

**Minutes of meeting of Ceres & District Community Council
held in Ceres Memorial Hall on Monday 3 November 2014, at 7.30pm**

Present: David Beveridge (Chairman), Alistair Ewan (Vice-Chairman), Robert I G Scott (Hon. Secretary), Norman Law, Mary Sweeney, Rena Douglas and 14 members of the public. **Apologies:** Helen Russell

In Attendance: Councillors Margaret Kennedy, Karen Marjoram. Apologies were received from Councillor Bryan Poole. The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Alistair Ewan, and seconded by Norman Law.

Matters arising:

The Chairman commented on the fact that the undertaking by Fife Council to provide signage on both the approaches to, and at the Cross, Ceres, indicating the various attractions within the village, still had not been implemented. Councillor Kennedy undertook to investigate this matter.

The Defibrillation Fund is now standing at £3,444. It is hoped to install 2 units in Ceres and 1 in Craigrothie. Suitable locations have to be found for the units; also volunteer operators will require intensive training.

The Chairman reported that the Fireworks Display on 1st November, on Bowbutts, had been well attended. The public collection raised £345-01, plus a variety of foreign coins and miscellaneous items. Winners in the competition for children were: Rowan Haze, Samantha Findlay and Anastasia Frew. The 'Guy' competition award went to Leighton Wishart.

Planning Matters:

The Secretary reported that an application had been submitted for the erection of a wind turbine at Muirhead Farm, by Chance Inn. The Council has submitted an objection to the application on the grounds that the proposed development is close to the settlements of Muirhead, Kame and Chance Inn.

The Secretary also referred to the FIFEplan consultation which runs from 27 October to 8 December 2014. It would appear that the Council will have to make further representation to Fife Council concerning this matter. The proposed building site at Dove's Loan, Ceres, is apparently being given some consideration. The Community Council has written to Fife Council expressing surprise that this site is being favoured by planners. There was considerable local opposition from Ceres residents on the two previous occasions that applications for development at Dove's Loan were submitted. In fact the North East Planning Committee refused planning permission for this site on two occasions; and an appeal to the Scottish Government Reporter's Unit was dismissed.

A proposed site for housing development within Baltilly House policies has been recommended as an alternative to Dove's Loan

Development plans will be considered by Fife Council early in 2015 – later these will be examined by a Reporter, appointed by the Scottish Government, in 2016.

Correspondence:

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Anne Lumsden, on behalf of 'Seasons of Ceres' highlighting two problem areas which the judges commented on in the Silver Award associated with 'Beautiful Scotland' – (i) the overgrown area between Ceres Kirk and Main Street (ii) the damaged condition of the public notice board in Ceres car park. It is hoped that Fife Council will make some effort to attend to these matters.

Any other competent business:

Alistair Ewan made reference to the following matters which require fairly immediate attention:

the banking between Meldrums and the Village Green is in poor condition;

also branches of trees are overhanging the path at this location;

no progress has been made in the quest to install steps between the Memorial and the Green;

the drain at the village green is blocked again.

Robin Bennett referred to changes relating to the churches, and associated buildings, in the joint kirk parishes of Ceres, Kemback and Springfield. The Ceres Kirk could possibly become available for public use.

Alistair Ewan raised the subject of a Community Trust for Ceres. Volunteers are being sought to assist in setting this up. Huw Bell indicated that he was trying to set up a scheme to improve mobile 'phone reception in the area; he is seeking help to initiate fundraising for that purpose.

The Chairman presented Mary Sweeney, the longest-serving member of the Community Council with a bouquet of flowers on her retirement from the Council. Also a presentation was made to Robert Scott, Honorary Secretary, on his retirement after 20 years' service on the Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The inaugural meeting of the new Council will take place in Ceres Memorial Hall on Monday 17 November 2014, at 7.30pm. A Fife Councillor will act as Chairman on this occasion until the Chair of the community Council has been appointed.