



Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 19:00hrs at CR Smith.

v1.02

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 Keith Omond	P
C.Cllr Ruth Watson	P		
Cllr Auxi Barrera	U	Cllr Gavin Ellis	A
Cllr Gordon Pryde	P		

Others:

Norma Farquharson	P	Alex Allan	P
Derek Armitage		Zoe Mayes	P
PC Stewart Paton	A	PC Kirstie Colquhoun	A
John Foster	P	Richard Gibson	P
John Rodger	P	Lesley Rodger	P

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

- 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.

2. Annual General Meeting Business:

- Chairman's Annual Report.** C.Cllr Harvey gave his annual report as follows:

It is heartening to see the familiar faces have remained with us following the recent Community Council elections and thanks to some persuasion we managed, unlike some other CCs, to get sufficient numbers to remain in existence. We did, of course, lose two members during 2023 and this was disappointing, but I recognise the competing priorities many have to tussle with.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the help given to us by the Councillors and others who attended during the year. I must also record the invaluable help given to us by CR Smith in allowing us to use its facilities.

We have dealt with a wide range of issues such as the potential James Allan centre sale, the Lauriston Nursery works, flooding on Alderston Drive, etc., but thanks to Ian's work on the strategy we have ensured everything we do is part of our overall objectives. I should add we reviewed the strategy last month to make sure it is still keeping us on track.

During the last year we have continued to work towards a solution to improving our parkland and woods. Graeme and Zoe have led on this, and I know they would have wanted to be further on. Regrettably delays outside their control slowed things down. I am certain that their tenacity will mean we can see spades and saws in action during the coming year.

On the wider links with the Council, I have been frustrated by the lack of proper engagement over the last year. I hope we are beginning to see signs of change in some Departments but others, especially those involved in planning our area, have remained aloof and sometimes downright obstructive. This has been especially the case with the Whitefield development and the Northern Link Road where we should have seen at least some engagement by those who are determining the future of our area.



If there was one success, then it must be the achievement of a reduction in speed on Whitefield Road. The fact this took so long to achieve shows we still have much to do to protect those who are electing to walk or cycle and thereby avoid using the car.

We continue to work on a number of other issues, but I believe the last year has shown BCC is able to engage as a strong and resilient voice for the community. I might add we have also demonstrated we won't be palmed off with platitudes. It is perilous to ignore us in the hope we go away - this will be met with the most robust response we can mount.

In closing I want to single out Graeme who has consumed vast quantities of time and resource supporting the Community Council. Without those efforts, I doubt we would have been able to continue and achieve the outcomes we managed to gain during the last year.

- b. **Election of Office Bearers.** Cllr Gordon Pryde kindly took the 'chair' for this item of business. The following office bearers were nominated and elected with unanimous agreement of the meeting.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Hon. President	C.Cllr Wilma Allday	Gordon Harvey	Graeme Whyte
Chairman	C.Cllr Gordon Harvey	Keith Omond	Ian MacFarlane
Vice-Chairman	C.Cllr Ian MacFarlane	Graeme Whyte	Wilma Allday
Secretary	C.Cllr Graeme Whyte	Gordon Harvey	Ian MacFarlane
Treasurer	C.Cllr Ruth Watson	Graeme Whyte	Gordon Harvey

Following his re-election, C.Cllr Gordon Harvey resumed the 'chair'.

- c. **Presentation and adoption of Annual Accounts.** The accounts were agreed and adopted unanimously. Thanks were recorded to the outgoing Treasurer, C.Cllr Ross Cassidy, for his work in preparing the accounts.
- d. **Annual review and adoption of GDPR Policy.** This was agreed unanimously with no changes.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** C.Cllr Gordon Harvey resumed his position as Chairman of the meeting.

- a. **Approval.** The Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed (v1.01). They were proposed by C.Cllr Keith Omond and seconded by C.Cllr Ruth Watson.
- b. **Matters arising, not on the agenda.** The Chairman covered the following points:
- Items for Cllr Ellis.** In the understandable absence of Cllr Ellis due to a family bereavement, all items for Cllr Ellis would be deferred.
 - Life Council Drink and Drugs Policy.** Cllr Pryde continues with his investigations.
 - Recycling Centre Disparity Issues.** Cllr Ellis is following this up.
 - Scottish Govt. Consultation on Democracy Matters.** No further action taken.
 - Loose steps on pathways.** They are being attended to. Members will check progress.

4. Police Report:

- a. **Monthly report.** The report had been received and the Secretary read it out to the meeting.
- b. Members of the public were reminded to report non-urgent Police matters to their local community police officers by email – police@bellyeomancc.org.uk.

5. Officers' Reports:

- a. **Correspondence.** The Secretary reported that miscellaneous correspondence had been circulated to members.
- b. **Bank Balance.** The balance was £9,847.53.



6. Planning:

a/b. Whitefields Development and Northern Link Road (NLR).

The Chair and Secretary had a useful meeting with the Taylor Wimpey Land Director and the Project Manager for the Whitefield development on 1st November 2023.

The key points the Community Council took from the meeting were that Phase 1 grouting would end in early 2024 and would include grouting very close to the Queen Margaret Fauld houses. Taylor Wimpey undertook to keep the Community Council advised of activity which may lead to noise complaints. The grouting would then take a break from 20th December 2023 to 3rd Jan 2024. Phase 2 would be a more limited grouting activity and would take place in 2025.

Some attendees advised that the noise from the site was unacceptable to them, and the use of a fire hydrant to provide water to the site inconvenient, with one resident advising this had reduced his home's water pressure. The Chairman advised that he would write to Taylor Wimpey seeking improvements in both of these issues but residents were also encouraged to register their concerns directly with Taylor Wimpey and the Council.

The detailed design for PODs 1 and 2 was expected to be submitted to the Council within the next few weeks, with the construction of the replacement for Whitefield Road commencing in 2024. The road was expected to be complete in 2025 but this road would be required exclusively for construction activities once complete and would not be available to the general public until 2027, according to Taylor Wimpey. The timing of this availability was based on the construction and occupation of the first houses in Pod 2. A light-controlled junction would be installed at the new road's junction with Robertson Road.

The timing of the Northern Link Road was being driven by the construction of the railway bridge at Halbeath and details were still being established. Once the bridge was in place, Taylor Wimpey would focus on building the section of the NLR from the railway crossing to the primary school that it is required to build. The Council is responsible for the construction of the bridge and its landing points. Taylor Wimpey reported to us that it believed the Council was liaising with Network Rail on the details of the bridge and the arrangements for its construction.

BCC advised TW that the disastrous consultation undertaken by the bridge designers on behalf of the Council had left the local community with increased concerns about future disruption. TW would need to be aware of this when undertaking its own consultations.

TW was not aware of any requirement to dual Halbeath Road between the junction with Linburn Road and the Asda roundabout which had been part of its consultation before it submitted its planning application.

All of the timings were based on a number of variables, and it is worth mentioning that during the meeting, a hope that the housing market would pick up was expressed by TW.

The Chairman noted a road consent application from TW was posted on the Fife Council website and requested that BCC be formal consultees. Fife Council replied refusing such consultation. Given this, the Chairman, with input from the Vice Chairman and Secretary, had submitted a letter to Fife Council complaining about the lack of consultation on the NLR and seeking answers to a number of questions about the changes anticipated through the road changes being made by TW.

There was a great deal of discussion at the meeting regarding the changes to the Kingseat Road/Whitefield Road/Robertson Road area and the lack of information coming from the



Council with many questions going unanswered. The CC assured the meeting it would continue to press for information and share anything it learnt with the community.

7. Public Services:

- a. **Green Area Issues.** Zoe Mayes asked the Secretary to send her a copy of the Scope of Works for the park and woodland works. The Secretary and Zoe would liaise early in the new year with the potential parties that may provide the work and manpower.
- b. **Speed limits & Crossing points on Whitefield Road at Hospital.** A meeting was held on 2nd November 2023 with Lesley Craig and Sara Wilson of Fife Council to debate the failure to include the stretch of Whitefield Road north of the junction with Robertson Road in the recently agreed speed reduction to 30mph. The Council advised that it was unable to change the speed from 40 to 30 on Kingseat Road/Whitefield Road as the volume of vehicles, current use by pedestrians, alternative routes and surrounding infrastructure did not meet the guidance criteria for a speed reduction. They noted there were many examples of roads with similar circumstances in Fife where traffic volumes were already much higher than Kingseat Road and speed reductions would not be considered there. However, the Council did recognise the community's comments and wished to be as helpful as possible within the limitations it felt needed to be continued. The Council believed a higher level of maintenance, especially on the "pavement" along Kingseat Road, was needed and that extra road markings and signage to attempt to reduce excessive speeds in the area beyond the 30mph change would be included. The Council was asked to carry out a speed survey on the top section of Whitefield Road before, or just after, the revised speed limit on the remainder of the road came into effect. A further survey would take place a year later to assess whether speeds had reduced and what further measures might be needed.
- c. **Core Path (Bellyeoman – Townhill).** No update in the absence of Cllr Ellis.
- d. **Unkempt 'Factored' Areas (ongoing since September 2002).** The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Dunfermline MSP had sought a change to the current legislation on BCC's behalf, but the reply from the Scottish Government merely restated the current processes. Given this, the Chairman had now written to the First Minister seeking his intervention. This letter (sent by email) was copied to the MSP and Local Councillors.
- e. **James Allan Centre & playpark area consultation.** A consultation event on resources around the Community Centre had been held 10 November. Scottish Govt. ring-fenced funding was being made available to Fife Council; it is hoped that some of those funds can be used on this playpark upgrade along with the £25k from Campion Homes.
- f. **B912: Flooding and bushes.** No report in the absence of Cllr Barrera.

8. AOCB

There were no matters raised.

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and intimated that the next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for **Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 19:00hrs in the CR Smith Boardroom.**

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