

Royal Burgh of Cupar & District Community Council

Minute of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.30pm within Cupar Baptist Church Hall, Cupar.

Present:

A Crockett, Chair
R Graham, Secretary/Treasurer
F McHarg
G Pay
D Adey
D Provan
P McNally
M-E Robertson, Sustainable Cupar

In attendance:

Cllr M Kennedy, Fife Council
G Frail, Cupar Youth Cafe (Ellie & Jess, Youth Ambassadors)

Apologies:

Cllr J Caffrey, Cllr S Hoggan-Radu, Fife Council
S Stewart,
M Lumsden
W McSeveney
E McLeod, Cupar Development Trust
M Alexander

1 Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to this first meeting of 2025, providing a verbal report copy below:

"I arranged a meeting with Elmwood College and the curling club regarding the Gateway to Cupar Flower bed.in early December.

Elmwood have agreed to plant seeds for some of the plants for the flower bed and will arrange purchase for plants that can't be grown by them.

The logo of the curling stone and the 250 year of the curling club will be planted by the students and staff late April / may.

The costs by having the design and plans done early should mean that the costs are reduced for both ourselves and the curling club to below the estimated £750.00.

The opportunity for a youth member from Bell Baxter has been passed to yet another group inside Bell Baxter and I must admit that these delays have left me slightly frustrated in getting a youth representative from there.

Robert and I met with the youth Ambassadors from the youth café to go over our role and the opportunities that they could have here and how we would listen to young people respectfully.

This item will come up later.

Since the last meeting the Cupar at Christmas lights switch on was the usual last minute dash and change. Mathew Fyffe of the Community in Cupar received the award and pushed the Plunger at the appropriate time!!

I enjoyed being called by name by Santa!!!

The show people were restricted in their space!!!

The Ceilidh appears to have been successful covering its costs and being done with limited volunteers. Tickets selling out in 20 minutes.

The proposed Solar Panel farm project held their second public exhibition at the Rugby Club. I believe it is being scaled back by 20%.

As informed at the last meeting of the Community council I have invited the developers to come and present at their next meeting to us and so may I ask that we keep any discussion till we hear their proposals and put our questions to them then !!

Mice

I have asked the question but am not expecting a prompt answer to this question but asked that you make some enquiries for me.

I know that this is a topic that few will admit to having. It makes one seem as if we have a "dirty" house.

There is a problem in town this year. One of the local hardware stores when asked about the sales of Mouse traps replies "Hell Yes our sales are mental compared to last year". This will not include the more discreet brown envelop of Amazon sales.

Most folks do not wish to admit to having a problem or having extra visitors in the house.

I have had mice for the first time in 32 years of living in Cupar. 2 adults and six immature mice in my kitchen area and also six mice in my Garage. (I set traps in the garage as one of our local felines was found loitering inside my garage.)

Discretely with trusted friends I have found that our jerry problem (*Mus domesticus*) is not confined to the Millfield area but to St Columba's school, and to the old town.

It has not been an especially cold winter, nor a recent harvest so what has caused this spread and explosion of population?. There must be a reason but not one that seems logical.

I know from teaching REHIS food hygiene that 2 mice if left alone will become 2000 in a year maybe we have started with many more!!!

Its not the start of work in the courtyard as it would surely be localised

Has it been the turfing over of the Ladybank tor?

I look forward to hearing any explanations you may have ascertained.."

2 Declaration of Interest

A Crockett & D Adey declared an interest in respect of the discussions re Scotia Homes potential development Brighton Road, Cupar, being neighbours to the potential development. Noted. Determined as the item was for information only and that no proposals had been submitted or finalised for consideration, that both would remain for the content but would refrain from comment.

3 Presentations

Police Scotland - no report or attendance.

Scotia Homes (Brighton Road) - Andrew Bayne, spoke to a potential proposed housing development at Brighton Road. The slide presentation provided visual of the site, scope and outline of technical aspects. Noted that the recent place plan had provided useful content regarding priorities and that there were intentions to build partnerships locally with Kingdom Homes and other organisations such as CDT and Sustainable Cupar. Copy of the presentation would be circulated.

Q&A/Comments:

Noted that the development at this site had been proposed previously under Cala Homes, but that relationship had ended for a variety of reasons and that this was a new proposal with a new developer Scotia Homes.

The future final development proposals will consider carefully the boundary with existing housing, design quality, housing types and tenures and active travel opportunities. Traffic flow and transportation will require to be considered in detail as the emerging designs are worked up through the planning process.

It was hoped that future sessions might be held as the scheme design is worked up and as the Fife Development Plan is revised.

4 Minute of the Previous Meeting:

Minute of the previous meeting was approved moved F McHarg, seconded A Crockett.

5 Matters Arising:

D Adey, clarified the purchase of a planter in partnership with Caring for Cupar noting that this was being progressed with further details to follow as costs/design are agreed.

6 Secretary's Report

Correspondence had been circulated to members, noting weekly planning, responses to Alcohol Licensing, Training/Awareness re Development Plan (FC session) and a request to comment on the sign to be placed to the rear of Fluthers Car Park toilet block - moments to Cllr Kennedy - deadline 9th February, 2025.

Ceilidh had been a success and the volunteer support from G Sharp & C Alexander (and helpers) was recognised and very much appreciated. A surplus of £494.60 had been achieved. Feedback noted that would there be an opportunity to included "singer/singers" within the evenings programme. This will be considered for next year.

7 Members of the Public

Noted 250 year Curling Club Celebration will feature as a theme with the Heritage Centre next year.

Noted Tourist Information Centres are to close, leaflets would continue to be available at Fluthers block - to be known as "information point."

Youth Ambassadors - noted representatives would be co-opted and that their presence would be welcome at CC for future meetings. Their contribution along with a BBHS rep would be very much supported to engage with young people.

(BBHS school rep would be followed up - an offer by Chair of the Parent Council to help identify via school staff young people was taken up, appreciated)

8 Planning

Housing Development - Eden House

G Pay spoke to the development proposed by FC at the above site which will be vacated due to the replacement care home.

Gordon listed a number of observations and advised that Sustainable Cupar had responded to the application.

Amongst other aspects, attention was drawn to - loss of right of way "short cut"; 3 story block sited next to single, low level houses at boundary, vehicle charging points at houses but parking being proposed as courtyard! The orientation of homes doesn't make best use of the aspect re sunshine/shade - passive heat!

Members were reminded that where applications which the CC wish to seek "statutory consultee status" requires to advise to planning authority by the deadlines advises on the weekly planning circulation.

Agreed that Gordon would provide a response and this be circulated to local councillors for their attention.

Noted there remains no volunteer wishing to take on the planning convenor role.

No other planing matters required comment/attention at this meeting.

9 Elected Member Report

Cllr Kennedy provided a verbal briefing.

Noted street names for the Gilliesfaulds Development had been agreed, CC would receive written confirmation. Names would reflect local history and heritage connections.

Pavement work at Lady Wynd was in progress and hoped the impact on retail would be less than first feared.

Police Report - noted intercom facility at station was to be removed.

Incident Response - noted that the "high wind" response by agencies had been better coordinated and that local support had been in place re "welfare/food". Noted that local residence group would seek to maintain connection with Community Council. Cllr Kennedy had written to FC executive noting improvements on previous experiences.

Adamson - noted that minor injuries unit had been shut due to staffing but this had now been resolved. The ongoing review across all Fife sites remains to be completed and recommendations made. Concern re the impact on Adamson remains.

Fluthers - noted risk of cars mistaking pedestrian path as a access point, Cllr to raise with FC re potential need for bollard or appropriate signage/painting/hauling of area affected.

10 Treasurer's Report

Income - Annual Grant FC had been received - £1,554.40; Ceilidh surplus £494.60

Expenditure - Scottish Rights of Way £10

Balance of funds £13, 682.83

Noted invoice received from EN First Responders re pads, battery replacement for defib - treasurer will process.

Gazebo and Feathers have been delivered and paid for - £2,306 in total.

11 AOCB

D Adey - noted improvements to bus information at Dundee, Seagate Depot. Also, ongoing work with Springfield CC re increasing rail service at Springfield - potential campaign at Cupar Market/Gazebo - engagement.

A Crockett - session re Gazebo build to be organised, details next meeting.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm at Cupar Baptist Church Hall, Cupar.