



## Ceres and District Community Council

### Minutes of the Meeting Monday 08 September 2025

#### Ceres Memorial Hall

**Present:** Moira Henderson, David Beveridge, Neil Martin, Jeremy Baker, John Hudson, Cllr Margaret Kennedy and nine members of the public.

**Zoom:** None.

**Apologies:** Alistair Ewan, Cllr John Caffrey, Florian Dargel.

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

- The Chair welcomed all attendees to the public meeting in Ceres Memorial Hall, and noted the apologies as received.
- The Chair introduced and welcomed the support of the new member of the Community Council, Jeremy Baker.

#### 2. Ceres & District Community Council – Expenditure

- **RBS account:** The Treasurer reported slow progress with updating the signatories to the RBS account. It was reported that the account remains healthy and is over £5,000 in credit
- **Community Council Donations:** The plans to donate £1,000 each to Ceres Memorial Hall and Craigrothie Village Hall to assist with ongoing projects will be completed soon.

#### 3. Fife Community Councils

- Fife Community Councils group holds online meetings every three months, which are forums for open discussions, information sharing, coordination and ideas interchange.
- The Chair informed that the next online meeting will be held at 7:00pm on 08 October, when there will be a presentation from Steve Sellars the Lead Consultant – Road Safety and Travel Planning in Fife Council's Roads and Transportation Services. This is following a request to John Mitchell, the Head of Service for clarification about a number of issues including the costs of traffic calming, the height of speed bumps / tables, types of traffic calming and speed restrictions
- Fife Council is considering changes to the way in which Community Councils are managed, the final conclusions of which are expected to be published mid-December 2025 to mid-January 2026.

#### 4. Ceres & District Community Trust Update: A prior update on the ongoing Community Trust activities and projects was prepared and read at the meeting.

- **The Glebe developments:** Planning permission for the Glebe Bridge has been applied for and some grant funding has been gained. More funds are required and opportunities exist for community funding of bridge surface sleepers, side decorative panels and funders notice board. Volunteers are required to assist with Glebe tidy up and be part of general improvements - contact Dave Jones-Lofting.

- **Ceres Memorial Hall:** No further update.
- **Ceres Church & Session Hall:** Possible community report to be issued.
- **Public Annual General Meeting:** Planned for late October – date to be advised.

5. **Traffic Matters:**

- **Ceres, Craigrothie & Chance Inn Traffic Management:** Primary consideration is that of action for the effective control of traffic speeds and driving in local villages and on connecting roads.
- **Ceres Primary School Road Safety Works:** The Chair noted the proposal to install a new speed table to replace the existing build-out near the primary school and raise the profile of the existing crossing speed table. However, there is no update as to when the work will be carried out.
- **Wendy Chamberlain MP Surgery:** Jeremy Baker noted that he had attended the recent surgery in Ceres held by Wendy Chamberlain MP and he had taken the opportunity of raising the current traffic problems experienced locally.
- **Craigrothie Traffic Survey:** The Community Council Secretary has written to Steve Sellers and Nigel Hampton of Fife Council Roads and Transportation Services enquiring as to the date for the proposed traffic survey and we were surprised to learn that the survey had been completed. The responses to our queries are as follows:

**Nigel Hampton Thu 04 Sept:** “The speed surveys were carried out in August. For Cupar Road they gave 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 27mph northbound and 26mph southbound. For Ceres Road they were 26mph eastbound and 25mph westbound. As a comparison, the previous speed survey for Ceres Road (prior to the 20mph and traffic calming) showed 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 38mph and 35mph, so this would indicate that the recent measures have reduced the overall vehicle speeds. It should be borne in mind that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile figures represent the high end of the speed ranges recorded. The recent figures are of a level where we would consider further minor speed mitigation measures, along the lines of additional signs or road markings. I am considering the ‘your speed’ electronic vehicle activated signs that you may have seen elsewhere in the area.”

**We responded Fri 05 Sept:** “We are somewhat disappointed to learn that the traffic survey has already been completed, because we would have preferred to have been consulted before the surveys were carried out. Local knowledge is important and could have advised on particular hot-spots and other deciding factors could have affected the results. Can you confirm the dates of the surveys, how long were they taking results for and exactly where the survey points were located? The proposal to install “Your Speed” equipment will definitely be of benefit, but public opinion is that realistically more does need to be done. We will take a consensus of such opinion at the forthcoming Community Council meeting and revert further in due course.”

**Nigel Hampton Mon 08 Sept:** “The survey for the A916 was carried out in the area between the village hall and the primary school. For Ceres Road it was approximately halfway between the A916 junction and the end of the 20mph speed limit. The surveys were carried out using radar equipment, rather than pneumatic tubes. This equipment consists of a small grey box mounted to a lamp column or sign pole and is quite inconspicuous. These are regarded as being more accurate, as drivers usually do not see them and therefore do not react to their presence. The surveys were for 3 days each up to and including 13<sup>th</sup> August. We must rely on data, rather than observations, so that we are consistent in our gathering and analysis of recorded vehicle speeds. It is almost impossible to accurately quantify vehicle speeds from roadside observations. The figures given were not average or mean speeds, but 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds; these being at the high end of speeds recorded. The mean speeds for Ceres Road were 20.8/20.7mph. It is the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile figures that we use in our analysis to decide what level of further measures are justified.” ***–The anomalies in the quoted speeds for Cupar Road in this email should be noted.***

The Community Council will request full details of the survey speed checks and request a repeat survey.

- **Craigrothie Parking:** It was noted that there has been a van regularly parked on the speed table by Craigrothie Primary School, which is considered a danger. This led to further discussion regarding parking on Cupar Road in general and, in particular, the vans of a garden maintenance company. The parking issues include parking on the speed table, blocking a resident's exit sightlines and encroaching on the bus stop. It was suggested that the garden maintenance company could be requested to meet with Community Councillors.
- **Pavement Parking:** A member of the public brought up the subject of parking on the pavement and some people have responded to Cllr Margaret Kennedy's request for exemptions. There are a number of roads in the district that are too narrow for vehicles to park and leave room for other vehicles to pass, which include roads such Walton Park in Craigrothie and Gladney in Ceres. Cllr Kennedy commented that the subject had been put to officers, there will be developments and that signage will ultimately be installed regarding approvals.
- **Traffic Survey Required at Loch Garage:** A proposal to request a speed survey to be carried out at the Loch Garage, where it has been noted that too many drivers enter Ceres at unsafe speeds.
- **Craigrothie Bus Shelter:** The bus shelter wrecked in a traffic incident has finally been replaced.

## 6. 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.
- **Various Flood Issues:** There are innumerable items that remain outstanding and need to be clarified. Cllr Margaret Kennedy reported that the flood problems in Ceres have been collated onto a spreadsheet and forwarded to Fife Council. It is proposed that she would look into convening a meeting and involve Willie Rennie MSP.
- **Latch Burn Wall:** This remains within the planning process and it is understood that there are ongoing private discussions between the owner and Fife Council Planners.
- **Post Meeting Note:** Alistair Ewan has received the following from Alastair Turner (Caseworker for Wendy Chamberlain MP) in response to his queries to Wendy Chamberlain MP on flooding in Ceres:

Dear Alistair,

Ceres

I have a flooding update to share.

I hope you will be able to communicate the update to the wider Ceres and District Community Council.

*"Please see below response and update to the Ceres community flood study which the community undertook a number of years ago.*

*Anstruther Road – kerb has been raised at the properties identified as at risk from surface water run-off from private road opposite. Remedial works to the end cottage to improve the surface water and ditching works to the rural section of Anstruther Road are programmed for week commencing 27th October.*

*Cupar Road – Works underway to expose and clear a road drainage carrier pipe in the footway outside Lauderdale cottage.*

*Teasses Road – We had investigated the gullies on Teasses Road and found that the main issue lies with the position of the burn outlet. Our understanding is that this sits very close to the water level, which means that during periods of heavy rainfall, the burn level rises above the outlet, preventing effective drainage. Our next step is to undertake levels from the gullies to the burn to see whether the outlet can be raised.*

*Main Street @ Meldrums Hotel – attended with vactor in 2021 and whilst both gullies outside the Hotel were found to be running we were unable to identify the outfall, despite the gullies being adjacent to Ceres Burn. We are programmed to be in Ceres with a vactor*

*in the coming month to investigate a recent enquiry surrounding surface water run-off from Anstruther Road into Castlegate and we will return to the 2 gullies outside Meldrum hotel at the same time.*

*Bridgend – August 2021 cleaned road drainage carrier pipe directly upstream from outfall into water course north of Gladney. Spring 2022 altered kerb layout at 2 locations to prevent water run-off from road into adjacent properties. In 2022 we also replaced the culvert within the red chip entrance to the private properties.*

*I hope the above provides the community of some re-assurance that Fife Council are actively progressing the flooding issues that have been raised.”*

With kind regards. Yours sincerely,

**Alastair Turner - Caseworker for Wendy Chamberlain MP North East Fife**

## **7. Area Internet & Mobile Phone Connectivity**

- Neil Martin reported that subsequent to a series of letters to various providers he had only received one response from Vodafone with no real commitment to any action. He will continue to investigate and report on any further developments.

## **8. Local Authority Planning Applications**

- There were no reports of any new significant planning applications.
- A question was asked on the progress of the proposed Baltilly housing development and it was noted that the proposal did have planning approval but that there is currently no progress in construction. It was noted that the development should have a roundabout at the entrance, which would also calm traffic speeds in Ceres. However, unfortunately planning approval has been granted without this facility.

## **9. 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 wall in the field adjacent to Anstruther Road remains collapsed, with the continuing dispute regarding responsibility for the repair work.
- Landslide on road to New Gilston is also still coned off and the barriers are now in the hole.
- It was noted that the Chance Inn junction on the A916 is hidden from both approaches and would benefit from advance warning signage.

## **10. Accessibility**

- The issue of fully accessible toilets in Ceres car park was raised again. Fife Voluntary Action may be able to provide funding. This is the link to the group SCOTO who help support local areas support Tourism in their areas - <https://www.scoto.co.uk/> However, this would not include management and maintenance.
- An alternative would be to look into the development of the Glebe, but this solution may take some time in development and funding.

## **11. NHS Fife Annual Review**

- Fife Health & Social Care Partnership and Integrated Joint Board have committed to permanent cuts in the Out of Hours and minor injuries services, which are considered to have a negative impact on healthcare locally. Therefore, the local minor injuries unit will close and relocated in St Andrews. However, recent problems with the X-ray machine in St Andrews meant that patients have been forced into travelling to Kirkcaldy, Dundee or Dunfermline.

## **12. Police Matters**

- Incidents reporting on gov.scot website <https://www.mygov.scot/report-crime>
- It is proposed that the Coffee With A Cop opportunity should be discussed with the Village Cafe.

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

- Chris Goodman is the team lead in Ceres and Kenny McLeod for Craigrothie. It was noted that the ongoing renovation works at Craigrothie Village Hall made it temporarily unavailable.
- It was again noted that the recent power failure and the lack of generators was exacerbated by SP Energy not having a schedule of resilience centres.

## **14. Any Other Business**

- **Inspiration Orchestra:** The Chair noted that the **Inspiration Orchestra** would be at a Music Camp at Ring Farm and be performing two concerts between 7:30-8:30pm on Thursday 11 and 18 September in Bissett's Barn. This charity empowers musicians of all abilities and all are welcome, with refreshments afterwards.

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

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