



## Minutes

7.00pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Townhill Community Centre

### In Attendance:-

#### Community Council

Chair Ronnie Cowan, Vice Chair Adrian Turk, Treasurer Niall Reid, Secretary Linda Cowan, Bill Hunter, Arlene Watson, David Foreman, Lynsey Cathcart, Matt Colville

#### Co-opted member

Yvonne Haddow - Fundraising / Saturday Market

#### Fife Councillors

Councillor Gavin Ellis, Councillor Helen Law, Councillor Ian Ferguson

### Townhill Residents and Business Owners

1. **Ronnie opened the meeting at 7.00pm and introduced TCC & welcomed everyone**
2. **Apologies** Community Police Officer Lee Jones, Karen Woodhouse – School / Parent Council, Maria Smeaton - Project Funding Representative
3. **Agreed April minutes** **Agreed** : Lynsey Cathcart **Seconded** : Bill Hunter

#### 4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a) **Website – Update** – Ronnie Cowan

Ronnie advised that all reports, presentations, including the latest TCC presentation for Beautiful Fife 2017 etc. were also available for download on our community website along with all community information. The website is updated continuously whenever new information is received or changes occur. Ronnie invited anyone who would like anything placed on the website to get in touch. We have added another local business to the website this month, Mind the Dugs, and if any other Townhill Businesses would like to take advantage of this free listing on our website, please get in touch.

[www.townhillcommunity.co.uk](http://www.townhillcommunity.co.uk)

b) **Facebook** – Linda Cowan

We have a Townhill Community Council Page Townhill Community Council - 1,232 Likes

We have a Townhill Dunfermline Page for less formal matters - 1,078 Likes

Since our “Townhill Dunfermline” was converted to a page and our friends to “likes” we don’t get the same information through, therefore we invite Townhill folk to post any relevant information on our pages or PM us either on the Townhill Dunfermline page, the Townhill Community Council page or the Townhill Mining Heritage Garden page. Our recent post on the TCC page asking for information about the poachers - power of social media - 51,251 people reached 680 shares.

c) **Twitter** – Lynsey Cathcart 344 Following 344 Followers

d) **Dunfermline Press Community news** – Ronnie Cowan update

Ronnie advised that the weekly report for the Dunfermline Press and Courier is written and submitted first thing on a Sunday morning and reminded everyone that if anyone has any news item or significant event etc. that they would like included in the report to send it to Ronnie by Saturday evening. We were frustrated to see that both myself and Linda’s names were in today’s Dunfermline Press as finalists for one of the Community Champion awards. We had already turned down the nomination, we are very thankful to those who nominated us but we are part of a team and it would be inappropriate to accept the nomination.

- e) **Suggestion Box** – Niall Reid – Empty – Please someone pop a nice suggestion in Niall’s suggestion box for next time. It’s the red box on the wall inside the community centre.

f) **Councillor Helen Law updates**

i. **Forest Place Path**

Helen and Ronnie met with Andy Brown re the state of the area where the “train” is sited in Forest Place. Helen organised to have the train removed and now that it has been, residents say that if the area is now tidied up, they would be happy to put plant pots etc. out and look after them.

Andy felt there was not much that he could do about the narrow path but the steps could be fixed.

The path behind the church will be cleared out too – Ronnie asked Dave if the church would be happy about this and Dave agreed that they would.

**ACTION : Helen is dealing with this.**

ii. **Crawford Place Parking**

iii. **Muir Road Pavements – contractor damage**

**Excerpt from April Minutes :** *Dave McDonald voiced his concern that the pavement in Muir Road which has been damaged by the contractor has now deteriorated to the point that it is dangerous for pedestrians. The contractors have been working on lampposts and there equipment is still onsite.*

iv. **Balfour Beatty road to old Power station – pylon work finished.**

**Excerpt from Previous Minutes :** *Marie Hendry, owner of the Loch Café said that the road to the loch has been very busy with lorries and that the land owned by Scottish Power at the site of the old power station is full of Balfour Beattie containers. This heavy traffic has caused serious damage to the loch entrance road, the holes in the road that this has created is putting people off driving to the loch, water-ski centre and café.*

**ACTION :** Helen is arranging a meeting for next week with Phil Clark and Ian Jones and Ronnie to discuss all these points and also the possibility of installing a footpath at the entrance road to the loch.

g. **Councillor Ian Ferguson and Councillor Gavin Ellis Updates**

**Water Leak – Loch Street – flat above shop**

Ian advised that they were still going round in circles between Fife Council and Scottish Water departments with no-one accepting responsibility.

Gavin is to arrange for Scottish Water to test the fungus on the wall and ask them to take action for water wastage, although this is just a steady drip of a leak it has been running for years now and therefore the amount of water lost from this communal overflow from the privately owned flats must be considerable.

**ACTION Gavin and Ian are dealing with this.**

**5. Treasurer’s report –Niall Reid**

No major expenditure this month. Dog Scanner, Tarmac Paint for dog bag it & bin it stickers, Rotovator Repair & Service, hall hire and Garden Shears Totalling £207.93

Income was the grant for the Putting Green from the Colton Trust £ 960.00 (reimbursement for what we had already paid)

Market Income for April & May £780.00 Market Expenditure £260.62 (hall hire & signage)

Budget Account Balance =£3.60

Petty Cash Balance = £7.53

RBS Account Balance = £21.91

Market Account Balance = £640.58

## 6. Parks department/ FC updates – Ronnie Cowan

### a) Cycle area

Grass has been cut by our contractor & Ronnie weeded around the trees. We have four cuts left with the contractor and we will have to put something else into place after that.

### b) Fife Council Grant to TCC

It was mentioned that our grants are expected this month and Ronnie explained that we had exhausted last year's budget by the end of April which is the requirement, but with a lack of communication from Fife Council over when and how much our grant will be really leaves us in limbo meantime.

## 7. Townhill Activity Reports

### a) Community Police Update – In the absence of a police officer Ronnie explained :-

The main issue the police have been dealing with are:

- Speeding Drivers early morning and evening
- Vandalism and theft at Townhill Primary School
- Poachers

### b) Church Update Dave McDonald

Dave advised that the church hall refurb was now complete and the various groups were enjoying the new facilities.

Ronnie thanked Dave for his Report

### c) Book Lending Service – Linda Cowan

All going well, still very busy with residents of all ages. After Cllr. Helen Law had a meeting with Fife Cultural Trust, Aline Robertson was in touch with us to say that we would be receiving a delivery of books from Better World Books. We have now received 13 boxes of books in categories that we really needed – Large Print, Audio Books, Children's Picture Books and young adult / teenage books.

We have started rotating the books on display and sorting through all the books we currently have in stock.

Ronnie thanked Linda for her report

### d) Planning Update - Linda Cowan

#### i. Reference 18/01078/FULL

Alternative Reference 100093631-001

Application Received Mon 23 Apr 2018

Application Validated Mon 30 Apr 2018

Address 29 Garden Place Townhill Dunfermline Fife KY12 0EW

Proposal Alterations to roof and erection of single storey extension

Status Registered

#### ii. Reference 18/01003/FULL

Alternative Reference 100086644-001

Application Received Tue 17 Apr 2018

Application Validated Mon 30 Apr 2018

Address 2 Balmule Farm Steading Balmule Farm Dunfermline Fife KY12 0RZ

Proposal Change of use from agricultural land to outside exercise area for equestrian use.

Status Registered

600 square meter riding arena

**iii. Colton Application – number of units has now increased from the original 150, then 300 and now 400**

The primary objective of Environmental Impact Assessment is to identify the likely consequences for the biological and physical environment and for human health and welfare, arising from a proposed development and to consider these issues within the development planning and design process. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.

**Conclusion of Screening Report**

**Conclusions**

5.1.1 This EIA Screening Report provides a summary of the environmental baseline of the proposed Colton development site; identifies any potential impacts of the proposed development; and provides high level mitigation options that would be implemented.

5.1.2 On behalf of I&H Brown Ltd, a screening opinion is requested from Fife Council in relation to the proposed development under Regulation 8(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

5.1.3 We conclude through the EIA screening exercise and information provided against Regulation 8(2), 8(3) and 8(4) that statutory Environmental Impact Assessment in our opinion is not required. A summary of the key points leading to this conclusion are provided below in relation to Schedule 3 of the Regulations.

Characteristics of the development – size, scale and type

5.1.4 The proposed development comprises residential development of around 400 houses, high quality greenspace, access roads, access links (paths/ cycle routes) to the Townhill Country Park, and associated development.

Location of the Development – Environmental Sensitivities

5.1.5 The site covers approximately 33 ha of land to the north of the establish settlement of Wellwood and west of Townhill, North Dunfermline.

5.1.6 FIFEplan (adopted in September 2017) allocates the site for residential development, forming part of the North Dunfermline Strategic Development Area.

5.1.7 The site is not covered by any environmental designations and is not in a location considered to be environmentally sensitive.

5.1.8 There is evidence of past mining activity which is common across Fife and will be addressed through appropriate Coal Mining Risk Assessment and Geo-environmental and Geo-technical surveys and remediation.

Characteristics of potential impacts – likelihood of significance

5.1.9 Overall, the development is not expected to give rise to significant adverse environmental impacts. Where further assessment and mitigation is considered appropriate to inform masterplanning and detailed design, studies have been recommended.

Mitigation

5.1.10 The applicant is committed to environmental best practice and protection of local amenity.

5.1.11 The EIA Screening has identified the following specific mitigation to be applied:

- Production of a Tree Survey report in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837:2012 to ensure protection and retention of quality trees and ensure replacement

Colton, North Dunfermline Environmental Screening Report

I&H Brown Page 5-23 Ironside Farrar 50126 / February 2018 planting where necessary.

- Extended Phase 1 Habitat and Protected Species survey, report and mitigation incorporated into the Masterplan.
- Production of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to inform the Masterplan and Landscape Strategy – including mitigation already identified in the LVIA undertaken for the LDP submission.
- Production of an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) with scope agreed with Fife Council Environmental Health team.
- Production of a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) if sought by Fife Council Environmental Health team – relating to northern link road.
- Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (incorporating Dust Management Plan) and Construction Traffic Management Plan as part of consent conditions should the application be granted.

5.1.12 Wider technical studies and reporting to be produced and already committed by the applicant include the following:

- Detailed Planning Statement and Pre-Application Consultation Report.

- Masterplan Report.
- Transport Assessment.
- Drainage Strategy and Flood Risk Assessment.
- Coal Mining Risk Report.
- Geo-technical and Geo-environmental Reporting.

This is the link to the full screening report –

[https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/files/06FF4B7F89720DE89387BF19E7AB0D03/pdf/18\\_00411\\_SCR-ENVIRONMENTAL\\_IMPACT\\_ASSESSMENT-2019990.pdf](https://planning.fife.gov.uk/online/files/06FF4B7F89720DE89387BF19E7AB0D03/pdf/18_00411_SCR-ENVIRONMENTAL_IMPACT_ASSESSMENT-2019990.pdf)

Fife Council have made the decision that this development does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

- iv. Ronnie met with Tommy Devlin, I &H Brown’s Development Manager re the impact of their proposed Colton development on the loch, country park and our village park suggesting a fund be put in place for Townhill and Wellwood Community Council’s to access in order to maintain the country park and village park. With residents and their pets from 400 homes having access to our country park, this is going to have a massive impact on our ongoing maintenance.

- v. **No word yet on a date for the public consultation re the proposed development at Kent Street.**

Ronnie thanked Linda for her report

e) **Putting Green Update – Adrian Turk**

Adrian advised that the grass will be rolled and cut throughout May, it is about 3-4 weeks behind due to the weather and is looking more towards July for completion now. The contractor has been busy coring, sanding and seeding the area and Adrian will be watering it 3 times a week until it is ready. The holes will be now be cut by the end of June and the green will be useable in July sometime. The playing surface will continue to improve as it is cut.

Ronnie thanked Adrian for his report

f) **Traffic signs update – Adrian Turk**

We are waiting on the imminent fitting of the smiley face traffic signs reminding people leaving the village to slow down.

Ronnie thanked Adrian for his report

g) **Picnic Benches – Arlene Watson**

Ronnie asked Arlene for her report about her research into picnic benches and tables for the park however Arlene had not received the email with the information so Ronnie will resend it.

h) **School Update**

In Karen’s absence Ronnie advised that the stolen school benches had been found and returned to the school. Roger had seen them and mentioned to Ronnie, who found them at the top of the woods on the way to Kingseat and went up with Niall and the buggy to collect them. After Ronnie did a few minor repairs to the benches, Townhill Primary School’s janitor Mark collected them and took them back to the nursery.

- The culprits responsible for the damage to the school extension are known and the Police are dealing.
- The school are updating its security system after these recent events.

i) **Monthly market day for Townhill - Yvonne Haddow**

TCC will continue to hold Townhill Local Market on the first Saturday of each month, the next one will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Yvonne advised that the last market had also been a huge success and very busy with a steady stream of visitors all day. All feedback had been very positive from both the stallholders and the visitors alike. One stallholder felt her products were too expensive for the market but wrote a glowing report of her day with us commenting on what a great atmosphere our market has and how well run it is. Ronnie thanked Yvonne for her report

## 8. Community Issues Reported prior since last meeting - Ronnie Cowan

### a) Mining Heritage memorial

Ronnie will arrange to build another hump on top of the existing memorial to take another plaque with more miners' names and a title letting people see that it is a memorial and to hopefully stop their children climbing on it. Linda has been collecting names and the cut-off date for names to be submitted is 31<sup>st</sup> May. To date we have over 50 names for the new plaque.

### b) Slaughter of Deer in Townhill woods

Poachers have been slaughtering the deer in Townhill wood areas and leaving the butchered carcasses. Another dead deer has been left in a field, was thought to have been shot through the neck. The police wildlife officer Lindsay Kerr is dealing with this. Ronnie requested that anyone with any information no matter how trivial to report it to the police on 101 or to TCC.

### c) Damage to soft surface around the kids park roundabout

The soft pour area at the roundabout was vandalised, a 3ft wide circular hole had been cut out of the surface and the pieces of rubber thrown over the grass. Fife Council responded very quickly and have remedied this.

### d) Plants and soil removed from miners heritage and scattered about

A lady resident informed us about this and she had put the earth back into the planter. Ronnie replanted the rhododendron and added more compost.

### e) Wood mess

Drugs / needles / condoms/ broken Buckfast bottles and broken beer bottles were found in Townhill woods seating area. The resident who discovered this, bagged it (had rubber gloves and bags as there with young children) and disposed of it all. Police are aware.

## 9. New Business

### a) Dog Scanner

We have now purchased a dog scanner to help with the number of found dogs that are brought to us. The scanner will give us the chip number and we will then phone Fife Dog Rescue who will check the number against the data base and let the owner know we have their dog so we can get the dogs home quickly and safely

### b) Park Toilet Cabin

Ronnie has been in contact with an art group who are going to paint the metal toilet cabin in the park. They would like the stickers taken off and it primed ready for painting with a woodland Henry Rousseau theme. Once the stickers are removed Ronnie will spray the cabin using his generator and a spray gun.

### c) New Ranger

We have a new Ranger for Townhill Wood – Cara Donald who works out of Pittencrieff Park. Both Helen and Matt commented that Cara was very enthusiastic and extremely pro-active and good at her job. We look forward to working with her.

## 10. Any Other Business

a) Marie Hendry asked what had happened to the bench from the waterside at the loch. Ronnie advised that it had been removed due to bank erosion for health and safety reasons.

b) Dave McDonald said that there was still an issue with Vans parking on Main Street at the South exit forcing cars into oncoming traffic.

c) Dave McDonald said that he saw from the glass all over the road that someone else must have hit the islands in the middle of the road and asked if they were to be removed. Ronnie said that the roads dept had intended to paint

them with reflective paint to make the kerb around them more visible. If the new houses at Kent Street go ahead and exit onto the loch road, it may be possible to put a roundabout in there instead to sequence the traffic.

## **11. Correspondence**

### **a) There but Not There**

‘Our There But Not There’ silhouettes have been appearing in high profile locations around the country.

However, we want to ensure that every community is able to host an installation, returning those who died in the First World War to the spaces they left behind.

This is why we have teamed up with the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to provide micro grants so that any community wishing to host an installation can, without worrying about how to pay for it. Applications are only open for a short time: 1st June - 30th June

Grants are only available for the Perspex version which would not last it was felt if left outside overnight.

The hall all voted in favour of Townhill purchasing a metal silhouette and Ronnie has already discussed another Poppy idea with the school for our remembrance ceremony.

## **12. Any Further Councillors’ reports**

### **a) Closure of Out of Hours Service at the Queen Margaret**

*A staff shortage has prompted closure of primary care emergency services (PCES) at Queen Margaret, St Andrews and Glenrothes hospitals for three months from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Contingency measures put in place by Fife Health and Social Care Partnership will see patients having to travel to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy.*

Helen said that the meeting was well attended with a lot of people voicing their concerns that this closure may end up permanent.

With the population increasing rapidly in Dunfermline, it is so important that we have the proper medical facilities in place to deal with this amount of people.

It has also been mentioned that there are rumours of Ward 4 in the Queen Margaret being transferred to Kirkcaldy.

There are various petitions to stop these closures and an online one at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-out-of-hours-services> Helen urged all residents to sign this petition.

- b) Helen had been in Dunfermline police station when the emergency teams were in action putting plans into place dealing with the underground explosion in Pilmuir Street which was due to an electrical fault. She said it was a great experience and very reassuring and was impressed by their efficiency.
- c) Three Peacocks and 6 peahens would shortly be taking up residence in the Glen and a team called Friends of the Glen would be looking after them.
- d) Pop up PC Jim had been a success stopping speeding and the new initiative is Pop Up Bairns as it has been shown that drivers will slow down when young children are seen at the side of the road.
- e) Gavin had been walking his dog around the loch and had challenged some people who did not pick up after their dogs, he even had to chase on up to Kent Street.
- f) Ian thanked Linda and Maria and the residents in Main Street for helping when he lost his mobile phone and keys whilst delivering leaflets this week. He has them back.

### **13. Ronnie advised that the date of next meeting will be 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.**

### **14. Close of Meeting 8.05pm and Ronnie thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home**