

# Guardbridge Community Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7:30pm

**Venue:** Guardbridge Bowling Club

**Members Attending:** Oli Walker (Chair) Zoe Rogers (Vice Chair) Linda Scott (Secretary) Bill Wilson

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Bill Connor Cllr. Tim Brett

**Apologies:** Mary Duncan (Treasurer) Cllr. M Taylor. Geoff Morris, University of St Andrews

## 1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

OW welcomed everyone to the meeting including residents, members and Ranald Strachan of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust.

## 2. VISITING SPEAKER – RANALD STRACHAN – FIFE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

### 2.1 Ranald Strachan – CEO of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust

- Serves communities and the Fife countryside including – meadows, coastal paths, Lomond Hills, reservoirs and core paths. Has connections with Links Trust, the military, GB CC and Fife Council (M. Taylor and T Brett).
- Six Rangers working from Kincardine to Kingsbarns who manage – mainly coastal issues and projects, West Sands, East Sands, and Eden Estuary including Bird hide, Kincaple Den path and the coastal path as well as other coast paths. Barbara Mitchell is our Parks lady for this area. Residents urged to ask questions and get involved.
- Improving the cycle/foot path to and from St Andrews. Plans in place to for repairs.
- Eden Estuary – emphasised the importance of the Eden Estuary as an International site and a major asset to Guardbridge. GB is helped by the estuary and the estuary is helped by Guardbridge. Estuary bird hide commanded some 6000 visitors in 1996. 1500 – 2000 people/annum at the moment. We should keep this central to GB plans.
- Previous plan of Curtis Papers – stop to unwanted development. Not sure how that stands with the University now.
- Would like to see some compatible work with University of St Andrews. A visitor's hub perhaps. Strachan would like to be part of future ideas and developments with the mill site.
- Emphasised education – day to day running has not focused on education of youngsters in countryside matters. Wants to re-engage with the local primary schools and looking at: re-generation of school garden and gardening/woodland pursuits and tip point. Action days will be arranged with school to get children involved as this is positive for the kids and the community.
- Main park – Says we don't know too much atm. fairly static. Wants schools and military involved in the park.
- Strachan happy to help with local events and countryside and community matters with an aim to rectify the Guardbridge/St Andrews imbalance.

### 2.2 Questions put to Mr Strachan:

- BW – asked to link Fife Coast and Countryside to the GB CC site. Yes.
- ZR – Walking over Motray water: too much litter - plastic bags, wheely chairs, trolleys – being dumped in the water.

- R. Strachan – Major problem. He clears rivers frequently. Suggests getting kids involved. Letter Score to do the coast. Ring the Fife Coast and Countryside for a clear out when necessary. Tip Point – really awful.
- **Coastline and recognised paths** – Stay on recognised gravelled paths please. Paths are protected and maintained. Walking along the coast line is not a recognised path and you will not be protected should you get carried out. **The coastline is dangerous.** Would have to call coastguard – and you'd not be insured. Coastline – no official right of access including the industrial site. Get a sign from the University to clarify where walking is possible. **University must delineate what they want and let the public know with clear signage.** Be careful here – there has been metal theft so important not to get caught out here.
- R.Strachan – Skip at the recycling centre mid village. This skip belongs to Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and is kept locked. It is not a public skip. **Please do not leave rubbish around this skip.**
- OW – Sea Eagle walks – all on the website – please get involved.
- Lorraine Wills – Children's garden and woodland. School garden, wild flowers, wooded area, all indigenous planting and trees. Needs tending and caring. Who is going to manage it? School? Parents. Perhaps an action day. This is a useful bit of community land and a place for learning and relaxation it should be maintained, tended and cherished.

Thank you Randal Strachan.

### 3. MINUTES (30<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

Minutes were formally approved, Action Points were closed or carried forward as indicated below.

### 4. LOCAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK – MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 Eden Mansion Hotel – OW – Hotel need to sort this with planning. GBCC is happy to support application. Sign not to look like an advert.
- 4.2 Football posts – these have been fixed and painted. Will continue with maintenance.
- 4.3 Bird Hide – Vital Energi will fix the bottom gate OW spoken to Geoff Morris

### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.1 Mary Duncan – apologies?
- 5.2 OW and BW – Two signatories will be required for the CC Fund: The Chair/Vice Chair and Mary Duncan (Treasurer).
- 5.3 CC Laptop – OW is now handling this. E-mail has been sent to Elspeth Paterson.
- 5.4 CC petty cash box?

### 6. STANDING ITEMS

- 6.1 Correspondence
  - FVA – Fife Voluntary Action – Guardbridge Community Benefit Fund** – Suggested setting up a committee/steering group at this point. Alan Sturrock, Lorraine Wills, Bill Wilson, Oli Walker, and Linda Scott volunteered. Helen Rorrison from FVA to be contacted and a meeting set up. Membership is temporary at present and it will be put to the residents to get involved and come forward with ideas and projects. Inaugural meeting in Guardbridge Hotel 10.00am on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The Guardbridge Community Benefit fund committee will report to the Guardbridge Community Council at the next CC meeting.

- ii. Cllr TB – work on two or three specific ideas that make a difference. Permission to use Cllrs as well as Ranauld Strachan. All happy to help promote GB. Must identify main priorities for the village, look at report and decide.
- iii. Guardbridge Community Benefit Fund – BW outlined the main points as: Community Hub, social interaction, vehicle impact, play and recreation space, influence and sense of control, housing and streets and spaces. Encourage general tidy up of properties. Find out rented properties that are looking dull and sort out with landlords

## 6.2 Planning

- i. **Playpark** – the issue of the outstanding £7100 (refer 06/2016) remains unresolved. Cllr TB suggested Locality Fund to see about underwriting. ZR suggested to residents that the first funding from the Community Benefit Fund of around £7000 should go to the playpark shortfall. This was not well received overall. Several residents not keen to see it all go on the playpark. ZR to apply to some funding bodies suggested in the first instance and try to raise the money first. It was suggested that a bit of the Benefit funding for this year could go towards this but not all of it.  
It was suggested we try local business in GB and in St Andrews – Eden Brewery for example as well as local Rotary Organisations.  
Cllrs. Tim Brett and Bill Connor recognise the problem and have agreed to do what they can within Fife Council and have asked for a roll over to the next CC Meeting. The GBCC must find ways of raising funds.
- ii. **Vandalism in the park** – ZR reported vandalism to one of the spin disks in the park. It was suggested this was down to teenagers. A bolt had been removed. Awaiting report from Alan Bisset. It was reported by Cllr. Brett that this was in fact a subsidence problem and the bolt was loosened by shifting soil. The bolt will be replaced and fixed. New foundation being laid for this piece of equipment? NB. No vandalising teenagers in this case.

## 7. TRANSPORTATION

- 7.1 See Cllr Brett's report for update on several transport points. Thank you Cllr. Brett
- 7.2 Building work at the top of Innerbridge Street now over. The road is clear.
- 7.3 SID – Speed sign on Main Street opposite the mill clock going ahead. Was a bit of a hold up. It will be on the west side of the road facing Leuchars. We are hopeful this will be effective.
- 7.4 Another SID sign is planned for the Cupar Road side of GB – as you come to Guardbridge/St Andrews roundabout from Cupar.
- 7.5 LW - The bus stop on Cupar road (same side as Dali's) is under fire again. The path is narrow and the bus stop unprotected by a shelter. The bushes and small trees growing 'behind' the fence are once again encroaching across the footpath and at great height. These cause problems. Cllr. Brett has said he'll look into this.
- 7.6 LW – cycle track markings as bikes and pedestrians come over little bridge and cross River Terrace. No markings on the road here and cyclists fly across the road. Markings need redoing. Watch this.
- 7.7 LW - Road markings needed around the GB Hotel. On the cycle track especially around the bollards which are black and cannot be seen at night. There have been accidents here in the past.

- 7.8 Resident asked about pedestrian crossing on Toll Road. Was suggested they keep asking by Bill Connor. No plan as yet for a crossing.

## 8. PUBLIC BODY REPORTS AND REFERRED ITEMS

### 8.1 Fife Council – Cllr. Tim Brett

- i. **Motray Park Road** – Ross Walker- Structurally sound. Not causing risk. Won't fix it at the moment because of lack of money.
- ii. **Sinking road mill site** – Kevin Smith – this has been attended to. Keeping an eye out.
- iii. **Old bridge issue** – Reported to Murray Scott of Transportation – bollards to be removed. Will be done in next month or so.
- iv. **Playpark** – spoke to Alan Bisset and will talk to Geoff Morris.
- v. **Faded school sign** – reported. Let's keep an eye out.
- vi. **Crossing at bottom of Innerbridge Street** – By bus stops and mill entrance. Proposals to carry out speed survey at this location, to assess the suitability of a pedestrian crossing. Keep Asking.

School children and the revitalising of the wooded area and gardens should help with this request.

Please see Cllr. Brett's full 28<sup>th</sup> July GBCC report. This is now on Guardbridge Community Website.

### 8.2 Fife Council – Cllr. Bill Connor

- i. Local Police – PCs Ewan McIntosh and Pete Holmes did not attend GB meeting as records show there has not been any incidents within the village
- ii. Been out with BOB and the UNIPAR – 2 drivers stopped and warned in relation to speeding.

Please see Cllr. Connor's full 28<sup>th</sup> July GBCC report. Copies given to CC members and to members of the public.

### 8.3 Fife Council – M. Taylor

Please see Cllr. Taylor's full 28<sup>th</sup> July GBCC report .

### 8.4 Election of Secretary – CC Secretary is now Linda Scott. Proposed by BW seconded by OW.

### 8.5 Expansion of Leuchars Rail Station – keep eye on this.

### 8.6 Community Police Team Report – From Cllr. TB – Adult Protection/community safety – 3 initiatives.

- i. Reducing and preventing doorstep crime. Police Scotland alerting vulnerable groups to doorstep crime – 'Operation Monarda'. Contact John Graham Police Scotland 0131 3113378 email [john.graham2@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.graham2@scotland.pnn.police.uk)
- ii. 'Scambassador' campaign – Trading Standards urging folk to report scams and attempted scams – 95% of these crimes go unreported. Contact ActionFraud on 03001 232040 or visit [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)
- iii. Adult protection – Fife Adult Support and Protection Team for community groups about adult protection, raising awareness of how to report harm. Contact Shona McEwan on 03451 555 555 ext 442134

## 9 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

- i. **Website update** – BW is updating website see list of improvements below.
- ii. Planning link now on website menu bar which gives the residents access to all planning applications. There is now a weekly planning update email from Economy, Planning & Employability Services at Fife Council.
- iii. Community Links now in place for Information and how to contact our local Fife Councillors, Community Police, Guardbridge Primary School. Guardbridge Bowling Club, Energy Centre and the Eden Estuary.
- iv. Please contact Bill Wilson if you would like to be a member of the site and with any suggestions, information or improvements regarding the website eg, ask local school pupils to design a logo and a mascot for the website - possibly get a local graphic arts student to look at the site as part of a project.
- v. BW – Planning event by Fife Planning in September if anyone is interested will post event on website.

## **10. ADOPTION ASSOCIATED BODIES**

- 10.1 **Guardbridge Primary School** – school closed.
- 10.2 **Bowling Club** – Signage allowed. Tim Brett conveyed this to Barbara Mitchell who is happy with the sign parameters. £300.00 which Bowling Club must pay. Permissions from Transport - not planning.
- 10.3 **University of St Andrews**
  - i. **Geoff Morris – University of St Andrews.** OW spoke at length
  - ii. Moving of war memorial to the flag poles opposite mill. Happy in principle with this saying it is a good place. Need to get permission from Derek Watson CEO.
  - iii. Has ideas about site that might interest us. Open to suggestions. Will be using primarily office and storage space. Lots of open space. Eden Mill moving (still on site but further back. There is lots of land. University knows what they want so the rest is up for negotiation.
  - iv. OW – productive meeting with Geoff Morris of St Andrews University. Car park opposite mill clock and under the back of some houses on Innerbridge Street. Lighting switched off atm. Will be turned on in October after adjustment and testing. Will keep an eye on this one.
  - v. OW – we need to work with university but not depend on it.
  - vi. Community Benefit Fund – As soon as the formalities are completed – committee selected, terms agreed with FVA and signed then funds will be released.

## **11. PLANNING**

- 11.2 **Clayton Caravan Park** – Cllr TB - Mike Gillan of Dairsie CC– No justification for putting Clayton into Guardbridge. BC, TB and MT stressed Clayton's involvement with GB. This will impact on GB. Mr Gillan not having any of it. OW and TB have written to Dairsie Community Council suggesting a change in community council boundaries. Mr Gillan said No.

## **12. AOCB**

- 12.1
  - i. John Fearson – coming off the CC.
  - ii. Elspeth and Michael Paterson – Beth Flynn has been informed that they have left the Community Council. Cllrs Brett and Connor to follow this up.

- 12.2 Vital Energi – roadworks have been postponed as Scottish Water not ready for the connection – BW D Raley manager contacted re update when roadworks will be rescheduled. Please see website for up-to-date information.
- 12.3 LW – Please remember that the Guardbridge Hotel can offer a room in the morning for informal meetings and the like. Just call and let them know. LW also raised the point about the village shop. What is happening? And we need a cash machine in the village.
- 12.4 OW to ask Geoff Morris about the railway sheds on Main Street by the recycling. What is the plan? Is this space any good?
- 12.5 Notice board – Geoff Morris ordered the wrong size. This has now been sorted and ‘he’s on it’.
- 12.6
- i. BW – Old football pitch now just a tract of unused land. – who owns it? BW asked permission to contact Registers of Scotland to find out. Cost is around £20 +vat.CC agreed he could go ahead.
  - ii. BW suggested that Dr Ruth Robinson of the University of St Andrews Guardbridge Geothermal Energy Project be invited to come along and do a presentation. Cllr. TB indicated that the project is probably not viable for local housing heating. For further information see GCC website. No firm decision re Dr Robinson.
- 12.7 Lorraine Wills was asked to come on to the GCC proposed by OW and seconded by BW onto the Guardbridge Community Council.

### **13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm Guardbridge Bowling Club**