

Royal Burgh of Cupar & District Community Council

Minute of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 within Cupar Baptist Church Hall, Bonnygate, Cupar at 7.30pm

Present: M Lumsden, Vice-chair (chair)
F McHarg
G Pay
A Collins
B McSeveney
R Graham
A Crockett

In attendance: Cllrs Kennedy and Hoggan-Radu

Apologies: D Adey
Cllr Caffrey
J Collins
S Stewart

1 Welcome & Apologies – Vice-chair, Mhairi welcomed everyone present to the meeting, particularly Alastair Crockett who had returned home following ill health. Alastair explained he would be taking things easy and thanked Mhairi for stepping into chair meeting of the community council for the foreseeable. Cllr Hoggan-Radu explained he too had been ill hence his absence at recent meetings. Cllr Caffrey would be absent too due to ill health, but Cllrs would keep in touch.

2. Police Report – no Police Scotland attendance, noted a community newsletter is circulated for NEF area community councils, circulated when received to CC members.

Noted that Police Scotland plan to stop investigating low level “reported incidents” following a pilot. Cllr Kennedy agree to contact local police and seek clarification of the decision and impact this might have on low level crime.

3. Minute of the previous meeting – the minute of the meeting held 31st January was proposed F McHarg, seconded B McSeveney.

4. Matters Arising - following items were reported:

Flood meeting – community flood meeting had been held at Bell Baxter High School, chaired by Willie Rennie MSP. The meeting had been well attended and well received. Noted that future challenges remain for the town in respect of flood risks. General agreement that there was a need to look at the whole river catchment areas and ensure that the best possible flow could be maintained, up and down stream. Work was also required to increase resilience in the town and community of which an effort will be made to establish/support local volunteers to act as a localised

response. Noted the impact for residents and businesses and the devastation and disruption caused. Unanimous support for finding a variety of solutions to reduce future risk.

Gazebo/Cupar Market – B McSeveney and M Lumsden had prepared some mock ups re designs for the Gazebo. Following discussion agreed to authorise to proceed and purchase appropriate design which was engaging and relevant. Bibs/Tabards would be included and recognition of work would be required to provide some form of “awareness/training” for CC members who were participating in the engagement events. Agreed that April would be the probably first market attendance we would aim for, Alistair would send market stall application to secretary for completion. M Lumsden and R Graham would overview the website in the near future, noting that content and feedback sat with the whole community council if the site was to have any relevance and wider engagement. Decision made not to proceed with personal pics/bios at this time.

Co-option of Organisations – secretary had written to agreed organisations, to date responses back from Cupar Youth Café and Cupar Development Trust – accepting, but no unique contact identified at present. No response to date from Rotary, Sustainable Cupar. Bell Baxter High School was being followed up through Alastair, re senior pupil involvement.

5. Secretary – correspondence

Community Councils from across Fife have expressed a wish to form an Association, preliminary meetings are being organised via Zoom. There is some disquiet regarding the level of grant support financially the work of community councils. Expected CCs will engage as interested and membership to any formed Association can be considered at that time. Secretary will keep chair/vice-chair advised. Cllrs are aware of the issues and concerns.

Weekly Development Planning Applications – forwarded to A Collins/M Lumsden/A Crockett

Insurance – Fife Council, confirming Insurance cover for 24/25.

CDT – T Miklinski, advising CDT are hoping to meet with Cupar North developer in the near future, advocating a united response from community council and CDT.

Hogmanay Ceilidh – G Sharp advising he will book band and Corn Exchange for 2024.

6. Members of the Public –

Flood meeting - feedback noting the community council’s role in enabling the flood meeting held at Bell Baxter, whilst there are many issues to be resolved the need for a meeting, community feedback and better awareness of the varying roles agencies have was really helpful.

Haugh Park – noted park remains covered with standing water, hoping that work will be done to reinstate grass areas and that barriers might be removed for the spring/summer.

Police – hoped that any changes to crime reporting/investigation would not impact negatively on the town.

7. **Cupar Big Weekend** – noted that vacancy exists for a chair of the planning group, and that organisations and individuals are reviewing how best an event might be achieved. B McSeveney and A Crockett were CC representatives on the planning group.
8. **Fife Cllrs** – Cllrs reported on progress to inspect drainage and safety of play equipment at Haugh park. Further works were on going to have the park as accessible as possible for the summer, some disruption maybe needed as areas have been adversely affected re flooding and standing water. It may not be advisable to host the Fun Fair in its previous form or location but decisions still need to be taken nearer the time. Cllrs advised that the Flood meeting at BBHS had been helpful and that it provided a opportunity for all stakeholders to engage, further raise awareness and have a greater appreciation of the issues and concerns of residents. Cllrs emphasised the emerging increase of awareness of Council Officers to very localised issues and concerns relating to Kinloss Park area, Burnside. Noted also that no decision has been taken yet reading Cupar North, noted on going communication with developers by CDT, community council and others re master plan and intended design. Cllrs made mention of TROs at Kirkgate and Short Lane – no objections anticipated, whilst recognising inconvenience for some resident parking.

Members of the CC commented that speeding traffic remains an issue across many roads, streets in the town. Increased police presence and detection would be welcomed universally. Noted work at the Haugh Park, including the contamination survey being carried out. General acceptance for ongoing focus on flood mitigation and resilience. Cupar North needs to be decided at the earliest. Noted some movement re heat-network had been secured but there remains a view that more work could be done to create meaningful active travel design. Housing build continues to be stifled whilst Cupar North remains undecided. Noted former Elmwood College, SRCU is under review and there is a risk of closure.

9. **Planning Matters**
Fife ATSP (Active Travel) meeting had been held to discuss Plan, noted that there was a feeling that whilst there were policies in place to improve active travel the perception and sometimes reality was that these were not being engaged fully. Without wishing to revisit the roundabout design at the new retail park, this was felt to be one of those situations where policy existed but lack of ambition/desire to engage policy won through. Noted exhibition had been held at the Railway Station.

Cupar North – noted ongoing situation, remains undetermined and whilst there have been improvements on previous master plans, it still remains a view that not

enough is being done to create active travel to and from new build and rest of the town.

Noted that PAS would be invited to host a training/awareness session on how the CC and key organisations might better influence planning development and understand better how “objections” might create opportunity!

10. **Treasurer’s Report** – bank statement circulated for information, funds were healthy presently and as previously advised expenditure for gazebo, defib (consumables), room hire and Citizen of the Year were expected. Available funds which were unallocated/ring fenced – approx. £8k
11. **AOCB** – no other items beyond members reiterating the speeding traffic, specific mention of Hill Crescent/Hill Street area.
12. **DONM** – chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm and wished everyone the best of recovering health and look forward to next meeting on 26th March at 7.30pm
13. **Close**