



MEETING
Monday 18th September 2023 at 7:00pm
Letham Village Hall

Monimail Community
Council

MINUTES

	<p>Welcome. David Hamilton, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	Actionee
1	<p>Attendance & apologies CC Councillors David Hamilton (DH), John Vaughan (JV), Karin Vaughan (KV), Juliet Forrest (JF), Kay Stuart (KS) and Willy Fenton (WF)</p> <hr/> <p>Local Community Dan Connolly (DC), Katie Connolly (KC), G M Donald (GD), Jacqueline Elliot (JE), Michael Farrell (MF), Val Fenton(VF), Hazel Grant (HG), Claire Reekie (CR), John Reekie (JR), Chris Ritchie (CR), Jim Rotheram (JR), Andrew Spencer-Nairn (ASN), Emma Spencer Nairn (ESN), Jamie Spencer-Nairn (JSN), and Linda Weir (LW) There were no apologies.</p>	
	<p>Fife Councillor in Attendance: Donald Lothian (DL).</p>	
2	<p>Apologies There were no apologies</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of meeting on 8th May 2023 Approved by JF and Seconded by.WF The minutes can be found on the Letham Village web site.</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes Discarded sofa The discarded sofa that had been found on the “Grandfathers Rights” village refuse tip for garden waste known as “Donald’s Dump” turned out to be a den created by the local children. The original concern was that was being used by a ‘rough sleeper’.</p> <p>Tree Roots and Mud Hut The mud hut in the playpark has the roots of a large tree growing underneath. Concerns were raised that they would destabilize the building. This was referred to the Parks department for advice and action.</p> <p>Recycling Centre DH reported that the response from Fife Councils Recycling Centre was not what he had hoped for, that is to use the facility without Pre booking a time slot. The reason given was that the recycle centre will be providing funding for a new separate commercial vehicle access.</p> <p>The Dairy – Monimail Road There has been a planning application review of ‘ The Dairy ‘ on Monimail Road that was agreed to by the Planning Dept. It had not been passed to the CC because the changes being made are for personal use, so no pressure will be placed on the current infra structure of the village.</p>	

5 Donald Lothian Questions

Bus service Cuts and Time table Changes

DH stated that there had been no consultation. No apologies have been made to residents for changes to service bus timetables. Teenagers and those without their own transport are badly affected.

Can we identify some way forward to renegotiate a possibility to make some provision for residents. There is a Flexibus, at an unknown charge. Is it possible to book the bus but pay a bus fare rate? Could we have a service at the beginning and end of the day to accommodate people going to work?

DH continued by stating that the community must make a case for a bus service. The council would need to be responsive. The bus website has not been updated.

JE stated that for those without their own transport it's difficult to attend hospital or doctors appointments. Walking to the Bow of Fife to catch the bus is particularly dangerous at night and for those with mobility issues it is unrealistic. She also gave a complete view of the local bus transport and the routes.

School Brae

DH outlined the problem.

This is a constant issue in Community Council meetings. In the 1970s it was somehow missed off the adoption list due to an administration error. There is Letham Primary School at the top of the Brae and also a Fife Council industrial unit that is rented out as work space. School Brae used to be regularly gritted in winter weather and potholes repaired.

Jim Rotherham built a new house in 2010 at the top of School Bae and included a turning circle as Fife Council requested but Fife Council did not adopt the road.

Minimum standards are required before Fife Council will adopt the road. Had it been adopted we would not be in this position of £40,000 to be spent to make it into a condition for adoption by Fife Council.

There is rapid degradation School Brae. There are potholes and it hasn't been gritted for 4/5 years, could this have been an issue with a contractor ?

It has been stated that some time this year ' a jet patch ' was to have been contracted out contracted but these contractors don't always turn up. The work is supposed to be completed by September. The Council is limited by resources but if this work had been done regularly year on year the holes would not have become so deep.

He asked for the relevant paper work, there is a need to be proactive. Swerving to avoid potholes in combination with children walking up the Brae to school is an insurance issue. Who exactly is responsible for safety on School Brae ? Is everyone with a frontage of their property responsible ?

The school travel plan states 20 mph as the speed limit on School Brae. The Brae is lit by Fife Council Street lights that are fixed and maintained by the Council. If residents attempt their own patching of the road there are liability issues. Donald stated that he would make some enquires. Cascading water from heavy downpours have complicated the current issues.

For gullies that require unblocking and cleaning, Fife Council has a dedicated website, plus a phone number for reporting issues.

DL

6	<p>Planning Applications Review Eden Springs Development The Rangers House was turned down in the original application for the fishery after the initial proposal was to have lodges on the site. An application for change of use has been by the Eden Springs group following their consultation with the local community.. Eden Springs can submit full planning permission after 12 weeks then the community can make formal comments on the proposal. JR went on the Open Day. 75 Lodges are planned in phases, 15 built at time until the development is completed. Also included in the proposals are reception and maintenance buildings, a play area, crazy golf, car park, footpaths and cycle ways. The Fishery started 7 years ago. Chris Ritchie, the Director of Mountcastle stated that they are trying to create ‘ a beautiful place Once the plans are submitted for approval by Fife Planning then a separate Community Council meeting should take place to fully discuss the proposal.</p>	
7	<p>Treasurer's Report The Treasurer reported that the balance in the bank stands at £2806.71 after paying for the overhaul of the mower (129.00) used by the Letham Lawnmower Society and still holds 5.94 in cash. There were no questions for him from the floor. Andrew Black has verified the annual accounts up the end of March 2023 and JV has now applied for the per capita grant which will not be paid until after the CC elections process is complete see Point 8</p>	
8	<p>Community Council Elections 2023 Applications from 7 locals had been received to serve as Community Councillors. That leaves one vacancy that can be filled at any time. A meeting to appoint the officials is scheduled for October and will be chaired by Councillor Donald Lothian of Fife Council</p>	
9	<p>Community Groups Village Hall Kath Black is no longer with the role being undertaken by MF. JF is doing bookings for hall use. The following steps are being considered:- 1. Blackout blinds are being investigated for the hall windows 2. .Improvements to the existing curtain rails 3. A technical sound engineer is to examine the current sound system for the hall 4. An online booking system for hall lets is being tested that should make it easy for the hall’s users to book their requirements 5. Funding and processes are being investigated to improve the insulation of the building. The purpose is to make it a venue for artists of various kinds to hire the hall and to reduce the current carbon footprint in the longer term</p> <p>Letham PS Nothing to report</p> <p>Letham Nights Two events planned for the 28th October and 9th December Visit the website for details and tickets</p> <p>Letham Lawnmower Society Letham Lawnmowers Society has ceased to exist due to lack of able bodied volunteers. Andrew Henderson has been approached to cut the grass around the village hall and along the verge on The Row.</p> <p>Pillars of Hercules They have been running a series of Ceilidhs in the hall and have donated profits to charity and once to the Village hall Funds</p>	

<p>10</p>	<p>AOCB Dooct School Brae. The East Fife Preservation Society were disbanded. A new group has been created but there are complications with funding acquisition Thanks go to Mark and his friend for digging a trench at the side of the field to take away excess rain water that was flooding the gardens at the Toll cottages</p> <p>DH informed the meeting that this the last meeting of the current 5 year session of the Monimail Community Council and thanked those individuals who had worked for the benefit of the community, He said a special thanks to KV who was standing down and who had undertaken the role of completing the minutes for the meetings over a number of years.</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting 13th November 2023 at Letham Village Hall at 7pm</p>	