



## Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 19:00hrs at CR Smith.

v1.03

### Sederunt: ( Present / Apologies / Unknown ):

#### Community Councillors & Councillors:

C.Cllr Wilma Allday (Honorary President)	P	C.Cllr Gordon Harvey (Chairman)	P
C.Cllr Ian MacFarlane (Vice-Chairman)	P	C.Cllr Graeme Whyte (Secretary)	P
C.Cllr Ross Cassidy (Treasurer)	A	C.Cllr William Muir	A
C.Cllr Keith Omond	P	C.Cllr Ruth Watson	P
Cllr Auxi Barrera	P	Cllr Gavin Ellis	A
Cllr Gordon Pryde	P		

#### Others:

Norma Farquharson	P	Zoë Mays	U
Alex Allan	P	Derek Armitage	A
Alan Whyte	A	Mary Whyte	A
PC Stewart Paton	P	PC Kirstie Colquhoun	A

*Actions are recorded in a separate Tasks List available on our website.*

1. **Welcome, apologies & conflicts of interest:** C.Cllr Gordon Harvey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were recorded. Members were asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest either now or at the appropriate point in the meeting. The Chairman recorded the thanks of the Community Council to Mr & Mrs Alan and Mary Whyte who had supported the Community Council over many years both with their attendance, and their contributions on many topics. They have intimated their retirement from attending the Community Council. Everyone wished them well.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
  - a. **Approval.** The Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed (v1.03). They were proposed by C.Cllr Ian MacFarlane and seconded by C.Cllr Keith Omond.
  - b. **Matters arising, not on the agenda.** The Chairman covered the following points:
    - i. **Bins Strategy.** Cllr Auxi Barrera reported on new strategy experience. Requested new bin for Queen Margaret Fauld, which has not yet been installed.
3. **Police Report:**
  - a. **Monthly report and discussion of our 'Top Three Priorities'.** The Chairman welcomed PC Stewart Paton and also thanked PC Paton for the meeting that they had with PC Kirstie Colquhoun and the Secretary. PC Paul Scougall had moved away from the area, and PC Kirstie Colquhoun was our new Community Officer, along with PC Paton. The Police report included anti-social behaviour issues; speeding; traffic congestion; road safety and other local initiatives. The full Police Report would be posted to the website as normal.
  - b. **Needle Exchange.** The Community Council hoped to be able to work with the Police and Fife Councillors in persuading Fife Health Board to adopt a Needle Exchange Policy, as is the case in other Health Board areas.
  - c. **Car Theft.** Keyless cars seem to be being targeted the most, along with vehicles left unlocked. Everyone was advised to keep keyless entry keys in an RFID pouch when not in use. As ever, the public are advised to keep house doors locked to prevent opportunist key thefts, and other thefts. The Police reported that a good number of stolen vehicles in the area had been recovered and returned to their owners.
  - d. **Townhill Road parking opposite Bellyeoman Road junction.** Vehicles are parking on Townhill Road opposite the Bellyeoman Road junction. This causes vehicles to have to cross the white line heading north when vehicles are heading in the opposite direction and pulling out from



Bellyeoman Road into town. The Police cannot enforce the Highway Code Rule, it would need the Fife Council to lay down double-yellow lines and then wardens could enforce them. This issue is to be monitored.

- e. **Speeding.** Not a lot can be done by the Police, it would seem. The Police can only monitor speed and challenge the offending motorists with a warning or fine if there is a safe place to pull vehicles over. The Police also cannot operate in 40mph zones. We are told that Whitefield Road, Kingseat Road and Robertson Road are unsuitable for these reasons. The CC will follow this up to help identify opportunities for ensuring any speeders are caught, and warned or prosecuted.
- f. Members of the public were reminded to report non-urgent Police matters to their local community police officers by email – [police@bellyeomancc.org.uk](mailto:police@bellyeomancc.org.uk).

#### 4. Officers' Reports:

- a. **Correspondence.** The Secretary reported that miscellaneous correspondence had been circulated to members.
- b. **Community Council Elections – Thursday 28 September 2023.** The Chairman asked the membership to encourage others to join them as Community Councillors. The Secretary will circulate all existing C.Cllrs to see if they will be re-standing, and will circulate nomination papers when they are available. Nomination papers will also be made available for download on our website, as well as from Fife Council.
- c. **Bank Balance.** There had been no transactions and so the balance stood at £9,965.61.
- d. **Social Media and Communication.** The Chairman is working on a plan with William Muir.
- e. **Joint CCs Meeting.** A useful meeting was held on 21 June 2023 with Central, Halbeath and Duloch, and Kingseat Community Councils. Although the meeting was primarily to discuss issues which might affect the boundaries of each Community Council, it was useful to hear the views of others on working with Fife Council. All CCs found working with some Fife Council departments was highly frustrating and were concerned at the way the community and elected representatives' views were sometimes dismissed by certain unelected officials. One attendee, who previously engaged with a different local authority advised that their experience there had been very different, and decisions were driven by the views and wishes of the elected representatives. This group of CCs agreed to meet again in approximately six months, and would work together in the intervening period where necessary; this was already happening on the Northern Link Road issue.
- f. **Dunfermline City Council.** Fife Council had held a conference on what should be done to maximise the benefit of Dunfermline becoming a city, with around 250 people from the Council, businesses, tourism and community organisations. The BCC Chairman had attended. The messages coming from the Council leader, David Ross; the Head of Business, Gordon Mone, and the Dunfermline Area Convener Cllr James Calder, were about collaboration, and a collective vision which would allow the city to achieve the benefits of its new status. There was also a strong push for removing barriers to success and to promoting the wellbeing of the citizens of Dunfermline. It is to be hoped this will be reflected in future dealings with Council officers but, in the hope of promoting this, the BCC Chairman had spoken to Cllr Calder and asked if he would facilitate a meeting between Dunfermline Councillors, Community Councillors and Fife Council Heads of Department to develop a more productive way of working.



## 5. Planning:

- a. **Whitefields Development.** On 23 June 2023 BCC had received a letter from Taylor Wimpey (TW) giving advance notice of the grouting work which, whilst no timescales were given, we assume will commence soon. The Chairman has written to Taylor Wimpey seeking the following reports which are required by the Council before the work can start as they were not present on the Council planning website:

- Wheel cleaning facilities and arrangements
- Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Construction Traffic Routing Plan
- Noise Management Plan
- Dust Management Plan
- Temporary construction phase Suds and Drainage Strategy
- Results of Otter and Badger Survey
- Flood Risk Assessment requested by the Council's Lead Consultant on Flooding.

TW had advised that the work presently ongoing was in preparation for the grouting which was expected to commence in late July 2023. TW also advised the reports would be submitted to the Council before then, that the ecology report was already available, and that they were not aware of any flood risk assessment requirement. The Chairman had advised Cllr Barrera of this last point and she advised this potential omission was being investigated.

- b. **Northern Link Road (NLR).** Fife Council and their bridge contractor Triskelion, held a public consultation on the proposed railway crossing at Halbeath, at Kingseat Community Centre on 15 June 2023. The bridge will form the south eastern end of the Northern Link Road. Although the consultation was well attended by residents, the level of information from the representatives of the contractor and the Council was poor. Although the proposed bridge will not be in our CC area, the BCC Chairman had attended the event and felt it important to provide feedback on the consultation. He raised concerns about the level of information on the construction of the bridge, the lack of information and consultation on the remainder of the NLR (given this was the first part of the NLR to be formally consulted upon) and the sharp corner at the apex of the bridge which he felt might pose a safety risk. The contractor acknowledged the feedback and was asked to share it with Fife Council.

## 6. Public Services:

- a. **Bellyeoman Community Woodland.** The Chairman advised members that he and the Secretary were working with Stephen Duffy of Fife Council Grounds Maintenance, to establish what works might be potentially completed by Fife Council. That way the CC will have a better idea of what a third party might be expected to quote for.
- b. **Speed limits and crossing points on Whitefield Road at Hospital (currently 40mph).** The Chairman advised the meeting that the Dunfermline Area Committee of Fife Council had approved the reduction to 30mph of the speed limit on Whitefield Road from just north of the Robertson Road junction to the Queen Margaret Station railway bridge. It was unknown when this would take effect given there would be a need for public consultation. The Chairman had prepared a letter to North Dunfermline Councillors providing reasons why the speed limit should be reduced for the whole of Whitefield Road and part of the western section of Kingseat Road. A draft had been circulated with the agenda, and the meeting agreed to its issue to the three Councillors. One of the points the Chairman has included in his letter related to the faded condition of the 40mph signs on Kingseat Road and PC Paton confirmed it was reasonable to



assess that the condition of these signs could be used in court to avoid a speeding conviction. Approval was given for the Chairman to write to the Councillors on this issue.

- c. **Core Path Steps (Bellyeoman – Townhill).** See item 6g.
- d. **Unkempt 'Factored' Areas (ongoing since September 2002).** The meeting had previously been advised that, following a meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, it had been agreed that the general issue of unfactored areas should be separated from the specific case of Queensgate. The Chairman had therefore prepared two draft letters, one about the general unfactored areas to the local MSP, and one about the Queensgate to Cllr Pryde. The draft letters would be circulated for comments and approval following the meeting. The letters would then be issued, assuming there was a majority in favour, as the next CC meeting was too distant to allow any opportunity for further discussion.
- e. **Alderston Playpark fence and gate.** Cllr Gordon Pryde had no update at this stage but was following the matter up with Council colleagues.
- f. **Ahmadiyya Muslim Community - James Allan Centre.** No update on this matter, as Cllr Pryde reported that there did not appear to have been any progress to date by the AMC.
- g. **Site visit re hedges, parks etc. Follow-up consultation.** Stephen Duffy of Fife Council has been working on an action list of items requiring attention or investigation, in conjunction with the CC. Members commented on the recent maintenance work carried out and how many areas were looking well maintained. The CC looks forward to working with Mr Duffy and his colleagues over coming weeks and months on many of the items in the action list.
- h. **B912 resurfacing – Whitefield Road to Kingseat (03/07/2023 – 14/07/2023).** Some good news on this front, the B912 from the Whitefield Road junction to Kingseat village will be resurfaced from 3 July 2023, resulting in road closures and diversions during this period. It was agreed that the short-term disruption will be worth the small inconvenience after the years of neglect that this section of road has suffered. The Secretary hoped that the flooding/drainage problems on this section of road would be fixed at the same time.
- i. **B912 potholes at Lassodie.** Cllr Auxi Barrera continues to chase this matter, and has been assured by Officers that this area is on the list for repair at some stage. Cllr Ellis had reported at a previous meeting that it had been hoped that the drainage issue identified at the low point of the road would have been fixed in May 2023, but this work has not yet materialised.

## 7. Environment:

- a. **Flooding – Halbeath Road.** The Secretary asked Cllrs to raise awareness of the fact that no work appears to have been completed to prevent the flooding issue from happening in the future. It was understood that the fix is not the responsibility of Fife Council, but that of the private landowner at the retail park, however the impacts of the flood affected the main dual-carriageway into the City, at a huge cost to the emergency services, and indeed, Fife Council. Cllr Barrera said that she would liaise with colleagues in Dunfermline Central on this matter.
- b. **Alderston Drive seepage issue.** Cllr Pryde gave some details on the background of this issue and actions taken to date to try to find the source of the problem. The matter is ongoing.
- c. **CoOp Shrubs/Weeds.** The issue of overgrown shrubs and weeds at the north side of the CoOp complex was raised by Hon. President Wilma Allday. It was known from issues in previous years that the land in question was the responsibility of CoOp Estates. Cllrs Barrera & Pryde agreed to work together and write to the CoOp seeking action as soon as possible.
- d. **Neidpath Place Pavements.** A resident had raised the issue of weeds on some of the pavements in Neidpath Place. Cllrs would follow this matter up.

## 8. AOCB



No items raised during the meeting.

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** C.Cllr Gordon Harvey thanked everyone for their attendance and intimated that the next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for **Wednesday 9 August 2023 at 19:00hrs in the CR Smith Boardroom.**

It was also noted that there had been no potential conflicts of interest intimated and with there being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00hrs.

## Appendix 1:

Adopted roads and pavements in Robertson Road, an extract from Fife Council Mapping Services.

