



**Ceres and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Monday 13 January 2025**  
**Craigrothie Village Hall**

**Present:** David Beveridge, Neil Martin, John Hudson, Cllr Margaret Kennedy, Cllr John Caffrey and seven members of the public.

**Zoom:** Moira Henderson, Alistair Ewan and Faith Nicholson.

**Apologies:** None.

**1. Welcome / Apologies / Chair Introduction:**

- David Beveridge stood in as Chair, because Moira Henderson attended on Zoom due to flu. The Chair welcomed all attendees to the public meeting, both in the Craigrothie Village Hall and on Zoom, wished all a happy and prosperous new year. The Chair noted that there were no apologies.

**2. Fife Community Councils**

- The Royal Bank of Scotland still needs to ratify an update of personnel for the Community Council account. Paperwork is ongoing and, subsequent to which, the formal grant application can be submitted to Fife Council.
- An in-person meeting is proposed, as some community councils, particularly in urban areas, do not receive sufficient grant to fund their commitments and a rebalancing is proposed. It was noted that unfortunately Fife Council are currently struggling financially and this may be difficult.

**3. Ceres & District Community Trust Update:** Alistair Ewan gave an update on the ongoing Community Trust activities and projects.

- **Ceres Church and Session Hall:** No further developments.
- **Ceres Memorial Hall:** The C&DC Trust is in the process of taking over the management of the Memorial Hall from the current Hall Trustees and achieve a transition to charitable status. The Ceres Memorial Hall Committee will remain responsible for the direct management of the hall.
- **The Glebe:** The 25-year lease arrangement continues to progress, but slowly. The final agreement between the Trust and Church of Scotland is possibly due for signatures by the end of January.

**4. Flooding in Ceres:**

- **Scottish Flood Forum:** The Scottish Flood Forum aims to maintain a network of community resilience groups in flood risk areas and assist communities in coping with flood problems.
- **Latch Burn Wall:** The wall built in Latch Burn at the back of Wemysshall Road is still obstructing the burn and remains a flood risk. It was noted that an enforcement order is in progress.
- **Ceres Flooding Update:** In response to questions, Cllr Margaret Kennedy mentioned the joint parties meeting of 22 April 2024, for which she had prepared notes. The notes have been subsequently updated four times and, for full clarity, a copy is appended to these minutes.

- **Cupar Road Gully Problem:** A persistent problem with a blocked gully on the left side of Cupar Road on the exit from Ceres. The gully regularly is blocked in heavy rain and, as a result, surface water floods down Cupar Road. The underlying problem is probably that run-off from the fields above carry silt that blocks the gully and/or drain. The current solution of flushing the gully and drain does not work, but real answer is probably too expensive for Fife Council resources.

#### 5. **Traffic Matters:**

- **Craigrothie and Chance Inn Traffic Calming Measures:** An update was given on Fife Council plans, primarily concerned the commencement of work, which is anticipated for 25 January 2025 (other work scheduling, weather, etc. permitting). It was reiterated that updates on the plans / status are essential, including Community Council consultation on the subsequent traffic survey strategy.
- **Wemysshall Road:** Traffic increases each year, as St Andrews-Glenrothes traffic bypass Cupar. Residents have raised various points, including reports that traffic speeds in the 20mph zone are still exceeded, requests for a 40mph limit on the entire road, proposals for a warning sign at Old Mill Road by “Jeans Gate” stating “Pedestrians Crossing” and the road should be gritted.
- **Pop-Up Bob:** Pop-Up Bob was reported facing uphill before Craigrothie Primary School on morning of 10 December 2024 and other locations.
- Cllrs Margaret Kennedy and John Caffrey committed to take up transportation issues with police.
- A member of the public raised the proposed changes in scheduling for the Moffat & Williamson 64 bus, which could potentially adversely affect workers and school children. These should be resisted as the scheduling works well and many journeys are subsidised by Fife Council.

#### 6. **Area Internet & Mobile Phone Connection**

- **Update on Recent Discussions:** Neil Martin gave an update on connectivity issues and reiterated that the BT Openreach response to Wendy Chamberlain MP was unsatisfactory.
- Wendy Chamberlain MP has followed up on the meeting with Community Councillors at her recent surgery and it appears that the district could get full fibre in four years. This is not acceptable and Neil Martin will respond on this.

#### 7. **Local Authority Planning Applications**

- The proposals for housing at Baltilly are approved and will go ahead. The Community Council accepts that there are a number of views on both sides for the development. However, it is unlikely that anything will happen on site until September, which is good news for the Ceres Highland Games.
- There were no reports of any new significant planning applications.
- There is a proposed meeting involving Fife Council and Fife Community Councils to discuss the next 5-year plan for development.

#### 8. **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.
- **Dangerous edge erosion near reservoir on Garlie Bank.** Fife Council had committed to effect temporary repairs but this was poor quality work and has since washed away. The damage is still in a dangerous condition and other potholes are appearing further up and down from this location. This situation has been getting worse for several months and Fife Council have failed to address the increasingly dangerous situation. The road is a main A-road and, in general, the condition of the complete road from Craigrothie to Cupar is unacceptably poor and requires serious attention.
- The wall in the field adjacent to Anstruther Road is still collapsed. However, there are differing opinions as to the responsibility for the repair work.

- Landslide on road to New Gilston is still coned off but there is no sign of any repair being planned.
- It was again reported that the speed flashing sign at the entry to Ceres from Craigrothie has not been working for some time.
- The potholes on either side of the crossing in Ceres have been repaired.
- It was reported that the grit bin lower down Old Mill Road in Craigrothie is empty and unusable.
- **Abuse of Disabled Parking Spaces Cupar/St Andrews:** Whilst there is concern regarding the misuse of disabled parking spaces, together with overall issues of provision, it does require wider awareness outside of the Community Council remit. Unfortunately, it was concluded that any solutions lie beyond the remit of this Community Council.
- **Accessibility in Ceres:** However, Cllr Margaret Kennedy suggests that to Community Council should consider how this could be achieved. The Community Council agreed to consult locally, in particular with those directly affected. Cllr Kennedy would discuss further with Fife Council.

#### 9. **NHS Fife Annual Review**

- A 30 September 2024 article in the Courier detailed the debt that Fife Health and Social Care Partnership has accrued and noted the possible reductions in service funding of £12m and proposals for permanent cuts in the Out of Hours and minor injuries services.
- Cllr Margaret Kennedy advised that there will be a formal consultation and will monitor the situation..

#### 10. **Police Matters**

- Incidents reporting on gov.scot website <https://www.mygov.scot/report-crime>
- A community newsletter was issued in December.
- There has been no update regarding the potential Coffee With A Cop.
- It was noted that there was no formal police presence at the 2024 Ceres Highland Games, despite the attendance of possibly 4,000 and this was due to policing for an Orange Rally elsewhere. Because of the crowd size and traffic closures the potential for problems is high and the lack of police in attendance is not acceptable for the district public safety.

#### 11. **Resilience Groups & Warm Places / Spaces**

- Chris Goodman – team lead in Ceres.
- Kenny McLeod

#### 12. **Any Other Business**

- **Craigrothie Village Hall:** Craigrothie Village Hall needs refurbishment and improvements in insulation. Plans are in place but this will require funding and the management committee have a target of £22,000 to be raised by a crowd funding programme. At the same time match funding has been committed from Aviva.

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

**Next Public Meeting: Monday 10 March 2025 at 7:30pm, Ceres Memorial Hall.**

## **(ORIGINAL) MEETING NOTES CERES FLOOD MEETING – 22.04.24**

MK advised the meeting that there was no set agenda. The following was proposed:

- Community members to identify their top priorities.
- A description would be provided.
- Each of them would be reflected upon in turn clarifying actions.

A simple note would be taken by MK.

### **Attendees**

Cllr Margaret Kennedy (Chair & organiser)

Moira Henderson, Dave Beveridge, Alistair Ewan – members of CC working group

Dave Stewart and Darren Cooper of DT Stewart local Drainage Contractors

Bill Liddle – Service Manager, Transportation Fife Council

Willie Rennie, MSP (joined during item 3)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

MK welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

MK indicated that there was no set agenda however the suggestion was that the community members would be asked to identify their top priorities, provide some narrative and then Bill would be asked to reflect back with thoughts on a way forward. All agreed.

### **Priorities**

1. Bridgend
2. Anstruther Road
3. Wemysshall Road

### **Bridgend**

Water run off the Moor Road into a ditch which runs around Gladney Loan then crosses the road (piped) at Bridgend. Historically always flooded with some improvement following previous gully work. However, the red gravel gets washed out and blocks drains.

#### Key points for consideration:

- The planning permissions for the site expected a tarmacadam finish not the red gravel – due to changes in land ownership it is understood that this land belongs to the Crown.
- Some of the road is starting to erode.
- Carrier pipe too small?
- Manhole cover as a grid.
- Latch Cottage at risk.
- Blocked drain on Cupar Road (right hand side coming into Ceres) just before Moor Road.

#### Reflection/Actions:

MK will contact Planning to see if there is anything which can be actioned through the Enforcement route. Response awaited.

Bill stated that he will investigate this area further: email feedback post meeting:

*"We were made aware of a continuing issue here recently so this will be included in the next programme of work which will be issued to our Jetting Contractor who will be able to jet the system coming down Cupar Road."*

#### Update June 2024:

Just caught up with the member of staff who was looking at this. The manhole has been installed recently and was to reduce the volume of water coming down Cupar Road and dropping it straight into a culvert.

#### Update November 2024:

- Following discussion with the Crown Estate they have indicated that they would not take on the red gravel area.
- The pipe size was limited to what it would be discharging to in the manhole in the adopted footway.

#### **Anstruther Road**

Flooding in this area is directly impacting on properties. Significant run off from fields which is bringing considerable amounts of soil which increases the detrimental impact. Significantly exacerbated due to the broccoli crop.

#### Key points for consideration:

- There is a ditch on the Anstruther Road which is blocked for some time and the surface water is therefore coming out of the ditch and down the road into the village.
- This year will see a cereal crop going into the field which will hopefully have any surface water run off cleaner!
- There is a water course nearby which goes into a pipe and runs down into Castlegait.
- We need the silt out of the system.
- The recently installed speed table is exacerbating property flooding – properties in School Hill are being directly flooded from surface water collecting and spilling over rather than draining away at the table.
- Kerbing had been requested by MK for the properties on Anstruther Road.

#### Reflection/Actions:

Bill will contact Traffic Management to review the table and feedback.

*Bill has been in discussion with Traffic Management. There is a proposal to put in an ACO channel. Also awaiting outcome of the meeting stated in next sentence.*

A meeting is planned to take place with Mr Crighton and Transport Network Team. MK requested feedback.

Kerbing has been agreed; awaiting specification – MK has chased.

#### Update June 2024:

After a meeting with the Crichton brothers from Craighall Mains, Ross Walker and myself the following have been identified and actioned:

- 1. The roadside ditches at the top of the hill require clearing and pipes exposed. Ross has raised a works order
- 2. The field access next to Upper Dargus - there is an triangular area of land which the Crichtons deny owning. A title deed search was negative, so Sara Wilson agreed that it should be added to the road adoption layer and we will dig some ditching to divert any run off into the roadside ditch. To be added to the works order.
- 3. Corner of the field at the junction with Doves Loan access road. – The Crichtons have raised a bund at the end of the field to catch any water runoff. They will dig a small ditch to drain any water into the roadside ditch.
- 4. The ditches to either side of the Doves Loan access road are choked and contributing to flooding. I have identified the owner who is responsible and issued an enforcement letter last week. Awaiting a reply.

#### Update September 2024:

1.Feedback regards the drainage channel at the speed table:

“I will get the instruction issued during the next week (w/b 09/09) and then we will be waiting for ordering of materials, allocation of resources and programme capacity.”

2.The kerb raising has still to be programmed. There are sadly a lot of outstanding orders like this to complete however the team will do these works when resources become available.

#### Update November 2024:

- A works order has been instructed for the installation of a channel drain along one side, which should be able to take the surface water run-off if the road gully is at capacity during heavy rain.

#### **Wemysshall Road**

Those that have lived in the area for more than 35 years flooding has been a constant. Surface water gathers to the west of Ceres on Wemysshall Road.

#### Key points for consideration:

- The Latch Burn runs parallel and is lower than the road. Unfortunately, surface water runs away from the burn and pours out at the 20mph sign.
- Although the road gullies take the water the houses before the gullies are being flooded before the water reaches them. 3 properties are directly affected with 1 of them having blocked up their gate. There have been 4 flooding events this past winter.
- Would a pipe/grid further back to capture the water at the entry to Ceres help?
- Would directing the water to the Craigrothie burn help?
- Would a SUDS help?

#### Reflection/Actions:

Prior to the meeting Bill had spoken to Michael Anderson in Infrastructure who has progressed works for additional manholes in the area. The meeting was concerned that perhaps that would not be sufficient and perhaps a large grid to optimise the draining of surface water could be needed.

Description of planned works:

“They are looking at installing a manhole cover with “holes” to allow flood water to drain quicker. Not sure how big the holes are but the manhole manufacturing industry does make them but don’t want to send you a picture of one in case it is something entirely different. The holes would have to be large enough so they wouldn’t clog up. My initial thoughts are that this will serve a similar purpose as a grid.”

MK emailed Bill to seek an update – still to speak with Officer and will come back to MK with further information on timelines.

#### **Update June 2024:**

Just caught up with the member of staff who was looking at this. The manhole which is being referred to isn’t for Wemysshall Rd. It was for Bridgend and that has been installed recently and was to reduce the volume of water coming down Cupar Road and dropping it straight into a culvert.

There is a manhole in Wemyshall Rd adjacent to the installed carriageway grills which access’ the culvert which goes across the road. Can’t put a “holed” manhole here as it is in the footpath.

#### **Update September 2024:**

The main issue at this location is field runoff, however the team has been asked to investigate if there is any additional gullies or kerb drains which can be installed. However, this would not solve the problem as the issue is the quantity of water coming from the fields.

#### **AOCB**

Moor Road Path – further works were required by SGN – it was intimated that D.S.Stewart had been asked to provide costings – good news, clearly progress. Thanks to Willie Rennie MSP for his support.

#### **Bow Butts Car Park (Teases Road)**

It was recognised that considerable flooding, blocking the road, after heavy rains is pretty constant. Gully cleaning requested on numerous occasions.

Bill agreed to chat with colleagues, wondered if perhaps tree roots were causing problems. MK requested update.

#### **Update June 2024:**

Checked out the gullies in the car park and all seem to be running OK. No tree roots effecting the discharge of the water which I thought may be the case. These discharge pipes go into the adjacent watercourse so when the watercourse running full, the water cannot get away and consequently floods the car park.

Doves Loan – added in August 2024

John Brack is in communication with the owners to get the ditches cleared out.

**Update September 2024**

John advised that the family had arranged to have the ditches cleared. CC meeting - D Beveridge possibly could check.

**Final actions:**

Bill would progress communications as soon as – this has been done, thank you.

MK prepare the notes of meeting – shared 6<sup>th</sup> May.

MK would contact relevant Officers regarding the meeting re fields on Anstruther Road – complete.

**M Kennedy, Cllr**

**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

**Updated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

**Updated for CC 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**

**Updated 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**

**Updated 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**