



**Ceres and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Monday 09 January 2023**  
**Craigrothie Village Hall**

**Present:** Moira Henderson (Chair), David Beveridge, Christine Hudson, John Hudson, and seven members of the public.

**Zoom:** Alistair Ewan, Faith Nicholson, Amy Ross-Henderson, John Borland, Cllr Margaret Kennedy and five members of the public.

**Apologies:**

1. **Welcome:** Moira Henderson (Chair) welcomed all attendees, both in the hall and on Zoom, to the public meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
2. **Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for the previous meeting on 14 November 2022 were confirmed as formally approved by the Community Council and are available to the public.
3. **Flooding in Ceres:** The Chair noted that, as a result of recent heavy rainfall, Ceres again suffered a number of issues with flooding, some of which were serious and that this continues to be a major problem.
  - **Flood Pods:** It was noted that the flood pods had not yet been refilled and Cllr Kennedy offered to check on the background to this. It was noted that there can be difficulties in opening them, particularly in rain and in the dark and alternatives were discussed, including leaving them unlocked. However, it was noted the flood pods have been misused and that some residents have taken contents in advance of any need. Cllr Kennedy suggested issuing a flyer advising residents of correct use and to notify Fife Council of the requirement for replacements. It was noted that the flood pods are a reactive remedy and that proactive flood protection is responsibility of householders. It was also commented that reactive remedies can be too late and that some residents may have difficulties in taking appropriate measures.
  - **Flooding in Ceres:** The Chair summarised the main flood issues in Ceres, some of which could be easily resolved and others that are more challenging. The primary areas of concern are –
    1. A939 at junction with South Croftdyke, which may be due to blocked drain gullies and so could be solved by effective clearance.
    2. Wemysshall Road, which was recently seen as a flowing river.
    3. Moor Road due to a number of problems, which has consequences at the lower end of Moor Road, and also continuing further down Cupar Road.
    4. Cupar Road, including a number of side roads and adjacent properties.
    5. Main Street at Meldrums.
  - **Sub-committee:** Because the flooding occurs in a number of situations the solutions require detailed study and a composite plan of action. Therefore, a Community Council sub-committee

will be formed, which will also draw on known local expertise. Alistair Ewan confirmed that he had spoken to a number of key community people who we would engage with.

- **Open Debate:** Various members of the public offered comments and opinions.

It was noted that a problem exists due to a blocked road drain at the bottom of Cupar Road which has been consistently blocked for about four years. Similarly, the flooding on the B939 at South Croftdyke is also due to blocked road gullies.

A question from the floor queried who is ultimately responsible and Cllr Kennedy clarified that the proposed consultative process will advise Fife Council and a multi-agency meeting will plan a way forward.

A resident referred to personal flooding problems, partially caused by defective road kerbs, which results in excessive water run-off to the property and required to know how they can get action.

Alistair Ewan confirmed that the CC was in consultation with local experts and that investigative work had already been done. However, Cllr Kennedy clarified that we would have to work with the established systems and processes. A comment from the floor was that there should still be an established time limit.

4. **Ceres Traffic Consultation:** Fife Council proposals for Ceres traffic management improvements – The proposals are as discussed with C&DCC and are generally acceptable. We look forward to the implementation as soon as possible in 2023. Further details can be made available should anyone require them.

5. **Other Traffic Matters:**

- It is reported that the Fife Council standpoint on the traffic management on Wemysshall Road at the approach to Ceres remains unacceptable to local residents. The C&DCC position remains as previously stated, that serious consideration needs to be taken on extending the 20mph limit further out beyond all residential access and that the speed limit on the total length of Wemysshall Road needs to be reduced to 40mph.
- A member of the public enquired on the possibility of an effective speed control at the Loch Garage entry to Ceres on the B939. However, this has not been deemed feasible by Fife Council at that position in their conclusions of the new Ceres control measures.
- The proposed speed survey for the A916 and B939 through Craigrothie still remains a community priority. However, the survey availability is subject to high demand, but the programme for this will be monitored.
- The status of the collapsed retaining wall alongside the road from Ceres to Baldinnie, about 100m outside Ceres village boundary, was confirmed as still being in need of rectification.

6. **Ceres & District Community Trust Update**

- **New Gate from Wemysshall Road to Tarvit Mansion Grounds:** Alistair Ewan reported that it is hoped that the Fife Council and the National Trust will accept the proposals for a brown painted gate. The support of our elected Councillors was requested in the ongoing negotiations with FC planning officers.
- **The Glebe:** The Ceres Community Trust is still in protracted discussions with the Church of Scotland. Cllr Kennedy noted that these are currently difficult times for the Church.
- **Denhead Public Right of Way (Ceres Road to Old Mill Road):** The pathway is currently subject to water and mud problems due to run-off from the adjacent fields. Alistair Ewan reported that the planned drainage works are anticipated to be resolved soon.
- **Moor Road Footpath:** Now included under Ceres Drainage Planning.

7. **Status of Grit Bin at North Croftdyke:** Noted that the bin has finally been replaced.

## 8. Local Authority Planning Applications

- A planning proposal was noted for six houses at Baldinnie.

## 9. Police Report

- The Chair again commented on the limited availability and content of monthly police report and this was supported in various comments from the floor of the meeting which concurred in general dissatisfaction.
- General advice for reporting crimes and other emergency incidents can be found on the gov.scot website <https://www.mygov.scot/report-crime>
- The meeting with the Community Police in the “Coffee with a Cop” initiative was raised and it was commented that this may now happen at the Craigrothie Village Hall “Drop-in Tuesday” proposed for 07 March.

## 10. Local Road Maintenance Works

- The CC noted that the Fife Council website <https://www.fife.gov.uk/> has a facility for reporting on maintenance problems. This is effective and is relatively easy to use.
- The reported potholes adjacent to bridge in Ceres were noted and, although some work has been done, some of it may only be temporary. A more serious pothole has developed adjacent to the Ceres Primary School crossing.
- It was questioned whether Fife Council could back-charge contractors for poor quality work. However, it was observed that pothole repair is probably a low quality temporary solution basis because it is governed by finances. The realistic solution is higher quality road construction with effective drainage provision, which has high capital cost.

## 11. Resilience Group:

- Craigrothie Village Hall does have resilience planning and proposals for operating as a Warm Space. The Craigrothie co-ordinator is Kenny Macleod, who maintains contact with Fife Council.
- Cllr Kennedy noted that the Fife Council do have resilience plans and a lead for resilience, who is Sheena Robertson. The relevant details will be forwarded to the Chair.

## 12. Toilet Facility in Ceres: Following the report on the meeting with Fife Coastal Path and Fife Council regarding an upgrade of the public toilets in Ceres, there has been recent increased public interest and the Chair clarified the reasons for the discussions and the matter opened for further discussion.

- The primary reasoning for the upgrade is that because of the dilapidated condition and lack of maintenance, the toilets are not currently fit for purpose. Further, they have no disabled facilities, which is a relevant requirement for such a public facility.
- Refurbishment and upgrade requires funding, as does subsequent ongoing maintenance. The possible Fife Coastal Trust option under discussion could possibly provide both.
- Considerations under review are up-grading work, accessibility, overnight campervan parking, “pod” toilet/shower facilities for campers, payment systems for extra facilities, chemical toilet disposal facilities. This is not all-inclusive and subject to review, availability, suitability and (most important) finance availability.
- Whilst including campervan facilities for over-night stays is considered, it would be strictly limited and not impact on car parking generally. It is not the intention to turn the car park, or any part of it, into a campsite.
- Other positive suggested including the inclusion of solar panels, other environmental measures and viable charging systems.

- The important factor is to turn the toilets into a beneficial community facility for both villagers and visitors.
13. **Craigrothie Bus Shelter:** The bus shelter has been ordered but, to date, no other details are available.
14. **Warm Spaces**
- Approximately 25 residents attended the Craigrothie Village Hall Hogmanay celebration, which was also another test of using the Hall as a Warmth Space.
  - General discussion on Warm Spaces were primarily on the logistics of getting elderly and infirm residents to the Warm Space in any emergency.
15. **Proposals to Regenerate St Andrews Community Hospital:** As yet there is no further update on the status of the development of St Andrews Community Hospital, except that it has been necessary to re-submit the relevant information on the requirement for services..
16. **Any Other Business**
- **Car Parking at Loch Garage:** The congested parking at Loch Garage in Ceres was highlighted and questioned whether this was an issue.
  - **Wheelchair Access Taxis:** It was commented that it is nearly impossible to get a taxi with wheelchair accessibility. Cllr Kennedy will look into this but advised that this is a countrywide issue and one problem is recruiting drivers with the relevant skills.
  - **Attendance at CC Public Meetings:** A member of the public acknowledged that Zoom accessibility was essential during the pandemic but questioned whether this is relevant now, particularly as there were as many attendees on Zoom as in person at the Hall. It was noted that Zoom access continues because it assists those who are carers, have childcare responsibilities, work away, etc. It was also noted that in winter Zoom access can be vital. However, the point raised regarding attendance was generally supported in so much as the meetings are a valuable for members of the community to make their opinions heard and, whilst it may be easy to sit at home and complain on Facebook, the meetings are an opportunity for direct access to decision makers.
  - **Ceres Village Christmas Tree:** Faith Nicholson raised a vote of thanks to Dave Beveridge and his team for setting up the annual Ceres Christmas Tree, to The Village Café for hot chocolate and to Eddy's Food Station for the mince pies.

**The Meeting Ended: 9:00pm**

**Next Public Meeting: Monday 13 March 2023 at 7:30pm, Ceres Memorial Hall**