Minutes

The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council

Monday April 14 7:30pm at the Lower Town Hall| Meeting called to order by Louis Theran

# In Attendance

Phil Wall, Margaret Hellicar, , Paul Ambrose, Neil Anderson, Bill Bruce, Raymond Davis, Martin Dibley, Kevin Lancaster, Carl van der Lee, Cllr Alycia Hayes, Cllr Sean Dillon

20 members of public present

Apologies – Louis Theran, Lorna Jones, Cllr Fiona Corps, Christine Wilson, and a number of business owners.

# Welcome & Declaration of Interest

CvdL a member of RNLI

# Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising and Action points

Minutes approved by PA and NA seconded .

Matters Arising –

Julia Cowie – Minutes amended as poster was sent but we have not yet actioned.

Road markings at junctions with Burnside Terrace – MH wrote to Alastair Drummond FC .Contractor was appointed to do last year but did not complete work – will be put out to new contractor.

Action Points from last meeting

* Skatepark – Cll FC and BB to arrange meeting not actioned yet
* Contact electrician re folly lights. Arrange cherry picker to take down.- PA,KL no progress
* Confirm those interested in attending Dreelside Woods path opening- MH Done
* St Ayles park fencing – follow up – MH – Done but still not in place – awaiting date.
* Floral Group – arrange meeting and BB to create poster for volunteers no progress

# Questions from the public

Barbara Elliot (St Ayles rowing club) – said that CllAH and CllSD very helpful re access to beach. Graham Ellery (Friends of Bankie Park) – nets are now up on football pitch in Bankie Park. David Andrews re Anstruther to Pittenweem cycle path – when will this be completed? CvdL will update later in this meeting. Also, very teep steps by Dreel – this is AIA rather than MUP – CllSD will look in to. Supports 20mph.

Anne McConnachie re Floral – to discuss later.

# RNLI Lifeboat shed and East Basin car park

Letter (email) has been sent to John Mitchell from the CC – no reply. PW attended meeting with businesses. BB helped to create a Facebook page ‘Saving Livelihoods in Anstruther Support (SLAS) Group’ he also created a short

video.

Drop in meetings held.at RNLI and CC members attended.

BB made a lengthy presentation to state the role of the community council in representing the community's concerns on this issue while addressing comments made about his role as a community councillor in the Saving Livelihoods in Anstruther Support (SLASG) Group which was set up mid-March. He started by expressing his admiration for the local RNLI volunteer crew, with generations of his family also being great supporters of the charity. His aunt and uncle's names are alongside thousands of others on the new all-weather lifeboat here in Anstruther.

Addressing some criticisms of the CC and himself personally he referred to the guidance provided in The Code Of Conduct for Community Councillors, which is published on Fife Council's website: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/about-your-council2/politicians-and-committees/community-councils>

Among many other points he highlighted that Community Councils can act as a campaigning body in raising awareness of specific local issues and all members can play an important part by 'thinking creatively' about what they can do to help in representing the views of the community. He stressed the guidance provided on his role within the SLAS Group whereby he must not use his 'position as a Community Councillor to gain financial, material, political or other personal benefit' for himself, family or friends.

In addressing one complaint from an East Neuk resident whose brother is serving as a volunteer with the RNLI Anstruther station’s crew, in an email dated 10th April that made reference to the SLAS Group’s Facebook page needing to be ;non biased and have the interests of the community they represent; BB said he knew of the complainant personally and would be happy to discuss any issues more directly, if required. He said the purpose of setting up the SLAS Group was to help provide a voice to the Anstruther business community whose concerns were not being listened to at all, after calls for a public meeting to be held locally. The Facebook page was then set up to provide a platform for the wider community, including local residents and people who travel to work here and to give them an opportunity to have a say too and BB reiterated ‘the need to create a bit more balance with all the one-sided narratives being driven on the project by Fife Council and the RNLI.’

BB asked those present if anyone knew how many jobs and businesses would be threatened if the construction work had started in early April (as it was first announced) or would be at risk if it still went ahead with the same confusing approach to planning and preparation. MoP Graham Ellery offered the answer 53, but BB took that as a 'light-hearted guess' and said nobody could put any figure to it, with no economic impact survey having been carried out as had been requested before.

BB also asked 'if this project is delayed, or doesn't go ahead because of failures in communication between the RNLI and Fife Council' how many full-time jobs or part-time volunteer roles would be at risk at the RNLI?  Will the Anstruther station be threatened in any way? The answers were None and No, all according to RNLI National's Jill Hepburn who was present at the first 'drop-in session' at the station, at 2pm on 3rd April 2025. BB also asked 'how many jobs might go at Fife Council and are any of the local councillors’ positions here under threat?'

BB referred back to previous concerns he had about perceived public trust and confidence in the community council – minuted in CC meeting on 10.02.25 – after following up on another highly emotive and unresolved issue that Fife Council and local politicians had influenced, resulting in the resignation of four key office bearers which briefly threatened the existence of the CC in November 2023. BB was one of several concerned locals who joined the CC then, to help it get back on a firmer footing again, and he joked about the number of times he'd threatened to resign since.

BB then referred to the roles of Fife Councillors on the Community Council, using the same guidance provided in the FC website, and acknowledged how our CC have to place a lot of trust in our local councillors when they say they will look in to a wide range of matters we bring to their attention, especially on important issues like those being raised on the East Basin Car Park.

BB thanked Cllr Dillon and Cllr Hayes in particular for their work in helping to explore different ideas on this particular issue, knowing they had consulted with local businesses and Fife Council managers at length while looking at different ways to help minimise the disruptions that were soon going to affect the whole community, up until Cllr Dillon's welcome announcement late on Monday 7th when it was revealed the construction could not begin until August at the earliest.

The week before this some members of the CC went along with local business people to ‘drop in sessions’ at the local lifeboat station after receiving an invitation from Jill Hepburn (Head of Region Scotland RNLI) following up on the 27th March letter to Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive of Fife Council, which was signed by 50+ businesses here asking for a public meeting to be organised. The intention of these sessions (on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th April) was perceived to be positive and moving everyone in the right direction by four representatives from the CC who attended the first session (MH, PW, MD and BB on 3.4.25 at 2pm) and by all members of the SLAS Group who attended other sessions, and it was encouraging to hear more ideas coming from the construction company representative (Mark McPherson from Clark Construction) who was also there to hear the concerns more directly from locals.

Jill Hepburn from Head of Region for the RNLI has send a list of the concerns raised at the drop-in meetings and a copy of the latest FAQs. We have posted these on Face Book. However, it was disheartening for everyone to see the ‘STATEMENT FROM THE VOLUNTEERS AT ANSTRUTHER RNLI’ published publicly on Facebook on Friday 4th April at 4.52pm, only minutes after the last drop-in session had finished as we do not think it reflected what had been achieved in the meetings.

BB commented that 'the purpose of such a statement appearing on the station's official Facebook page with commenting switched off is still seriously questionable' after we had heard some positive ideas being exchanged during the drop-ins. As a collective we were very disappointed that the RNLI should consider this communications strategy to be appropriate or necessary, following up on poor communications experienced at the last meeting held at the station on Friday 7th March 2025, when the business community were told they should prepare for some disruption.

BB reported that it was astonishing to hear two of the paid employees at RNLI Anstruther reveal they thought ‘they were doing the community a favour by giving everyone some heads up' notice at the first meeting and they then regretted doing so. BB said ‘it all leads me to the conclusion that the communications that have been steered most recently by RNLI Anstruther do not match with the professional standards we should come to expect from such a well-regarded, highly professional Royal Institution and beloved charity.'

BB then asked Cllrs Dillon and Hayes if they had received a definite start date for the project, as he'd heard speculation flying around that mid-June was being aimed for. Cllr Dillon said he hadn't received any more clear information on the project since, but recognised that ‘panic and concern in the community may have been avoided’ if the information he had received via the Exec Director for Place had been discovered earlier.  BB said all this suddenly coming to light after a last ditch query by Barbara Elliot from the St Ayles Rowing Club indicates 'some people had a better grip on the facts in Fife Council than anyone there who was supposed to be leading the construction project.'

BB said he would also like some concerns about Cllr Corps involvement in this issue minuted, referring back to the minutes of the CC meeting (on 13.01.25) when she reported on another contentious local issue (Short Term Lets): “Our local businesses do extremely well over the summer months but must make allowances for the winter season when they see their takings drop dramatically.” Except for a couple of posts on Facebook and a misjudged press announcement in the Courier dated 5th April proclaiming businesses were 'open as usual'\* BB said 'her silence on this matter has been deafening' and he would like ‘some clarity on her role as a local councillor on this very divisive issue' as he hadn't heard anything about her having any consultations with local business owners or residents, and would like to know of any action she'd taken to help to resolve public concerns in any way that was similar to the actions he knew Cllrs Dillon and Hayes had taken over the last month.

\* Courier article : <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5216118/anstruther-open-for-business/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJpy6lleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHkRQdAlhR3Ws77mKwZaHONAeoYqmmhLSyALqZjZBITBjcyvsPyBZWLmD-4BS_aem_cVPnr3nvKOjz4nKhgIJP2Q>

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CllSD said he has complained to Ken Gourlay (Chief Executive FC). Rab Deas (The Osprey) asked if BB is taking it personally? BB said it had been a difficult time, and he had been ‘blanked’ on the street by RNLI volunteers he had previously had good relations with, but he was more concerned about any criticisms levelled at the CC as a group pf volunteers. All past CC have asked questions about delays and made suggestions and good ideas and help move things forward.

PW asked Alistair Busby (Independent business advisor) what a 10% reduction footfall would mean. He said there were 400 staff in local businesses, so if we lost just 10% this would equate to 40 jobs being lost.. An economic impact assessment would have picked this up. There is no ‘statutory requirement’ to do this, but it would have been respectful to carry one out. No local jobs will be created from the build, as the contractor will be bringing their own workers.

Barbara Elliot (St Ayles Rowing Club) – the club is very concerned re access to beach – the club will probably fold if there is no access as their members would just go to other clubs along the coast in Crail or Elie.

Walker Murray (Anstruther Fish Bar) – went to a drop in session and asked re putting extra buses on the park and ride. Despite the revenue from the RNLI shop being high he was told they were a charity and could not afford more buses. Someone in the RNLI had said to him in the station shop that they had the biggest footfalland this is one reason why they were wanting to build a bigger facility in Anstruther, to include the housing forthe new lifeboat.

Daryl Wilson (Guide us Breaks) asked if the beach will still exist after build? There has been talk of the sand washing away. Have any surveys been done? Park and ride – 10am start, but guests need to be out for 10am and would have to carry luggage up to the car park. Daryl asked if the public can object to planning for car park closure once the Transport management plan is published on the portal. CllSD to check.

Louise Lewis (The Waterfront and Scoop) said the Waterfront is still busy 7-8 at night but the buses stop 6pm at the latest. Louise thanked BB for giving businesses a voice. They all support RNLI and are not against them, just the effect of the car park closure.

CllSD – 12 week notice period once TMP approved – this will probably take to May and then to August.

CllAH –She said that she was given the impression that the application of notice period had flexibility – waive if not too much disruption. But now it appears there is no flexibility

It was noted that previous Councillors Porteous and Holt did complain to Fife Council about the planning process for the lifeboat shed. A timeline of all recorded communications between Fife

Council and RNLI with past and current members of the community council (from 2019 to the present day) is currently being compiled and will be ready for publication by the end of this month.

# Multi Use Path update

Carl van der Lee.

Last meeting was 7 March and there was very little progress for either Anstruther to Pittenweem paths. The last 3 meetings with FC have not been very productive, despite FC employing Savills. The Joint group (Anstruther and Pittenweem) have voiced their displeasure and Pittenweem reps said they would not attend meetings if there is no progress. Next steps:

Step 1: Add in the details requested (drainage, access points etc) and discuss/ agree with the agents/ owners and tenant. Time line 3 months.

Step 2: Once the designs are agreed upon then they will be passed back to sort the Heads of terms – time line 3 months

Step 3: Once the Head of terms have been sorted these will be then passed back to Fife Council Legal Services. Time line three months

So, 9 months delay, which is frustrating. They will be having a Meeting 0n 25 April to try and speed things up.

# Councillors’ Reports

**Cll Sean Dillon**

East Basin Car Park Update:

Following a conversation last week with the Executive Director of Place, I was informed that a formal 12-week notice period had to be enforced before the closure of the East Basin Car Park can go ahead. This notice period will begin following the approval of the Traffic Management Plan by the council’s planning department. This was submitted on Friday, 4 th of April and it is expected that it will take the planning department four weeks to approve. Therefore, I have been informed by council officers the earliest that construction can now begin will be the beginning of August.

Cash Hub

Since being elected, I have been lobbying organisations including the LINK Group &amp; Cash Access UK for better access to physical money in Anstruther and the wider East Neuk, especially since the closure of the Post Office and the banks some years ago. In February, I informed the Community Council that this lobbying worked and following a report by Cash Access UK, there had been agreement to create a Post Office-operated Cash Hub in Anstruther. Working with my fellow trustees at the East Neuk Centre Trust, I am pleased to inform the Community Council that the hub will be located in the Lower Town Hall and will be operational by the end of the month.

It will be open from 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday and will offer free depositing and withdrawal of cash for both personal and business accounts. It will also offer a change service for businesses. It should be stressed that this service will only be offering services involving money. For all other Post Office needs, the mobile van will still operate. Cash hub will be operated by Cowdenbeath PO.

MD – The cash hub will initially be there for 2 years so hope it is well used by local businesses so that it is then made permanent.

NnG Windfarm Funding Opportunity

Last week, the final wind turbine was installed at the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm in the Forth. By the end of the summer, they will be launching a Community Benefit Fund that will continue for the 25-year life of the wind farm. However, at present they are offering small-scale (approx.. £1000) grants that community groups are welcome to apply to. Any interested groups should contact Rachel Dunachie at Rachel.Dunachie@edf-re.uk for an application form.

**Cll Alycia Hayes**

Cabinet committee discussed short term let control zones. Will remain in control of the Councill rather than local area committees. It would have been better with the local committees as they have more local knowledge, so this is disappointing..

Tourism tax – April 2028.

Dog attack in St Andrews – keep dogs under control

# Planning/Licensing Matters

None of concern

# Review of Establishment of Community Councils

Need to complete survey by 16 May 2025. Is there any response from CC? Mention Electronic banking and insufficient CC grant.

# Proposed new 20mph limits

Feedback to go to Nigel Hampton.

Walker Murray (Anstruther Fish Bar)– colleagues in Wales said their Council had to change 20mph back to 30mph as tourist trade was lost. Puts people off. What is purpose – have there been any accidents? 30mph should be sufficient. Will waste a lot of money.

RD – speeding on the St Andrews road into the town is very worrying with Waid children crossing all the time rather than using the crossing point. The turning out of the Primary school is also very dangerous because of speeding cars on the main road.

AH – this has been implemented in Stirling for a number of years – we could write and ask if they have experienced a drop in tourist footfall.

RD -. Also evidence from Wales that there is a reduction in injuries and death and lower pollution.

# Twining

BB has recruited a group of people interested in going forward with the relaunch of the Twinning arrangements with Bapaume in France. Former Waid pupil Cameron Findlay is very keen on heading up any new twinning association that needs to be formed here. Our hosts in Bapaume have kindly organised a full five day programme of activities (5-9 May) for six people from Anstruther, including Cameron and BB. BB will be creating a short film of the trip afterwards which will be used to promote the benefits of the twinning for both towns. Thanks go to Tony Banton for making all the arrangements in Bapaume, including covering the costs for accommodation and subsistence there.

# Common Good Fund

Briefing note received, including the change:

Within the Common Good Funds, any surplus balances accumulated over a three- year period, and after any maintenance costs and financial support for local projects, should be used 50% to purchase additional investments, 25% retained to finance the future maintenance of the heritable property associated with the Fund and 25% remaining as revenue balances to fund any additional projects the area would like to support. Where the Common Good Fund has no heritable property, 70% of the accumulated funds should be invested and 30% remains as revenue balances.

KA asked if 25% would be retained for future maintenance? Cll AH – likely that the 25%– will probably be another ‘column’ in the accounting, rather than the money being removed. All the money is in one account – just in notional columns. FC are a year behind and have not been keeping an ongoing tally. They are now keeping to date. Nicola Whyte and Frances Arbuckle are checking what is in account to see what is available before giving out money. KA Still can’t say if they insure their assets? Cll H assets are insured, but FC have still not answered if specific items have been valued. MH – if they do not have specific valuations, they would not know how much to claim if eg a painting was destroyed.

# Secretary’s Report

Silverdykes Fund - All applicants have been written to and information sent to Fife Council. The rowing club have asked about the turn round time as they have not heard from FC yet. Graham Ellery (Friends of Bankie Park) said they had not heard either. MH has written to Iain Wilson.

St Ayles Park – progress – we have been informed that after a meeting held on 26 March, fencing work will be ‘starting shortly’ - just awaiting a date .

Kilrenny car park – written to Andy Paterson – he says they are still looking into who owns the car park and who repaired it last time.

Parking at Bankie park by motorhome – emailed Colin Davidson (Ground Maintenance Department Team Manager)No response.

**Police Report March 2025**

Anstruther
47 calls to the police. 19 crimes recorded

Cellardyke
18 calls to the police. 1 crime recorded

Kilrenny
1 call to the police. 0 crimes recorded

Perhaps we need more police presence? Invite to next meeting.

# Treasurer’s Report

Treasurers report to end of March 2025.

Bank Statement to the end of March- Total funds- £68044.17

Community Council Management Funds to month end - £5412.51

INCOME.

Online payment to Friends of Bankie Par k - £36.09

Santa Collection Cash donation- £5.00

Fife Council Floral Grant Funding - £500

Bank Interest - £216.86

Total Income - £757.95

EXPENDITURE.

Haven Buy Inn Expenditure - £408.66

Hall Hire - £45.50

Total Expenditure - £454.16

# Representation from other groups

FLORAL – Email received from Anne McConnochie asking for permission for her and Margaret Smith to fund raise for the floral displays. Anne and Margaret present at the meeting. They have written to the Kist for a donation. MH advised we just need to set some guidelines re financial matters – PW will meet with them to discuss. It was confirmed that they could run a ‘sponsor a basket’ again? This would include the CC Pay Pal address. They have a party of 18 ladies staying locally at the end of May who wish to volunteer with weeding and planting and it was agreed that this could go ahead..

MURRAY LIBRARY TRUST – LJ not here, CllSD advised annual public meeting will be 24 April 7pm

# AOCB

BB and PW to attend the official opening of the new pathway at Dreelside, following an invitation from Julia

Cowie.

Date of next meeting 12 May 2025

**Action Points**

* Skatepark – Cll FC and BB to arrange meeting
* Contact electrician re folly lights. Arrange cherry picker to take down.- PA,KL
* St Ayles park fencing – follow up – MH –
* Floral Group – meeting with PW and BB to create poster for volunteers
* Write to Stirling Council re 20mph zone impact – MH
* Respond to Nigel Hampton re 20mph zones - MH
* Invite Community Police representative to next meeting
* Meet with A. MacConnochie and M.Smith re Floral - PW

**Abbreviations**

**FC –** Fife Council

**FCCT** – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

KACCC – Kilrenny, Anstruther and Kilrenny Community Council

**MoP** – Member of the Public

**MUP –** Multi Use Path