



**Ceres and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Monday 15 January 2024**  
**Craigrothie Village Hall**

**Present:** Moira Henderson, David Beveridge, Alistair Ewan, Neil Martin, Faith Nicholson, John Hudson and Six members of the public.

**Zoom:** No attendees via Zoom.

**Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Kennedy, Cllr John Caffrey.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed all attendees to the public meeting, the first of 2024, and noted the apologies from two councillors. Neil Martin was welcomed as a new Ceres & District Community Councillor.
2. **Ceres & District Community Trust Update:** Florian Dargel gave an update on the Trust activities.
  - **New Gate from Wemysshall Road to Tarvit Mansion Grounds:** The Community Trust has now secured the remaining funding needed for the gate and it will go ahead. A meeting between the Trust and NTS will finalise arrangements.
  - **Ceres Church:** A trustee meeting is scheduled in the Edinburgh offices of the Church of Scotland for 23 January 2024. The future of Ceres Church was discussed, including potential plans for it be redeveloped as a pilgrim short stay and support centre, which could include the possibility of sleeping arrangements. It could also be developed as a function centre for weddings, etc. A separate trust will be set up in order to manage the centre. Various pros and cons were given from the floor. C&DCC will continue to report on progress.
  - **The Glebe:** On the basis of the planned Church of Scotland meeting it is hoped that the lease agreement with the Community Trust for custodianship of the Glebe can now be finalised. The meeting discussed various options for the development of the Glebe, although it was recognised that some of these may be in conflict. However, it was noted that the financial importance of car parking for the Highlands games could be reconciled with other objectives, such as plans for a remembrance garden. The importance of replacing the bridge as access to the rear field was recognised, together with the necessity to repair the banks of the burn.
  - **Cupar Development Trust:** Officers of the Community Trust attended the AGM of Cupar Development Trust (CDT), which is an active organisation with a remit for the overall Cupar Ward. As an example, they have been involved in a site for the new recycling centre (although the timeframe remains uncertain), the procurement of the Watts building for redevelopment as an arts centre and various other projects. The Cupar Development Trust is actively working on the development of a Local Place Plan (LPP) for the whole Cupar Ward. LPP's are a Scottish Government initiative and CDT have secured funding for a part-time development officer. Therefore, the Ceres & District Community Trust intends to convene a meeting of representatives of all relevant community stakeholders, with the objective of co-ordinating community projects for inclusion in the overall LPP. Further information will follow the meeting.

### 3. **Flooding in Ceres:** Update:

- Cllr Margaret Kennedy has been in contact with the relevant officers regarding Anstruther Road, which is expected to be cleared of mud this week.
- Cllr Margaret Kennedy has also a Fife Council plan of drainage in Ceres, however this will only include Fife Council managed drains and excludes all drainage managed by other entities.
- It was noted that Fife Council are now fully aware of the flooding problems in Ceres, but they are also seriously concerned with other major flooding problems within the Cupar Ward.
- In response to questions from members of the public and open discussion, it was clarified that the problem on Moor Road has been partially resolved but there is still work to be done. This awaits confirmation of funding from SGN before the local contractor, D Stewart, can continue. It was noted that there was a great advantage of having a contractor with such good local knowledge and expertise.
- It was also noted that problems with blocked gullies and/or drainpipes persist on Cupar Road, due to similar problems to those on Anstruther Road.

### 4. **Traffic Matters:**

- The Community Council gave an update on the Fife Council traffic calming plans for Craigrothie and Chance Inn.
- The Community Council have been in regular dialogue with Fife Council regarding the traffic calming proposals. The plans were made available to the public, including being available for discussion at the Craigrothie Village Hall Drop-In Tuesday on 05 December. Many local residents have given their opinions and suggestions, either directly to Fife Council or through the questionnaires available at the Drop-In Tuesday. Overall, the responses have been positive and supportive of the proposals, although with some minor suggestions for modification.
- It was reported that members of the Council had met with Nigel Hampton from Fife Council on site to discuss various details of the proposal, including the public feedback and that meeting had been generally positive.
- Nigel Hampton has sent an email to the Community Council confirming the current status, which is as follows:

“The funding has been secured for this financial year. However, being realistic I think it now unlikely that resources and programme capacity are going to be available until after 1/4/23. The funding can be carried over. The next stage in the process will be to provide a legal order and then wait for the appropriate period for objections. If everyone is happy with the speed cushion locations, we looked at yesterday (allowing for the fact the I will slightly relocate the pair of speed cushions at the vehicle access next to the community centre), I can proceed with this. Any minor adjustments needed at implementation can be dealt with at that time. I am required to provide a plan with the notice for the legal order which must show the proposed speed cushion locations.”
- The traffic calming speed table on Anstruther Road in Ceres that has resulted in flood waters being diverted dangerously past residential properties remains a problem.

### 5. **Local Authority Planning Applications**

- It was noted that there is a need for further information regarding Cupar's Local Place Plan, including timeline, consultation, etc. and that the C&DCC should consult our local councillors.
- The current status on the sale of Elmwood Golf Club was queried, and it was confirmed that the sale is still in progress. It was noted that the apparent pre-emptive closure of the halls of residence in Cupar had caused some concern in the community.
- No other planning applications of note were reported.

**6. 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.
- It was again reported that pothole maintenance remains a major issue across the district. The quality of repair work was queried and again whether the Fife Council repair policy is value for money.
- The collapsed wall adjacent to Anstruther Road above Ceres remains unrepaired, although warning cones have been placed.

**7. Police Report**

- General advice for reporting crimes and other emergency incidents can be found on the gov.scot website <https://www.mygov.scot/report-crime>
- The Police Report was acknowledged without comment, but it was noted that our community police officers are accessible.

**8. Resilience Group / Warm Spaces:**

- Ceres Village Café is currently working well as a community centre and, together with Craigrothie Village Hall, they are the current centres.
- A members of the public offered to develop a resilience group in Ceres and to coordinate with the Craigrothie centre lead. The Chair noted that other members of the public had shown interest and that all the contact details would be forwarded.

**9. Any Other Business**

- **Ceres Highland Games:** It was noted that Ceres Highland Games is scheduled to take place on Saturday 29 June this year and that the committee are looking for local volunteers to assist with a number of tasks in setting up, operating and clearing up after the event.

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

**Next Public Meeting: Monday 11 March 2024 at 7:30pm, Ceres Memorial Hall**