

St Fillans Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 28th August 2024
Sandison Hall, St Fillans

Welcome: Chair Donna Littler welcomed 24 villagers, Baillie Rhona Brock, Councillor Stewart Donaldson

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Noah Khogali, Tom Green, Carol Graham, Murray Henderson, David Gow, Barry Fisher

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29th May 2024 were proposed as a true record by Johnston Brown and seconded by Richard Graham.

3. Police Update

No update from the Police.

Donna Littler and Tom Green met David Rice the Area Inspector, they discussed the jet ski incident and CC are waiting for a link to upload video footage received.

Some vehicle issues were not pursued as the officers attending were focussed on moving the offenders on away from the village.

Rebecca Miller is our local area Sargent.

It is requested that any issues with unruly campers be reported so that the police have a record of this and can attend. If anyone is spotted driving dangerously, please gather the number plate if safe to do so and report any incidents.

Apart from 101, incidents can be reported on the police website.

4. Matters Arising

- a. Bus shelters and bus stops – work has commenced and is being carried out in phases, the last phase is at the Four Seasons, location of the last bus stop is still to be determined.
- b. Low Carbon have booked in for their next village presentation, this will take place on the 25th November, times to be confirmed.

SSE are also in the process of booking their next village presentation, this will probably take place the week before Low Carbon, date and times to be confirmed.

- c. Public Toilets – The portable toilets by the toilet block have been removed. The Four Seasons have signed up to the P & K Comfort Scheme. Signage to be displayed at existing toilet block to advise of the scheme.
- d. Dundurn Walk planning update, there has still been no change in the planning status. Planning is pending completed agreements for the affordable housing and once complete, the status will change.
- e. Scottish Water are in process of adopting the Dundurn Walk pumping station under the non-trading process. This is likely to take some time. SW have committed to support any issues with the pumping station for residents while this is ongoing. SW will keep the CC up to date on the adoption process, if any villagers have any questions, please contact members@stfillans.co.uk
- f. Drummond Arms Hotel – Crieff Hydro are hopeful they will complete planning soon. They are hoping to see some movement near the year end, if not early 2025.
- g. Speeding data – although the final decision is to be confirmed, it is hoped approval will be finalised for St. Fillans to have a 20mph speed limit in the village in due course. Councillors should feedback to the CC following a meeting to discuss later in September.
- h. Bus Services - A village group has been formed to investigate options.

Following a meeting in June organised by Jim Fairlie's office, feedback was provided that a community bus would have to be a collective group through a specific entity involving St Fillans, Comrie and potentially Crieff. A community bus would need to be managed and drivers would need to be available.

There are still ongoing conversations with P & K about the current timetables and the longer assessment of usage during the summer.

Please contact Donna Littler if interested in running the bus group to explore options and it will be added to the CC village groups. It was highlighted this would need to be investigated through a special group due to the work involved to investigate options.

- i. Sandison Hall WiFi is being installed on Friday 30th August. An update will be sent out to the village when complete. Thank you to all involved in organising.
- j. The new village website is now up and running, a huge thank you to John Littler and Don Forrester for all their hard work to achieve this.
- k. Fibre update – Morrisons telecom have been contracted by Openreach and they have been carrying out surveys in the village. An update will be sent out to the village when there is more information.

5. Planning applications

2024/0181/HAE

Proposal: Replacement of single storey extension and removal of first storey extension

Location: Earnholm (formally Ardchoille), St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Kelly Hillard

2024/0182/LBC

Proposal: Replacement of single storey extension and removal of first storey extension with associated alterations to fenestration and internal works

Location: Earnholm (formally Ardchoille), St Fillans

Applicant: Mrs Kelly Hillard

6. Village Working Groups

a. Garden Group (Including Still)

There are several jobs that require work throughout the village, the garden group is organising a work party on Saturday 14th September at 10am. Anyone wishing to join the garden group please contact any of the following Gary Loudon, Audrey Gavigan, Trish Forrester or Daisy Murray.

Still Project.

The meeting with the subcontractor on 31st May was very constructive and we have received a quotation for the work to build the base and install Still. The quotation come in higher than expected because of rising costs and we have had to continue to fund raise. We have several applications in progress for funding, and to date we have been awarded £2500 from the Jimmie Cairncross Trust. We require another £3000 plus contingency.

Crieff may be setting up another Art Trail.

b. Paths Group

Railway path is progressing albeit very slowly. As there have been funding cuts, there has been a delay.

Minimum maintenance this year but if anything is spotted that needs to be done, please advise Geoff Hardman-Carter.

Training for the path power brush to be organised.

Thank you for everyone's understanding when the path was shut to allow the BBC to do some filming for their television programme The Primrose Railway Children. As part if this, the graffiti has been removed from the tunnel.

c. Festive Committee

The Festive Committee would like to thank everyone that helped to set up the weekend and all those that attended.

Friday night was very busy, Saturday numbers were lower, especially the afternoon, Sunday was a success and good feedback regarding the band The Erratics.

There are still some expenses to be settled, so no final figure for the weekend yet.

A huge thank you to the Festive Committee from the CC and village for the organising of a great weekend.

d. Play Park Group

The Play Park Group is looking to have a tidy up session at the end of the season. A call for volunteers to help will be sent out in due course.

e. Cultural Heritage Group

The church annex will be open on Mondays between 1pm and 2pm for villagers or visitors to view the village archives.

It is hoped that the Heritage Group might start again in the new year.

f. Local Place Plan

The local place plan will have a review next year.

7. AOB

a. Councillors Updates

i. Rhona to forward an email to the CC regarding the 20mph speed limit. There is a meeting on the 19th September to confirm the 20mph limit for St Fillans. The variable speed signs have helped in Methven, these are requested for St Fillans. The speed bumps at Dalginross have helped the speeding there. Request for any updates to be sent to the CC, so that the information can be shared with the village.

ii. The meeting held in Comrie in August with Tree Story, Oxygen Conservation and Scottish Forestry, there were a lot of questions raised and some scepticism expressed. Oxygen Conservation's business includes ECO Tourism, landscape renewals, nature restoration as well as the Low Carbon wind farm. Donna Littler has requested a meeting with Oxygen Conservation.

The CC is to meet up with the St Fillans Community Trust to discuss community benefits from the wind farms and our options.

iii. Bus timetables were handed over.

iv. Baillie Rhona Brock and Councillor Stewart Donaldson are visiting the Griffin Windfarm.

v. SSE Hydro fund to open in September.

- b. The SSE Works at the weir – Complaints have been made to SSER and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Parks Planning by neighbours directly affected and villagers.

Emails have also been written to Ward Councillors, MSP's and MP Pete Wishart.

MP Pete Wishart has written to LLTNP planning on behalf of the village.

Villagers expressed anger at the lack of transparency by SSER, as they applied to planning in March 2023 and were advised to contact the Community Council. It was discussed that no contact was made until June 2024 when a letter was sent out advising of some upcoming works to be completed at the weir. No details of the size and impact of the construction were supplied at that time which contributed to the letter appearing like the works were more general maintenance and small-scale improvements in nature.

Villagers fed back that LLTNP Planning and SSER have said this construction has been allowed under Permitted Development Rights, even though St Fillans is a conservation village and is subject to Article 4 direction, which is a statement that can remove some or all of the permitted development rights in certain areas under certain circumstances.

Villagers highlighted that St Fillans is a conservation village, as such they must keep the front of their houses the same, they are not allowed to install double glazing, solar panels and it feels they must go to lengths to make any changes to their properties. There was opinion expressed that it feels perverse that SSER have been allowed permission to build this building without any consultation with the village.

It was also highlighted that when the screen is cleaned, it appears that any resulting debris is being transferred directly into the river on the other side of the weir.

It was highlighted St Fillans did vote to become a conservation village; the question was raised as to whether St Fillans could vote to reverse this decision. This is to be investigated.

The CC and villagers have requested a meeting with SSER.

The CC have requested a general meeting with LLTNP planning to help villagers understand the planning processes and the reasons for some decisions as well as discuss feedback to help improve local relationships.

- c. If any villagers would like a copy of the speeding data, please contact members@stfillanscc.co.uk
- d. P & K's Community Investment Fund is open, closing date is 6th September.
- e. Perthshire Open Studios – St Fillans taking part again this year, helped by some P & K Rural Events funding. It will be open 6th to 8th September from 10am to 4pm with artist demonstrations each day if anyone would like to have a go! There are three new artists this year.

There will also be a village preview evening on Thursday 5th September from 7pm to 9pm, invitation to go out this week.
- f. The Community Council were thanked for all their hard work to support the village.

- g. There was a request for the CC to write to P & K to try and get a new sign for Drummond Lane as this has been broken for some time. A letter of complaint has been written to Bear Scotland regarding the workmanship repairing dislodged kerbstones outside Cairndhu. Lorna Kennelly to forward any reference numbers onto Donna Littler.
- h. If any volunteers are interested in joining the Community Council, please contact Donna Littler.

8. Date and time of AGM and next Community Council meeting.

Wednesday 18th October 2024 at 7:30pm in the Sandison Hall, St Fillans