



Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council

Public Meeting: **Friday 12th August 2022 at 7 pm** in Burntisland Burgh Chambers, High Street, Burntisland.

Minutes

Present: Alex MacDonald (Chairman), Fiona Watson (Treasurer), Anne Smith (Secretary), Yvonne Crombie, Ken Littlemore, Carol McLeod, Tim Hailey, Jim Sheridan, Lynne Ralph (from 7.20pm).

Attending: Cllr Julie MacDougall, Iain Ralph (Chairman Burntisland Central Tenants and Residents Association, CTRA), Jayne Searles & Nicki Francis (Burntisland Community Development Trust, BCDT), Michael Booth (for the Burgh Buzz), Karen Speirs (Burntisland Youth Theatre, BYT), Mahyar Nickkho-Amiry (Pharmacist, Dears pharmacy business), and seven other members of the public (MoP).

Apologies: Clare Slater, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Brendan Burns, Cllr Leslie Backhouse, Bill Kirkhope (Editor, Burgh Buzz)

1. **Chairman** Alex MacDonald

Alex welcomed all and introduced Mahyar, as representative of Dears Pharmacy which runs the business with the shop and pharmacy locker in the High Street. Iain asked for the Induction Loop system to be switched on and Alex confirmed that it was already operating. Additional agenda items were requested under 22a (Beacon seaside car park) and 22b (signage for jet skis).

2. **Conflicts of interest:** None Alex MacDonald

3. **Minutes of Previous Public Meeting** (June 10thth 2022) Alex MacDonald

Approved. (Proposed by Ken, Seconded by Tim).

4. **Matters arising** Alex MacDonald

a. Social media: Alex, Ken and Carol to be added as Facebook administrators

Still to be actioned. Yvonne offered to speak to Brendan.

b. Rail Station subgroup

Deferred. To be reformed. Cllr MacDougall expressed interest and Lynne had previously expressed interest.

c. Burntisland Common Good:

(i) Audit Scotland response to Alex's recent letter: None yet received

(ii) Burgh Regalia and artefacts whereabouts and listing by Fife Council. Alex will contact Fife Cultural Trust to enquire and will liaise with Ian Archibald of Burntisland Heritage Trust (BHT).

5. New item: Community pharmacy provision Lynne/Carol/Alex/Mahyar Nickkho-Amiry

Mo Ameen's application for a second community pharmacy in the town was turned down by the Pharmacy Practice Committee (PPC), a division of NHS Fife. Carol attended the meeting and reported that Mo gave a good account of the need for an additional pharmacy to Lloyds. Mo is submitting an appeal and Alex has written in support of this. Mahyar explained that the PPC is made up of two members of the Area Pharmacy Committee (APC), two lay members, and the Chairman. Alex reported that the APC members of the PPC were later known to be against the application for an additional pharmacy, but this had not been made known to him and Carol as BCC representatives and so the process seemed to him unfair. Mahyar reported that Mo would have been fully aware of the issues as he had had similar issues in having his application for Townhill approved, and that it had taken two and a half years and the support of the local Cllrs to gain final approval. Mahyar informed the meeting that Mo's is the first application and that NHS Fife had confirmed that there are four other notes of interest to meet to discuss a potential application. Each is consecutively considered, appealed etc. before the next can be considered etc. The process is so arduous and prolonged that Dears decided not to apply for approval for an additional Burntisland pharmacy and instead decided to operate a prescription locker system. He made it clear that the PPC do not consider this to be a pharmacy and therefore it neither needs PPC approval nor does it affect the chances of approval of any other pharmacy applications. Dears may consider an application for a Kinghorn pharmacy. Mahyar explained briefly how the prescription locker system works: The locker looks a bit like a cash machine (ATM) and is in the external foyer of the High Street health and beauty store. Prescriptions are processed in the normal way by the off site Dears pharmacies and the prescribed drugs/devices can be collected 24/7 from the locker or delivered to the patient's home. Dears is a firm run by two couples: Barrie and Lesley Dear, and Mahyar Nickkho-Amiry and his wife, Sara. It operates several such lockers and community pharmacies in Central Fife and Edinburgh. Mahyar stressed the level of training of the pharmacists, who are prescribers, and their community service focus. Although they do not have a pharmacist on site in Burntisland, advice can be obtained by telephone to one of its pharmacists in their pharmacy locations. Two MoP recounted how Lloyds seems unable to fill all of their prescribed medicines and lamented that though the town population has grown, it is still serviced by just one community pharmacy. Alex explained that different pharmacies use different suppliers and this may be why Lloyds is sometimes unable to fill a prescription. Mahyar explained that Dears, being an independent business, uses a range of suppliers to minimise the risk of being unable to fill a

prescription. He also mentioned the business's ecological awareness. Fiona reminded the meeting that there used to be two pharmacies in the town. Anne said that at a time when it seems increasingly difficult to recruit healthcare staff like GPs and nurses to medical practices, it seems short sighted of NHS Fife not to invest in community pharmacists who can offer a healthcare service beyond prescriptions. She asked Cllr MacDougall how much local Cllrs can influence NHS Fife's decisions. Cllr MacDougall explained that she is still easing into her new role but is keen to be involved and will have further discussions with Mahyar. As an example of healthcare, he said their pharmacies provide an ear wax removal service when there is a 38 week waiting list for this on the NHS. He advised that Burntisland generates about 10,000 prescription items per month and suggested that if the locker processed 2,000 per month, this would make a good case for an additional community pharmacy to NHS Fife. On an enquiry from a MoP on Aberdour pharmacy, he said it contributes about 1,000 per month, 'based on information available as part of freedom of information'. It was reported that there have been comments on Facebook about Lloyds reducing their opening hours from 8 hours per day to 6 hours per day, suggesting that Lloyds is failing to cope with current demand. Suggestions were made on posting a short video on social media showing how the locker process works, and on submitting a piece for the Burgh Buzz, Burntisland's quarterly magazine delivered to all local households.

Reports, Updates & Standing items:

6. Treasurer

Fiona Watson

The current statement of account was emailed to members before the meeting. Fiona confirmed that Fife Council (FC) are yet to invoice for the new Links trees. The lease of the Burgh Chambers for the Exiles reception cost £236, far in excess of the original quote. The cost was inflated by FC's insistence on the caretaker being present throughout the 9-1 lease hours and paid double time because FC considered it a Public Holiday. Given the inability of FC to switch off the heating or supply potable water, this seems very poor value. BCC provides the Exiles Reception as a Civic Function, and has no say in the date. The presence of the caretaker has not been mandated in previous years. Cllr MacDougall agreed to speak to FC Kirkcaldy Area Manager, Julie Dixon about the matter. She will also take up the matter of the change in policy at FC on payment of the recurring costs of the Christmas Lights. If FC make the payment, as they have previously done, they can reclaim the VAT, whereas if BCC make the payments directly to Blachere from the approved Local Committee Planning Budget (LCPB) application, BCC must pay the VAT and cannot reclaim it.

7. Secretary

Anne Smith

- a. **Notice board renovation** Union St (£690+VAT The Evolve Group & awaiting quotation from Thistle Locks.)
- b. **Common Good Fund applications guidance:** Kinghorn CC (RBKCC) recently shared their guidance with BCC. Members agreed to adopt similar guidance for members. ***Fiona will review it and present to members.***
- c. **East Broomhill ownership:** Cllr MacDougall was given the same advice by Michael McArdle at FC Estates – East Broomhill is not owned by FC nor part of Burntisland Common Good. The owner and management responsibility is unknown.
- d. **Young Community Hall:** Email to Alex from Karen Speirs at Burntisland Youth Theatre (BYT) about the Young Community Hall being unusable due to work costed at £40,000 being required, which FC have said they will not fund: Karen (and Andy) were present at the meeting able to explain the situation. BYT have used the Young hall for 47 years and previously had good support from FC. The Hall was closed during Covid pandemic restrictions and there were hopes of returning to normal this year. FC had requested that the Hall be made compliant with various issues e.g. Fire Safety, water supply etc. BYT worked to ensure all compliance checks were done and any work carried out to legal requirements. However, recently she entered the Hall to find that all the stage lights (belonging to BYT) had been taken down. On enquiry, she was told it was because the rigs on which they were mounted were deemed unsafe/inadequate. BYT had a meeting with FC staff who said they will not remount the lights and instead arranged a quotation from a private company for the work, which was £40,000+. FC said they cannot afford to pay this. This sum is also beyond the ability of BYT to pay. BYT have approached both ExxonMobil and Shell, who have both offered to assist with costs. Karen reported how BYT have remodeled the Hall over the years and passionately pled that this theatre is needed by the town, particularly its young people. Andy reported that FC said a structural engineer report is required and that the FC building inspector is aware and will do a site visit. Karen queried how remedial work was done in only 2015 but the facility has now been condemned. Karen was asked what type of community organisation BYT is, and replied that it is not a charity. Yvonne advised that BYT approach Fire Voluntary Action (FVA) for advice on becoming a charity as this will make fundraising much easier. Karen stated that FC 'look after' the structure of the building but BYT are responsible for the interior fixtures, fittings etc. Anne asked if BYT leases the Young Hall under normal arrangements or has a special lease agreement. Karen replied that BYT does not hold any special agreement and leases under normal conditions. Anne was therefore perplexed as to how FC could expect BYT to make

good interior fittings such as lighting rigs, when the building is owned and leased by FC as part of Burntisland Common Good. Karen explained that although the original lighting rigs were mounted with FC permission, the lights they now support are heavier than those originally used and so the rigs are now unsafe to use with those lights. Tim advised BYT look beyond local funding sources and that there are lots of funding sources available to youth groups and theatre and arts groups. Yvonne explained the Toll Community Centre (TCC) situation. TCC is a charity with trustees forming a management board. The charity owns the Toll Community Centre but has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FC, which provides TCC with £15,000 annually. She suggested a similar model might work for BYT. BYT are not the only group using the Hall. There is a Junior Youth Theatre, a dance group and other youth groups who use the Hall. Lynne spoke for BCC when she said that BYT is vital to the town. Alex was wary that this seems part of a growing trend for FC to expect local communities and community groups to fund their facilities and renovations. Karen said BYT is open to suggestions and seeks funding to replace the lighting rigs.

8. Planning (& Local Place Plan) Tim Hailey

Nothing contentious. A notification from FC licensing about the Golf Club extending its facilities to include an outdoor bar area and licensing hours did not appear to contain all the information. However, given the site at the edge of town and well screened from local homes, BCC has no objections.

9. Police Carol McLeod

No Community Police were in attendance. The recently received police report looks like a 'cut and paste' job from the last report and is not very helpful. Anne informed attending MoP that the most recent Police Report can be found on the BCC website Minutes page. It's unclear how successful the police use of the Toll High Street Hub is. Yvonne says that the last date was not notified to her and MoP attending to report crimes have been disappointed that this is not how the police are using the Hub. Anne said it seemed farcical that the Police have closed the local Police Station before identifying a suitable alternative, and then used the old Police Station on Games Day because they had no other suitable local facility! It was reported that the police have also requested to use the Young Hall for toilet and tea stops...

10. Christmas Lights: Anne Smith

The BCC application to FC LCPB for £4.5K was approved (see Treasurers report item 6.) Fiona advised BCC we postpone any decision on a possible Burntisland Common Good Fund (BCGF) application meantime. This can be made later if required. The electrician estimate

for removing broken fairy lights from live trees end of year and fixing War memorial tree lights is £774 inc. VAT – This was approved. The purchase of four new (ex hire) motif column lights from Blachere, similar to current lights to extent display down High St at cost £1070.40 inc VAT. Current recurring costs for 18 Blachere lights is £3780; additional recurring costs for new lights is £840. Purchase was approved. On-going fundraising proposed (with help of Elizabeth Percy & Lee-Anne Purvis.) Plan Big Raffle to draw at the Concert on 3rd December. Please donate any potential raffle prizes via Anne. A Big Green Market donation is expected in October.

11. Community Action Plan (with BCDT)

Alex MacDonald/Nicki Francis

A meeting was held on 11th July with Lesley Campbell of Star Developments, Alex, Tim and Anne from BCC and Jo Hobbett, and two Trustees of BCDT. BCDT supports Jo and Nicki doing community consultation as BCDT development workers. Jo and Nicki are currently surveying visitors to the beach and Links areas. Preliminary results have highlighted provision of parking and public toilets as issues.

12. Merchant Navy Day & Remembrance Sunday

Ken Littlemore

Merchant Navy day is Saturday 3rd September and Ken and John Bruce are organising a short service outside the Burgh Chambers at 10.45am on Friday 2nd September. Rev Alexander Ritchie will lead the service, the Red Ensign will be raised, and Piper Andy Aitken will play the lament.

Remembrance Sunday is 13th November: The Parade paperwork has been submitted to FC and promptly approved. The church service will be at Burntisland Parish Church. The police have been informed. The BCC wreath for the War Memorial will be ordered shortly. There will be a reception for adults in Burntisland Burgh Chambers and for children of the represented Youth Organisations at the Parish Church Halls. The BPC hall has previously been provided free but this year a lease fee may be requested due to concerns over potential heating costs. Iain suggested SSAFA or the Royal British Legion may be able to help defer costs.

13. Fife Tourism Partnership

Anne Smith

FC has engaged Glamis Consultancy to consult with CCs on the Fife Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan. Glamis will meet BCC reps Anne, Elizabeth and Clare by Zoom on Tuesday evening. BCC hopes this might be an opportunity to highlight our local lack of tourist infrastructure.

14. Environment (Including Links & Paths)

Anne Smith

a. Bus shelter (Cllr Backhouse) FC say replacement unsuitable for LPCB. **Deferred.**

- b. Advertising banners at Porte in Conservation Area: no response from email to FC Planning
- c. FC planters : Request a copy of the FC Grounds Maintenance Service (GMS) Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Links, greenspaces etc. ***Cllr MacDougall will provide email contact details for current FC GMS lead.***
- d. East prom erosion, contacted FC GMS but no response so far
- e. A community litter pick of the Links (including the Games Arena), prom & beach took place on Thursday 14th July by 23 volunteers, employees of the Scott Group. A thank you email was sent.
- f. Core Path 478 (Links & onward route): Allan Maclean confirmed he is progressing a list of action points and he is interested in a link route from Forth Place to Fife Coastal Path by Red Pond suggested by Burntisland Harbour Access Trust (BHAT).
- g. Meadowfield path upgrading, lighting & adoption by Fife Council. Allan Mclean has confirmed by email that he will progress this with Fife Council in 2023.
- h. Pot holes: Cllr MacDougall was requested to make clear that the A921 between Burntisland Kinghorn, which was recently top dressed and relined, should not be 'signed off' until the potholes are also filled in and the road surface is satisfactory.
- i. Street lighting for the Links paths and prom: This is likely to be contentious and it was suggested it form part of the community consultation to be carried out for the new Community Action Plan by the BCDT development workers (Jo and Nicki).

15. **Burgh Buzz**

Michael Booth

The paper copies of the current Buzz are being distributed.

Updates (Other & Awaiting):

16. **Games Day** (Exiles reception & Parade)

Yvonne Crombie

This was felt to be successful. Exiles from various corners of the globe were welcomed, along with local dignitaries. In all 90 people attended the Burgh Chambers (counted by clicker borrowed from Burntisland Heritage Trust, BHT). Sugar and Spice provided the buffet and volunteer helpers included Martha, Grace & Gordon Langlands, and Elizabeth Percy. The parade left five minutes early and there were minor issues of congestion at the west Links car park. The car parking arrangements for next year should be reviewed at the 'wash up' meeting – out of bay parking caused issues for an ambulance exiting the car park area.

17. **Parking Subgroup**

Anne/Lynne/Jim

A number of parking surveys were carried out and the group needs to meet again to review these and present options to BCC. Suggestions include making the west Links, Beacon and

Beacon seaside car parks short term 2 hours only, except for Blue Badge holders (and enforced by parking attendants) and requesting that FC develop the old roundhouse car park with a surface and lines as an all-day car park with charges e.g. £2 per day. **Meeting tbc.**

18. Links water feature

Anne Smith

The Splash Survey has been suspended. The results are on the BCC website of 238 responses – overwhelmingly positive. These results and an analysis of all the many comments were forwarded to Clair Lovett & colleagues at FC requesting update on progress. A response is awaited. The Splash Group plan to meet again on Monday (*postponed.*)

19. Community Emergency Plan subgroup

Alex MacDonald

No progress.

20. Fair

Alex MacDonald/Tim Hailey

- a. State of the Links – walk over with FC GMS: This to be actioned after the Fair has left next weekend.
- b. Feedback on Event arrangements to Fife Council. A date for a ‘wash up’ meeting with FC is awaited.

21. Burgh Chambers

Alex MacDonald

- a. Investigate wi-fi possibilities: BHT now has better Wi-Fi and Alex is optimistic that combined in-person and Zoom meetings will be possible. **To be trialed at October meeting.**
- b. Consider moving BCC meetings to Erskine main hall which has good all abilities access and a small car park (indicative price £20 ea & confirmed available). There was a division of opinion amongst all meeting attendees between those who wish to continue to meet in the wonderful atmosphere of the old Council Chamber at the burgh chambers and those who wish to move BCC meetings to an all abilities accessible location e.g. Erskine Hall or Salvation Army Hall. Possibilities of moving some of the meetings to a more accessible location was agreed but a **decision on dates was deferred.**

22. Additional items:

- a. Beacon seaside car park and mobile homes. This is an issue all around the Fife Coast and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) are trialing possible solutions at Elie and Kings Barns. The Parking subgroup will consider the issue.
- b. A sign for jet skiers was requested for the slipway requesting skiers keep away from the inner bay where there are swimmers and non-powered watersports. *Anne will contact FCCT to request this (actioned.)*

23. AOCB - nil

Date of next public meeting: 9th September 2022 at 7pm at the Burgh Chambers

Alex, Fiona and Lynne are unable to attend the next meeting. It is hoped that Brendan Burns, Vice Chair, will be able to chair the meeting.