

CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS & PATTISMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 pm 25th FEBRUARY 2025

1. Present: Geoff Cartwright, Sue Hamilton, Paul Byford, Jane Kilgour, Cllr Brian Goodall, Cllr Andy Jackson, Mandy Littlewood, Lesley Scott
Karen Hart, Eleanor, Shedden, Malcolm Hamilton, Tom Leatherland, Alex Lodge, Lucy Martin, Craig Lindsay, Carol Williams

2. Apologies: Moira Adams, Lex Dunko, Peter Hutchings, Peter Wilson, Tess Gibson, Lesley Laird.

3. Minutes of Previous of Meeting: Approved by Paul Byford and Lesley Scott

4. Matters arising from previous minutes:

a. Playpark: Since the last meeting, the Fife Council link officer has advised that a Capital Grant of £40,000 combined with £12,000 from an underspend on another project will be added to the Limekilns Project. Local fundraising continues with generous individual donations amounting to around £1,500 in the last month. The Caterpillar Accumulator currently shows £65,000. Thanks to fantastic Community Support, Fundraising events continue - a Quiz Night on 19th April organised by the Men's Club, - a Coffee Morning on 8th April, organised by the Baby and Toddlers Group, and the Scarecrow Festival (25/27 April) A Funding Application has been made to the Crown Estate, and a new application will shortly be submitted to the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund. Although we still have a considerable amount still to raise, we are reaching the stage where we start to look at equipment choices, based on the community consultation feedback. Hopefully we will reach a meaningful target later in the summer with upgrading of the Playpark taking place in the Autumn. In the meantime, the work of the Fundraising Group goes on.
Our thanks go to Peter Wilson for his hard work and commitment for the project.

b. Signage for toilets: No news as yet, but best place might be on the lamp post opposite the Sutlery on the corner of West Road.

c. Twinning: The Maire and Commune of Gensac are interested in twinning with Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir and this would be formalised by the creation of an 'association' according to French law.

Informal initial consultation has been made with most local organisations in Limekilns, clubs, school and businesses, youth organisations and church, individuals and families. Also there has been 'drop in' sessions at the Bruce. Four people have shown willingness to be part of the start-up team.

This project will give an overwhelming opportunity for young people to be involved.

Gensac has a village website and our own village website is under construction.

The twinning initiative in Limekilns would need to be appropriately constituted.

The Community Council agreed to a Twinning group within the Community Council which would give framework for accountability and action for the Twinning group with aims and objectives being stated.

d. 3rd Notice Board: We asked the question whether the notice board could be placed outside the school on the bus shelter but this has been refused. (It is forbidden under the Roads Scotland Act to attach anything to street furniture!) We will ask locally if anyone

with the skills, is interested in making a notice board which could be placed by the tennis courts.

e. **Gas Mains.** SGN were asked if the traffic lights could be removed at the weekends and were told they could not. The work will be going on until the beginning of April and is all going according to plan.

f. **War Memorial.** Fife Council have taken ownership of repairing the War Memorial and despite the offers of local residents to help it was decided that the Council would carry out the work. Cllr Brian Goodall will keep pressing the council for completion as the process could take a long time. Obviously October/November will be the latest time that we are hoping for the completion of the works.

g. **Village website.** The new website that is under construction will be CLPvillages.org . Alex requested that we send her input in the way of photos , history, archives, previous agendas and minutes or to promote an event.

h. **Charlestown Harbour.**

Lesley Laird could not attend tonight's meeting but has sent in a detailed report of how to move forward with the issues of Charlestown Harbour. The report highlights the Framework of action; Identification of stakeholder; Areas to be reviewed and Activities under taken.

Activities undertaken so far

1. Engagement with elected representatives underway:

- a. Letters written to all Fife MSPs and MP and responses received
- b. MSPs and MP following up on questions of jurisdiction
- c. Conversations with some MSPs and MP have also taken place (Claire Baker/Roz McCall and Graeme Downie MP)
- d. MSP Mark Ruskell has offered to attend a Community Council meeting – date to be identified
- e. Constituency MSP Ms Somerville meeting on site 7 March
- f. Ms Somerville also wrote to Forth Ports re their involvement which has raised points for further follow up.
- g. Contact Cllr Jan Wincott, Spokesperson for Climate and Environment as a result Nigel Kerr (head of this service), has also offered to convene a meeting if that would be helpful. Have advised that we are still in fact gathering at this time. Have also requested information on Fife Council's role and previous involvement.
- h. Cllr Goodall agreed to follow up with Fife Council and may have an additional update. Would welcome input from all our Councillors on this.

Lesley continues with her work with the Community Council's support. Estate is applying for quotations to chain off the harbour. After the recent beach clean organized by CLPNaturaction, the Community Payback team took the rubbish to the recycling centre

6. Broomhall Estate. Factor had sent apologies

7. Double yellow lines

a. **Promenade.** A Traffic Order has been drafted for approval at a Committee meeting in April. The proposal is for DYL from the western end of the marked bus stop on the seaward side for such a distance that parked cars do not prevent drivers turning left out of the Pier car park from seeing oncoming traffic

b. **Old Orchard Junction.** Secretary had written to Lesley Craig from the Council regarding the installation of double yellow at the junction. Lesley Craig says that she doesn't deem them necessary. Brian Goodall will invite her to a site meeting.

8. Village Link. No one has come forward as yet offering to take on the job of producing future editions of the Village Link. The next one will focus on Prunella who passed away recently. **We appeal for more volunteers!!**

9. Village History. Craig Lindsay said at the moment he is no further forward. He will put a notice in the Church Hall asking people to come forward to help.

10. Planning:

a. **Local Development Plan.** 'Call for ideas' consultation closing date was yesterday. It seems difficult to get involved. Secretary had hoped to devise an easy guide to responding. She had not managed to do that. (She had thought there might be things we could all agree that would benefit our villages, such as sheltered housing, and/or a care home.) Jo McFarlane had managed put in a comment about more Green Belt.

b. **Planning Applications.** No decisions published.

11. CLP Nature Action. Now an up and running as a charity with lots of plans for the future. All money held by the Community Council has now been moved across.

12. Police Report. None

13. Councillor Reports. (Cllr Goodall's report is appended)

- a. There was no information on the recent closure of West Road, from either end of the village, leaving it unclear as to where it was closed and what journeys would be affected.
- b. The tree roots on the cycle track have been noted.
- c. Councillor surgeries are generally not well-attended but the SNP requires they are held

14. Treasurer's Report

All monies to CLP transferred and the Community Councils accounts will be signed off next week.

15. AOCB . None

16. Date of next meeting 25th March 2025

Addendum

Councillors Report - Brian Goodall 25th February 2025

Charlestown, Limekilns & Pattiesmuir Community Council February Meeting 25/02/25 Councillor Brian Goodall's Report

Pavement Repairs and Resurfacing. On the 29th of January I passed on a request from a local resident for the pavements at East Harbour Road and West Harbour Road in Charlestown to be resurfaced. I received confirmation that these pavements would be added to the ongoing inspections happening over the next week or so. The capital budget for resurfacing pavements is very limited and it's unlikely that all of those suggestions will be taken forward. But there is also a revenue budget for repairs and more minor sections of resurfacing. So I'll also be asking if this method could be used for these pavement.

Road safety - Pop-up Polis On Friday the 31st of January, in response to several complaints about ongoing issues with speeding traffic, I deployed the Pop-up polis, PC Denise and PC Arlene on Main Road, Charlestown and Kings Road in Rosyth. The pop-ups on their own aren't enough though. We need to see more enforcement from the police. And so I regularly raise the issue with our local Community Sergeant and I've highlighted the speeding black spots of Queensferry Road, Kings Road, Castle Road and Admiralty Road in Rosyth. I've also highlighted ongoing problems with speeding on the Promenade in Limekilns, on Main Road, Charlestown and on the A985 through Crombie.

Grounds Maintenance Meeting.

War Memorial. Still to confirm what Fife council is doing/will do

Charlestown Village Green It was also confirmed at the meeting that the advisory one way signs that I'd requested for the roads around Charlestown Green will soon be installed and that following the site visit I'd had with Officers at Charlestown, contracts are being worked on to address the terrible rutting damage to the edging of the green.

Fife Budget

The Council's Capital Plan is having to be reviewed due to massive inflation in the construction industry, and high interest rates, caused by Brexit and the UK Government's mismanagement of the economy. I've been pushing to make sure funding for flood mitigation and for a new swimming pool in Inverkeithing are in the revised Fife Capital Plan.

CLP Nature Action Meeting

CLP Nature Action has now become a registered charity and I'm proud to be one of the group's Trustees. At the meeting we agreed on an outline for a 3-year strategy for our main projects. I'll be leading on the Villages Tree Sparrow Project, so be prepared to learn even more than you ever knew you wanted to know about these amazing wee birds, and how lucky we are to have a local population of Tree Sparrows on our doorstep.

Water issues Rosyth Dockyard Housing. (Not our area, but interesting!)

In the early hours of the 4th of February I started getting messages about the water being off in some parts of Rosyth. On contacting Scottish Water I was told that all household would have their water restored by 10am.

Unfortunately, that wasn't to be true for the former MOD homes in the dockyard area due to a fault on the local water network which is owned and maintained by Veolia Water.

After I got back on to Scottish Water they confirmed that they were assisting Veolia on-site as much as they possibly could to try and clear trapped air from the water network following an issue at the local water tank.

The airlock on the network was preventing Veolia customer's supply from restoring, and Scottish Water were on-site supporting with tankers to try to clear the air as quickly as possible.

To further support local residents in the area, Scottish Water also made bottled water available for collection at McGrigor Road.

It seems to me to be particularly unfair for a private water supply company to be providing such a poor service and for Scottish Water to have to step in to rectify the situation. So, I've asked for the issue to be on the agenda for the next Rosyth Ward meeting.

South & West Fife Area Committee Meeting

At the meeting we voted to shortlist four of the suggested names for the new High School being built at Caledonia Heights in Rosyth. Stakeholders are now being invited to rank their preferred names between: Caledonia, Rosyth, Forth and Janet McCallum.

You can vote on the new name with this link until the 28th of March.

<https://forms.office.com/e/AXyji9JuFZ>

And you can listen to Caledonia by Dougie Maclean with this link.

 https://youtu.be/zjnpEMujV8U?si=ExeS1lv31Y_5Fb5D

Area Roads Programme and Pothole and Patching Performance

The report confirmed that West Road in Charlestown will be partly resurfaced and I took the opportunity to raise the issue with potholes on Queensferry Road Rosyth and on Dunfemline Road in Limekilns. I also received confirmation that my request for resurfacing works were likely to be programmed as revenue budget projects.

These should include further patching at Crossroads, Queensferry Road and Mcgrigor Road in Rosyth and possible resurfacing at North and South Roundall and South Loanhead in Limekilns.

War Memorial. On 6th Feb I passed on the information, supplied by members of the local community in relation to the repair of the Charlestown and Limekilns War Memorial, to the Council Officers who have taken responsibility for the memorial's restoration. I also conveyed the local concern about how long it might take for the Council to undertake this work and I requested that everything possible be done to expedite the processes and the works.

Charlestown Harbour. The Community Council has been kept informed of progress by Lesley Laird, now co-opted onto the Community Council.

Invitation to Peace Symposium organised by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Scotland . I sent my apologies that I was unable to attend this symposium

Road Closed - West Road, Charlestown In the afternoon on the 10th of February I received notice that there had been an emergency closer of West Road in Charlestown from The Cairns to the A985 junction. This was to allow emergency gas works to be carried out in safety. The notice said that the closure could be in place until midnight on the 21st of February.

Sad Death of Cllr Ross Vettraino. Right up until the last he was one of the hardest working Councillors in Fife and even while he was in the Victoria Hospital, he was still taking calls and his laptop was open on his bed as he addressed issues in his Ward.

Charlestown Harbour Beach Clean. On Sunday the 16th of February I joined with some other volunteers from CLP Nature Action for a clear up at Charlestown Harbour. What a fantastic difference we made. Well done, to Jo from CLP Nature Action, once again, for organising, and thanks also to the, Fife Council organised, Community Payback team who took all of the rubbish, we cleared off the beach, to the Recycling Centre.

Litter Pick in Rosyth as part of the Rosyth River Restoration Project.

On the 19th of February I joined with other volunteers for Fife Coast & Countryside Trust's litter pick at the Whinny Burn in Rosyth. We removed seven bags of rubbish and one TV. The clean-up was part of the Rosyth River Restoration project. The project aims to improve biodiversity, habitat and community wellbeing around the Whinny and Brankholm Burns. It was great to also see one of the early wins from the Rosyth River Restoration project. The team from Fife Coast & Countryside Trust have made a fantastic job of

opening up the access path to the Wilderness Woods from the Burnside Street end. You can read more about the Restoration Project here:

<https://fifecoastandcountrysidetrust.co.uk/projects/rosyth-rivers-restoration/>

Active Travel

I attended an online presentation on the plans to improve Active Travel opportunities within South and West Fife. The Fife Council Active Travel Strategy is supposed to be creating a high-quality network of routes that enable people to walk, wheel, and cycle more easily and safely in and around communities. I asked questions about when and how we might be able to deliver a safe cycle route linking up the villages and Rosyth. Current and proposed projects in our area include:

Limekilns National Cycle Route 76 improvements

Comments: Path reconstruction required due to tree root damage on the surfaces

Status: Design engineers currently investigating good practice options to prevent any recurring issues and considering how construction site access difficulties could be overcome.

Rosyth railway station to Rosyth Harbour active travel link

Comments: Given the considerable investment in the port area that is forecast, a good active travel link from the station will be essential, in order to minimise car dependency.

Status: Design brief recently issued, focusing on the King's Road/ Castle Road corridor.

Limekilns Railway

Comments: Approach by Network Rail canvassing interest in disposal of the old railway line for active travel purposes. Status: Initial meeting with Network Rail held. Further consideration by both parties required.

Surgeries

On the 19th of February I held two Councillor's Surgeries. One in the EATS Rosyth Community Hub, which was very busy, and one in the Gellet Hall, Limekilns, which no one attended.

Fife Council Budget Day

Fife Council -Council Tax 2025/26. The Fife Council Tax rise will be 8.2%. If the SNP Budget had been agreed it would have been 6.4%. If the Labour UK Government had fully funded the National Insurance increase, that they brought in, then the increase could have been as low as 3.9%.

Capital Plan Review. Investments in the Rosyth Ward area that have made it through the vote on the review of Fife Council's Capital Plan. In addition to the £88 million investment in the new High School, Camdean Primary School is to be extended at a cost of £1,172,000 and the Nursery classroom at Camdean is to be refurbished at a cost of £100,000. There's to be improvements made to the junction of Kings Road and Admiralty Road including signalling at a cost of £2,102,774. Nearby investments are to include £13,100,000 for a new Swimming Pool and Community Use Sports facilities in Inverkeithing and more than £20 million has been set aside for a new Broomhall Primary School as part of the Kingswood housing development to the west of Rosyth.

Council House Rent Setting 2025/26. Council House rents in Fife are to go up by 6%.

Housing Capital Plan. It's now four times as fast to provide an additional Council House, available for allocation to a household in housing need via an acquisition than it is via a new build. It's also now more than two times less costly to address that household's housing need in this way. Meaning that we could be housing twice as many families for the same cost. At the budget meeting all the Labour, Tory and LibDem Councillors voted to block the amendment I moved calling for the expansion of acquisitions to deliver more Council Housing.

Accessing Pathways at the Stewart's Quarter Construction Site

I'm getting messages about the pathway being closed off from Camdean up to Sainsbury's. I've been trying to get a meeting with the new developer on that site for some time, with no luck, so I've asked Fife Council's Member's Services if they would make an approach to Avant Homes to set up a site visit with them for me. I'm hoping that this, more formal, request might work.

Office Furniture for EATS Rosyth

I've been working to try to find some surplus office furniture for use in the offices space at the EATS Rosyth Community Hub. EATS would like 2 tall filing cupboards and 2 under desk filing cabinets. I'll keep searching but if you know anyone who you think might be able to help, please let me know.

Contact Info I can be contacted anytime via email at Cllr.Brian.Goodall@fife.gov.uk or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/cllrbrian.goodall