



Ceres and District Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting Monday 11 March 2024
Ceres Memorial Hall

Present: Moira Henderson, Alistair Ewan, Faith Nicholson, John Hudson Cllr Margaret Kennedy, and nine members of the public (Hugh Stewart, Norman Law, Florian Dargel, Wendy Jack, Mick Allsopp, Ann McDougall, Alan McDougall, Ian Reid, Chris Goodman).

Zoom: Two members of the public (Anne Lumsden, Elaine Mason).

Apologies: David Beveridge, Neil Martin, Cllr John Caffrey.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed all attendees to the public meeting, both in the Ceres Memorial Hall and on Zoom. Apologies were recorded from David Beveridge and Neil Martin.
2. **Ceres & District Community Trust Update:** Florian Dargel reported on the Community Trust actions and ongoing project developments.
 - **Cupar Development Trust:** Four weeks previously members of the Community Trust attended the Local Place Plan (LPP) meeting under the remit of Cupar Development Trust (CDT), wherein a number of area proposals were under consideration. These included:
 - i. Moor Road footpath.
 - ii. Craigrothie to Chance Inn footpath.
 - iii. Footpath along A916 from Craigrothie to Hill of Tarvit junction.
 - **The Glebe:** Discussions are continuing with Church of Scotland and Church Session regarding the lease of the Glebe. The discussions are considered to be in the final stages but still to be concluded.
 - **Denhead to Old Mill Road Footpath-:** Work to resolve the drainage problem is already underway and expected to be completed soon. This work is funded by the Community Trust.
 - **New Gate on Wemysshall Road to Tarvit Mansion:** The work is ongoing, financed by Fife Rural Development Fund as arranged by the Community Trust. An official opening will be arranged.
 - **Ceres & District Community Trust AGM:** The Trust AGM will be held at the end of April, with the date yet to be finalised.
3. **Flooding in Ceres:** Update:
 - No formal response has yet been received from Fife Council or from our local councillors. However, Cllr Margaet Kennedy was able to give a broad summary of progress to date within the Cupar Ward.
 - Firstly, Cllr Margaret Kennedy noted that huge thanks were due to the Ceres & District team that collected and presented the relevant information for the joint consultative meeting.
 - Cllr Margaret Kennedy did point out that the focus of Councillors has been pulled in several directions on numerous pressing flooding issues within the Cupar Ward. However, she has discussed with Willie Rennie MSP the importance of securing support for Ceres to have more

constructive discussions with Officers to identify plans to respond to the wealth of information already provided by the CC group. She will be contacting Officers to progress.

- Alistair Ewan did comment that the Community Council does owe the community feedback on progress and that communication of relevant information was requested.
- Cllr Kennedy and Alistair gave further details on the Moor Road problems, in that a proposal has been presented to Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) but there has been no action as yet from SGN. It was noted that the problems can be easily resolved but will require funding. The problem remains that the SGN gas pipeline is the root of the flooding problems and only they can work in proximity to the pipeline.
- Blocked gullies and/or drainpipes: This is a persistent problem on South Croftdyke and Cupar Road. Cllr Kennedy confirmed that she this is regularly brought to her attention and it is reported, together with numerous other drainage issue in the Ward.
- The problem of the speed table on Anstruther Road impeding drainage was raised again. It was noted that Fife Council proposals for a similar speed table in Craigrothie are said to include the inclusion upstream drainage to avoid such issues. Other suggestions included the simple solution of cutting drainage flow channels to either side of the speed table. Cllr Kennedy offered to again follow up on this.

4. Traffic Matters:

- Fife Council traffic calming proposals for Craigrothie and Chance Inn are approved and the finance is confirmed, although the work will not commence until into the new financial year. The official legal notices have already been posted and the period for comments is open. Fife Council have stated in a meeting with the Community Council that the positions of speed cushions near residences will be marked in advance to allow final adjustments to avoid clashes with driveways.
- Residents on Cupar Road in Ceres between the 20mph limit and the 90° band at Moor Road have repeatedly complained of excessive traffic speeds on that section of road. Pop-Up-Bob has been deployed previously, but not recently. The deployment of Pop-Up-Bob was questioned and, it is thought that, although the district has a third share, we are not receiving full benefit.
- The direction sign after the Chance Inn brae junction approaching Craigrothie remains fallen over, even after it has been reported.

5. Local Authority Planning Applications

- There were no reports of any significant planning applications.
- 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 problem across the district, although this also a common issue elsewhere throughout the country.
- The collapsed wall adjacent to Anstruther Road above Ceres remains unrepaired.

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 has not been received, although it is understood that one has been issued.

8. Resilience Group / Warm Spaces:

- Craigrothie Village Hall operates a local safe place with some provisions for emergencies.

- In Ceres, the Village Café functions as a community centre, working together with Options in Life, the church and other groups.
- Chris Goodman reported on progress in exploring resilience options in Ceres. He noted a helpful meeting with Kenny McLeod, learning from his success in setting up Craigrothie Village Hall as a 'Community-led Place of safety' as defined by Fife council. He has also met with the resilience team from Fife Council, who support the plan for a similar arrangement in Ceres. Options for a Place of Safety in Ceres could include the Village Cafe, the Church and Memorial Hall. The importance of access and availability was highlighted, which might favour the Hall. Insurance issues were noted. Chris has met with Becky Ballantyne from the Memorial Hall and noted possible concerns over operating costs. The AGM for the Memorial Hall is scheduled for 24 April 2024 and Chris has requested resilience planning be added to the agenda. He will attend and report further.

9. Any Other Business

- **Mobile Reception:** A member of the public raised the recurrent problems with mobile phone reception throughout the CC district and noted that it is becoming increasingly important for receiving bank verification codes, power cuts with landlines becoming digital, smart metering and younger people who only use mobile phones. The UK government's £1bn 'Shared Rural Network' plan was referenced, which diverts finance into remote areas on a promise to cover 95% of the country but at the expense of leaving too many residential areas with substandard reception.
- **Ceres Bowling Club:** The club opens for the 2024 season on 20 April, with membership renewal at £40 for existing members. An introductory new membership offer is at £20.
- **Accessibility in Ceres:** A member of the public commented on the poor provision for accessibility within the village, in particular with regard to pavements, disabled parking, access to shops /cafes and the toilets. The lack of dropped kerbs in Cupar and similar poor provision in St Andrews. The Chair fully supported the comments. It was questioned if Fife Council has an Accessibility Officer and Cllr Kennedy offered to check into this.

The Meeting Ended: 9:00pm

Next Public Meeting: Monday 13 May 2024 at 7:30pm, Craigrothie Village Hall