

Final

Cambuskenneth Community Council
Meeting held on Monday 28th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Graham Barrett, Elaine Turner (Secretary), Barbara McElhinney (Treasurer), Maggie Ruddy, Catriona Taylor

In attendance: Councillor Danny Gibson, four members of the public

Apologies: Archie McIver (Chair)

The meeting was chaired by Graham Barrett. Minutes were taken by Elaine Turner.

Items for AOCB: Library Consultation; Big Conversation consultation on Council budget; Historic Scotland free Sundays

Adoption of previous minutes (23 September 2024)

Proposed: Graham Barratt, seconded: Maggie Ruddy

Cambuskenneth Nature and Environment Group (CNEG) Report

Helen reported key points from their most recent meeting. They had discussed finding out the demand for a carpool scheme in Cambuskenneth by surveying the village. Enterprise manages the carpool scheme in Stirling on behalf of Stirling Council and we would need evidence of demand to ask for a closer location to collect a pool car. This will be added to the Resilience Group questionnaire. The Group hopes to organise a Green Energy event in the Hall to provide households with information on solar panels, heat pumps etc. next year. The Group has had two setbacks to projects. They had hoped to work with Ricoh to develop the biodiversity of their fields, but the company does not want to work with the community at present. A plan to plant more trees along Ladysneuk Rd is on hold because Cowane's Trust, the landowner, have concerns about insurance and ongoing maintenance.

More positively, the Wildlife-friendly Gardening talk held in June was well attended with good feedback. The farmers of Hood Farm and Broom Farm are supportive of planting more trees on their land, with saplings provided by Treelink. Elaine reported that she had walked the footpath from the village to Broom Farm with the Access Officer, who planned to contact the farms about their responsibilities to maintain access on this core path. The Access Officer hopes to have funds to re-instate the signpost which has fallen over.

The next meeting of the Group is planned for January, 2025.

Future of Cambuskenneth Village Hall

Graham led the report from the Village Hall Group. He was supported by Jim Richardson who has recently joined the Group and was involved 10 years ago when the Hall was previously under threat. Graham explained that the Council is now under even more severe financial constraints as they have had to make year on year savings since then. From discussions with Rachel Nunn, we should be prepared to explore other options for running the Hall. Danny Gibson explained the financial timeframe. The Scottish Government will draw up its budget in December following the UK government budget. Councillors will then have to set a balanced budget once the Scottish Government sets its budget for Councils, when the plan for the future of the Hall will be listed. There are 3 options to consider: 1) the status quo where we persuade the Council to continue to fund the Hall 2) The Community runs the Hall from 31/3/25 with a direct lease from Cowane's Trust. We would negotiate as low a rent as possible for the first year 3) The Hall closes after 31/3/25 if the Council terminates the lease.

Final

Danny proposed a fourth option where the Council buys the Hall from Cowane's, as there is more money in the capital budget, to save on the revenue costs of the lease. Rachel Nunn is meeting with Lorne Scott, the factor from Cowane's Trust on 29/10/24 to discuss the Trust's views on the future of the Hall and the terms of any lease. We need to seek the community's views on the future of the Hall and people's willingness to support it staying open. The Sub-group will prepare a questionnaire to circulate to all households very soon. If the community runs the Hall, we need to set up a Management Trust to do this, as this is not in the remit of the Community Council. The best model is a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which is a legal entity set up by the Scottish Charity Regulator to limit the liability of its members, in contrast to a conventional Trust.

Data from Stirling Council show that the Hall has low usage and only generates £1000/year, but recent data include Covid restrictions. Also, the Bookings system and charges have made it increasingly difficult to book the Hall at a reasonable price, especially at weekends. Graham proposed that we should include a question in the survey to ask if households would be willing to make an annual payment toward the running of the Hall - £50 per household would raise £5000 if every household paid. Subscribers could be given 1-2 free bookings in return.

A member of the public suggested widening the usage of the Hall by tourists and passersby, through providing refreshments at weekends, which the subgroup had also considered. He wondered if there were any data on the number of visitors to the Abbey. There may be a counter on the Abbey gate.

Actions: 1) Hall Subgroup to produce and circulate Hall Survey 2) Elaine to contact Historic Environment Scotland for visitor numbers

Disabled toilet for Village Hall

A member of the public had been unable to attend an event in the Hall because of the lack of disabled facilities and all agreed that if the Hall continues to be used, we should apply for a grant to provide an improved disabled toilet, meeting modern standards.

Informed Communities Meeting

Elaine provided feedback from a meeting held on 26/9/24 at the Council Chambers where the Communities team had invited all Community Council Chairs to discuss holding a regular forum. This would provide a direct link between Community Councils and Stirling Council and enable discussion of topics of shared interest. She had already circulated a summary of the meeting. This was attended by Caroline Sinclair, the new Chief Executive of the Council and Inspector Andy Bushel, Inspector for rural Stirlingshire. Both described having to work with restricted budgets which limits the services provided. Inspector Bushel provided information on Community Speedwatch schemes, to advise that most Community Councils do not proceed with this when they find out the work involved. He suggested sharing current policing matters more widely across the Community Councils to raise awareness of local crime risks and online fraud scams. Elaine had commented that this would be helpful for Cambuskenneth to be aware of issues in Riverside and Causewayhead as well, as we are such a small area.

Community Council members who attended were keen to continue with regular meetings, and to have more support from the Communities team to develop IT skills and understand the roles and responsibilities of Community Councillors more fully.

Hanging baskets and Window Boxes 2024

The hanging baskets this year were provided by the Riverbank Centre in Riverside which supports adults with Learning Disabilities. They were able to provide baskets using peat-free compost which

Final

we wished to try out. The baskets had a wider mix of plants than previous years, with some weeds, to be expected with locally prepared compost.

We would like to thank Martin and the team of watering volunteers for looking after the baskets all summer. They have provided a good show of colour well into October. We would also like to record our thanks to Agnes, who continues to look after the window boxes which decorate the Hall and also provide a colourful display for passersby.

Treasurer's Report

There has been little change in the accounts since our last meeting.

Matters arising (not covered below)

None

Matters arising

Cambuskenneth/Ladysneuk Rd Active Travel: Potential interventions for traffic calming – feedback from Marco and discussion

Marco Farnocchi, Active Travel Officer had emailed a reply from the Active Travel team to answer the points raised at the initial consultation on proposals for traffic calming in Cambuskenneth, discussed at the last meeting.

- 1) !) They did not think that extending the double white lines by Ricoh further would be effective and may cause more dangerous overtaking manoeuvres. They wished to proceed with their original proposal of dotted cycle lanes down either side of the straight and wider part of Ladysneuk Rd to slow drivers and noted that explanatory signage and adequate driver visibility would be necessary.
- 2) They will explore with the Roads team if double yellow lines can be added to corners at North St and South St along with raised tables at the junctions (as in Riverside).
- 3) They will explore how to improve safety for users as they come off the bridge into Cambuskenneth onto the corner of a road with no pavement.
- 4) There is no budget to have a raised table at the junction of North St and Ferry Orchard but this will be noted.

These points were discussed. Graham remains very concerned about the plan to introduce cycle lanes and a 'single lane' in the mid part of Ladysneuk Rd as he fears there may be a head-on collision. However, the purpose is to slow traffic to make this less likely. Marco had indicated that the plans would be put out to full community consultation and would not go ahead if the community did not wish them.

Action: Elaine will email Marco to check that a full community consultation is planned

Pergola - Replacement Benches and Planters

Elaine had met with Helen and Tessa from the Nature Subgroup and agreed plans for the pergola area. They will apply for a grant to buy two seats similar to the metal seats along Riverside and a long rectangular recycled plastic planter, as this requires least maintenance. Community Councillors all agreed to proceed with this plan to improve the area.

Elaine, her husband and son have now taken down the pergola after removing all the ivy and other encroaching plants. Graham and other Council members expressed their thanks for this work. The site will require further work prior to the new seats being positioned.

Action: Elaine will apply for a grant for chairs and planter

Final

Application for grant to reprint Heritage Walk leaflets

Elaine had obtained two quotes for printing the leaflets. The lower quote is only £140. Community Councils can apply for two Community Grants each year of up to £800. It was agreed to pay for the leaflets from Community Council funds to enable larger grants to be applied for, if needed.

Action: Elaine will arrange for a further print run of leaflets

SUB GROUP REPORTS

Social Group

The Social Group held a very successful Quiz Night on 25/10/24 in the Village Hall attended by 7 teams of six players, with much friendly rivalry. Thanks to Graham for preparing questions and being quiz master, to Elaine and Maggie for organising the evening, and to all who helped to sell tickets. Our next event will be a Music Evening in January. We discussed holding a Christmas Carol evening in the Abbey. This could be arranged, but the Abbey needs to be booked 4 months in advance so this can be planned for next year.

Resilience Group

The resilience Group is now chaired by Leigh Ann, who will provide feedback to the Community Council in future. The Group is working on a questionnaire to circulate to the community asking what support people could give or may need in an emergency, along with a leaflet giving advice on how to be prepared for adverse weather or power cuts and with important telephone numbers. They have prepared a map of the village to show who will be responsible for which streets. Elaine highlighted that the Community Council area includes houses along Ladysneuk Rd and round to Broom Farm, as well as those within the village.

Report from Councillor/s

Danny had noted with sadness at the start of the meeting that Margaret Brisley, Stirling Council leader, had died after a short illness. She had served as a Labour Councillor for 44 years, giving many years of service to the community. Graham expressed the condolences of the Community Council. Danny also contributed to the discussion about the future of the Hall and Active Travel plans and had no further points to raise.

Police Report

The police had received one crime report where a male entered an insecure property and was challenged by the occupants. The Police would like to remind residents to keep their homes secure. Maggie was also aware of an incident where the police were called to intervene over an altercation between a distressed woman and a man. This may be included in the next report.

Community Council: Offer of Full Membership

Catriona has now attended three full meetings as a co-opted member and was offered full membership of the Community Council which she accepted and was welcomed on board.

Questions from floor/members of public

No additional questions

AOCB

Elaine highlighted that there was still time to complete the Library Consultation either online or in a local library. The Council has just opened this year's online Big Conversation consultation on the Council budget.

Final

Historic Scotland free Sundays: from 6/10/24 until 2/3/25, Historic Environment Scotland are offering free entry to their sites for Scottish residents – these need to be booked in advance and proof of residence is needed.

Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 25 November 2024 in the Village Hall

Stirling Council: 01786 404040, Police non-emergency 101, NHS 24 111

Scottish Power emergency: 105, Scottish Gas emergency: 0800 111999

Reminder: Minutes are available via the CC website and Facebook page. If you would like them emailed privately or paper copies, please let us know via email at cambuskennethcc@gmail.com or by contacting any CC member.