors	Cllr Derek Noble, Cllr Daniel Wilson, Cllr Ross Vetriano
Community Police	Craig McGowan
Safer Communities	Mike Collins to cover Brian Westwater (Lead Officer)
Apologies	Community Police Euan Ross (ER) (Treasurer & Chair) Cristine Ross
Absentees	

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Held on:	08082024		
Proposed by:	DT	Seconded by:	RD

2:1 Review of Actions:

Action no.	Details	Owner	Target date	Details
24.01-03	Park lights fault	RV	Ongoing	Ongoing

24.01-06	Unadopted road at primary school	RV	Ongoing	Ongoing
24.01-11	Christmas lights storage and switch on event arrangements. Plus liaise with TR Band	JL & ER	Ongoing	Ongoing
24.02-2	JL mentioned flood at South end of village and litter on verges due to un-netted lorries travelling from Fife Council depot towards Kirkcaldy. RV noted follow-up	Councillors	Ongoing	Ongoing. Flood sign remains in place.
24.02-6	Two Park lights are faulty (inc. car park) RV noted for follow up.	Councillors	Ongoing	Ongoing
24.03-2	Alert public to rules on waste disposal	JL	03/04/2024	Ongoing
24.04-3	Follow up on silt clearing from Lochty Burn	DW	01/05/2024	Ongoing
24.04-6	Follow up on path clearance next steps	JL	01/05/2024	Ongoing
24.04-7	Update on Doctor's appointment system complaint	RD	01/05/2024	Ongoing
24.04-8	DoubleDykes story to be shared with SFCC	HP	01/05/2024	Ongoing
24.05-1	Pursue Speed watch joint initiative with Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie CC	ER	03/06/2024	On going

24.07-1	Attend to pavement accessibility due to overgrown vegetation at Chewton Road, Ford Crescent and Park Place	DW & RV	05/08/2024	Ongoing
24.07-2	Danger presented by a large open drain on Strathore Road. Investigation and action required.	DW & RV	05/08/2024	Ongoing
24.07-3	GAC-question to be formulated and asked regarding closure of DDykes crossing and ongoing talks.	DW	05/08/2024	Ongoing
24.07-6	Planter to be altered and base improved-speak to Peter Duncan	JL	05/08/2024	Ongoing
24.07-6	Station Renaming form to be submitted and petition started	JoL & ER	05/08/2024	ongoing
24.08-1	Contact Police and Fife Council regarding anti-social behaviour and criminality	JL, DN & RV	02/09/2024	ongoing
24.08-2	Park Gardens ask for support from Fife Council Gardeners	DN	02/09/2024	On going
24.08-3	Tree Planting	IA	01/10/2024	ongoing
24.08-4	Flooding-contact DW to ask for support	JL	02/09/2024	ongoing
24.08-5	Contact GP Practice Manager	JL	02/09/2024	ongoing
24.08-6	Liaise with Clean & Clear re Park Gate area	HP	02/09/2024	ongoing

3. Proposal of new Community Councillor

Gordon Mclay	Community Councillor		
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Proposed by:	JL	Seconded by:	RD
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4. Fife Councillor's Update:

Contacted Dave McCabe (Police) , James Carsen (Safer Communities) Charlotte Stitchell and John Mills (Housing) regarding the anti -social in Thornton	Councillors
Residents to keep reporting anit-social behaviour to Cllrs also regarding scooters/bikes	Councillors
Pods to be provided for Flooding prevention Looking at dredging the bridge of Lochty	Councillors
Double Dykes – Ombudsman accepts there was a lack of consultation	

5.Safer communities Team

<p>Mike Collins- advised aware of issues in Thornton. Police deal with criminal activities and Fife Council deal with the tenancy.</p> <p>Safer communities hold monthly meetings with the Police and Housing. Residents to complete anti-social behaviour on Fife Direct.</p> <p>Advice to contact Crime stoppers on phone or website this can be anonymous as case needs to be built to issue a warrant</p> <p>Safer Communities need to be seen to support the tenant and to follow the process with warnings and could result with Anti-Social Behaviour order (ASBO) Safer Communities can also issue tenants an incident diary to log all anti-social behaviour to build a case</p>	<p>This will be placed on Face book Page and Thornton Community Council website</p>
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5,Community Police Update: .

Police patrols have more of a presence in the area where anti-social behaviour	Craig McGowan
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<p>and criminality has been reported. Encouraging the public to report all incidents. Public can also report in the inbox this link will be on Face book Page and Community Council Page Advised Police require many pieces of intelligence to get a warrant</p>	
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6.Treasurer's Report See Appendix 1

7.Secretary's Report See Appendix 2.

8.Tree planting-Climate Week

Action to contact Daniel Pierce and advise when available to meet	IA
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9.Paths and Rights of Way

Arrange for funding from Balbeggie Wind Farm to cut back paths	JL
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10.Flooding

Councillors to pursue dredging of Lochty Burn and siting of Flood Pods.	DW & RV
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11.Train Station renaming

Received support in writing by Jenny Gilruth (MSP) and local cllrs Online petition increasing 471 votes so far InContact with Fife Chamber of Commerce waiting for reply	JoL
Advised JoL to contact Stage Coach	cllrs
Advised JoL to mention LPP as there was significant consultation with people of Thornton	JL

12.Speedwatch

No update

13.AOCB

Flower barrel at end of Donald Crescent in disarray Discussed to remove and source a rubbish bin	RD - JL
Community Councillors to attend group training to discuss roles/rules within the team as cannot hold a closed meeting	IA - JL
Require practice manager from GP to attend meeting ER to follow up	RD

Date of next meeting: **7.10.24**

Actions:

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24.05-1	Pursue Speed watch joint initiative with Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie CC	ER	03/06/2024	Ongoing
24.07-1	Attend to pavement accessibility due to overgrown vegetation at Chewton Road, Ford Crescent and Park Place	DW & RV	05/08/2024	Ongoing
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24.08-5	Contact GP Practice Manager	JL	02/09/2024	
24.08-6	Liaise with Clean & Clear re park gate area	HP	02/09/2024	
24.09-2	Planter at end of Donald Crescent / Beech Avenue. To be removed	RD-JL		
24.09-2	Team training opportunity Community Councillors	JL- EU		

Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report

- Balance of £16,747 with £9,576 uncommitted.

Secretary's Report 02092024**Planning**

Planning applications submitted	
Address	Application summary
<u>Application reference: 24/02030/CLP</u> Address: Balbeggie Bothy Balbeggie Avenue Balbeggie Thornton Fife KY1 3NS	Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness (proposed) for change of use of stables to dog daycare facility
<u>Application reference: 24/01637/CLE</u> Address: Daxmuir Cottage Strathore Road Strathore Thornton Kirkcaldy Fife KY1 4DJ	Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for formation of earth bunded area and installation of gate and fencing

Planning applications approved	
Address	Application summary
Nil	

Planning applications rejected	
Address	Application summary
Nil	

Anti-social behaviour

- TCC emailed Fife Council to outline the unacceptable situation and to ask for Safer Communities to attend, but there has been no response.
- TCC emailed Community Police to outline the unacceptable situation and to ask for support and attendance. Community Police have given an update on actions and said one officer would be in attendance.
- Councilors were asked for support. DN pursued this with Fife Council and gave an update on this including feedback from Safer Communities.

LPP

- DW asked to support and progress Flood Pods and Dredging of Lochty Burn.

Resignation

- HP resigned from TCC. Heather will be missed and TCC is incredibly grateful for her hard work and all that she has done.

Double Dykes

- Complaint HP upheld. DW asked to table question at Full Fife Council Committee regarding finding the promised solution.

Mackies Mill Bridge

- Survey now complete. Needs quote and application to MB Wind Farm Fund.

Balbeggie Walks and Funding

- Application to be made to MB Windfarm for path clearance funding.

Correspondence regarding Fife Community Councils

- See Appendix in Minutes

General Correspondence

- Invitation to commemoration of Polish 2nd World War remembrance and celebration events in August.
- SH arranged for FC chairs to go to a new home (reuse)
- Thornton Primary School and Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School catchments re-zoned and Milton of Balgonie Primary School permanently closed.
- West & Central Planning Committee of 28th August 2024 - Agenda & Papers was shared
- Defibrillators –ER- moving on with this, Town Hall defib. applied for, and training in the pipeline.
- Quote for Christmas Lights received.

Meeting of Fife Community Councils

Minute of Meeting

Held remotely at 7 pm on Tuesday 25 June 2024

1 Apologies

1.1 Laura McDonald (Coaltown of Wemyss CC); Cowdenbeath CC; Morag Ure (South Dunfermline CC); Sharif Sulamain (Freuchie CC).

2 Minute of Last Meeting

2.1 Proposed as an accurate record of business transacted by John Purdie (Benarty CC) and seconded by Nick Bailey (Guardbridge CC).

3 Matters Arising

3.1 *Circulation of minutes to elected members*

3.1.1 Maggie Murray (North Glenrothes CC) advised that, given the announcement about the forthcoming general election, she decided not to send out the minutes of the two previous meetings until after the election.

3.2 *ICO registration*

3.2.1 The query regarding ICO registration is ongoing.

3.3 *Elmwood College: proposed changes – update*

3.3.1 Angela Anderson (Elie & Earlsferry CC) advised that a meeting has taken place with representatives of SRUC. The agenda was dictated by SRUC and the overall impression was controlling. The approach by SRUC was very much top down and not in any way participative.

3.3.2 SRUC agreed to meet with a student representative and 3 Community Council members, each of whom should have up to date knowledge of advanced education and social media skills.

3.3.3 Participants were advised that they could not report proceedings to the press or social media.

3.3.4 Following on from the meeting, further Freedom of Information requests have been submitted regarding the sale of agricultural land and the gold course, requesting how much money was received from the sales and what it is being used for.

3.3.5 A number of interested parties have been contacted including former Elmwood Board members, local MSPS and the National Farmers' Union.

3.3.6 Bryce Goodall (Halbeath and Duloch CC) who is a former Vice President of Elmwood College Student Association indicated a willingness to pass on details of any of his contacts who could potentially give support.

3.3.7 Angela Anderson advised that MSPs Mark Ruskell and Willie Rennie have been supportive of the campaign.

4 Response from Helena Couperwhite re: Fife Community Council's Relationship with Fife Community Councils

4.1 The response from Helena Couperwhite was noted.

5 Response from Fife Council Officers to email enquiries – Strathkinness CC

5.1 Jane Houston (Strathkinness CC) expressed concern about the time taken for responses for Fife Council Officers. A recent example being 8 months for a response to a simple planning enquiry. Jane suggested an approach to Fife Council if there are service standards are for responding to enquiries from Council staff.

5.2 Euan Ross pointed out that Thornton CC had a similar experience in the campaign for rights of way across the railway line to Leven which is to be reopened.

5.3 Anne Smith (Burntisland CC) said that some information is more readily acquired by using online forms on Fife Council's website.

5.4 Several of those present wondered whether it might be easier if Community Councils had access to internal emails and phone numbers.

5.5 Maggie Murray (North Glenrothes CC) advised that NGCC wrote to Heads of Service if responses were not forthcoming. Other Community Councils contact Councillors to help get responses.

5.6 It was **agreed** that a letter should be sent asking for an SLA type agreement outlining Fife Council's communication standards for contact with Community Councils.

Action: Maggie Murray

5.7 It was also **agreed** that any correspondence to Fife Council should include a request for an acknowledgement of the email.

6 Community Council Grants - Benarty CC

6.1 John Purdie (Benarty CC) pointed out that at the first meeting of Fife Community Councils there had been discussion about pushing for additional grants and powers for Community Councils.

6.2 In relation to grants, Heather Paterson suggested that these should be index linked, while John Purdie suggested that grants should be 1% of local authority budgets. Anne Smith (Burntisland CC) pointed out that the current level of grant does not cover all the activities with which the Community Council is involved and additional fundraising has to be undertaken.

6.3 Another concern is that Community Councils are expected to pay for the use of Fife Council premises for meetings.

6.4 It was recognised that the Scottish Government's current [consultation on Democracy Matters](#) might be an avenue to draw attention to Community Councils. Euan Ross (Thornton CC) advised that the Scottish Forum of Community Councils has discussed finances and expenses for Community Councils.

6.5 It was **agreed** that John Purdie (Benarty CC) could produce a report on Community Council funding and powers for the next meeting.

Action: John Purdie

7 Lack of consistency in contact with Fife Council's Local Area Managers - Burntisland CC

7.1 Anne Smith (Burntisland CC) expressed concern about inconsistent contact with the Local Area Manager (LAM). After discussion it appeared that there were varying experience with contact with LAMs.

- 7.2 It was recognised that this was another example of varying communication standards between Fife Council staff and Community Councils, which can be addresses by the contact with Fife Council outlined in par 5.6 above.

8 Priorities for going forward

8.1 *Engagement with other Fife Community Councils*

8.1.1 Consideration was given to how to encourage other Community Councils to engage with the Fife Community Council meetings. It was **agreed** that it might be useful for those present to engage with neighbouring Community Councils with which there may be already established contact.

Action: All

8.1.2 It was noted that information on Community Councils on the Council website has been stripped back since the election, making it more difficult for members of the public or Community Councils to get information on Community Councils.

8.2 *Areas without Community Councils*

8.2.1 It was **agreed** that there was a role for Community Councils to lobby Fife Council to ensure better publicity for the next tranche of Community Council elections.

9 AOCB

9.1 *Speedwatch*

9.1.1 Andy Heer raised the subject of insurance cover for Speedwatch volunteers. It was noted that Speedwatch does not operate in a lot of local communities in Fife.

9.1.2 Issues raised included; the requirement for 3 volunteers to be out at any one time; the difficulty of arranging a time for 3 volunteers to come together when there was only a small number of volunteers for a given area; some Community Councils decided not to

become involved; some volunteers are happy to go out when there is a police officer involved, but would not go out with volunteers only; people not wanting to volunteer in case there were reprisals.

9.1.3 Nick Bailey (Guardbridge CC) pointed out that there has been a reduction in speeding since the inception of Speedwatch, but acknowledged that anyone wishing to be involved needed a thick skin.

9.1.4 Kevin McDaid was advised that there was a pilot in Giffordtown. It was **agreed** that the information would be circulated.

Action: Kevin McDaid

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 To be held remotely at 7pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024

Meeting of Fife Community Councils

Minute of Meeting

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