

Creich and Flisk Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 7th February 2018

Present

Councillor Andy Heer, Bernard O'Donnell, Jim Duncan, Ian Purvis, Bob Arbuckle, Dagmar Dawson and Laura Arbuckle.

Sergeant Sharon Holmes and PC Emma Fisher from Police Scotland.

Alan and Caroline Evans, Mr and Mrs Hutchison, Maggie Johnston, John McIver, Clive and Dianne Roberts and Patrick Wedderburn.

Apologies

None

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2017

These were approved with no changes.

Presentation by Police Scotland

The chairman invited the representatives of Police Scotland to update the meeting on the spate of recent break ins around North East Fife.

PC Emma Fisher summarised the local crime statistics in the area over the recent period and advised that she is our local police officer.

Sergeant Sharon Holmes then explained that all of the recent burglaries happened on evenings when there was particularly bad weather consisting of heavy rain, strong winds or snow. These evenings would tie in with when the police force was particularly busy because of other demands due to the weather. The burglaries have all taken place from outbuildings, sheds or garages with no houses being burgled. These incidents are being taken seriously with a Detective Inspector, a Detective Sergeant and six police constables actively involved in seeking the perpetrators. Stop points are being utilised during the night to try to catch them. (This is where police officers wait in quiet spots to see what passes by and questions anyone who seems suspicious.) This has resulted in a vehicle being found near Hazelton with a large quantity of tools in it on 28th January. Despite waiting for a considerable time no personnel returned to the vehicle. However significant forensic evidence has been obtained from the vehicle which is now being followed up. It is believed the burglars are a group of people from the Tayside area. Although no violence has been exhibited towards people the advice given to the meeting is to call the police immediately on 999 and do nothing else. We should also report any unusual happenings to the police. It is noticeable that all activity has stopped recently. The case continues to be investigated.

Actions from the previous meeting

Balmeadowside Planning Application: As this was a screening application it cannot be objected to. The applicants have been advised they do not have to carry out an Environmental Impact assessment. No further applications have been submitted. Bob will keep an eye open for any.

Action Bob

Fife Council Website – Community Council Information: As this has not been updated since the reforming of the council, Councillor Heer will follow this up.

Action Councillor Andy Heer

Finance and banking report

Despite thinking that this was proceeding satisfactorily at the last meeting a cheque of £100 for hall rental was returned because the account had been decreed to be dormant by the TSB. We have been advised to open a new account when the money in the dormant account will be transferred to the new account. The committee agreed that a new account should be opened with the TSB with Bernard O'Donnell and Ian Purvis as authorised signatories. Ian Purvis lodged a formal complaint with the TSB regarding this entire affair which was subsequently upheld. An offer of £109 was made in compensation by the TSB which it was agreed should be accepted. However this entire affair has delayed significantly our ability to claim a grant from Fife Council of approximately £410 for the year ending 2017 and this can only be claimed by the end of March 2018 if we have a bank statement and audited accounts for 2017.

Action Bernard and Ian.

Road Repairs Update

There was little to report here but Matthew raised the point about the repairs necessary at Ballinbreich saying he believed they were not happening in the near future. Councillor Heer thought otherwise and would follow up on this. He also agreed to provide an update on the timing of the road into Brunton.

Action Councillor Andy Heer

Broadband

Councillor Heer reported that the Community Initiative NE Fife had been withdrawn following only one poorly prepared tender for the work. Matthew Wilson expressed his extreme annoyance at this waste of money which he thought could have been spent more usefully. This leaves the community reliant on the Government R100 programme which promises everyone superfast broadband by 2021.

Carphin Planning Update

It was expected that this would be heard at the meeting on January 31, 2018 but it did not happen. It is not known why. The next planning committee meeting is on 7th March and it may be heard then.

Any Other Business

Bob raised the subject of an insurance form regarding insurance cover for Community Councils he had received from Debbie Cassells but Councillor Heer knew little about it. Bob agreed to call her directly to discuss it prior to completing it.

Action Bob

Appraisal of the Brunton Conservation Zone

Bob advised the meeting that this had recently been carried out by Matthew Price of Fife Council and that information on it would be circulated in the coming days for comment.

The next meeting will be held on 2nd May, 2018 at 7.30pm in Luthrie Village Hall.