



MEETING
Monday 8th January 2024 at 7:00pm
Letham Village Hall

**Monimail Community
Council**

MINUTES

	<p>Welcome. David Hamilton, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
1	<p>Attendance & apologies CC Councillors David Hamilton, Chair (DH), John Vaughan, Treasurer (JV), Juliet Forrest, Vice-Chair (JF), Kay Stuart (KS) Henry Broadhurst(HB) and Willy Fenton (WF)</p> <p>Local Community Andrew Black (AB), Judith Finnie (JF) and Debbie Smiles (DS)</p> <p>Karin Vaughan (KV) had agreed to take the minutes as Mike Farrell was unavailable</p>
	<p>Fife Councillor in Attendance: Donald Lothian (DL).</p>
2	<p>Apologies Mikle Farrell</p>
3	<p>Minutes of meeting on 13th November 2023 Approved proposed by JF and seconded by JV The minutes can be found on the Letham Village web site.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes The Chair stated that matters arising from the minutes would be covered within the agenda items.</p>
5	<p>Cllr Donald Lothian Questions</p> <p>Bus Timetable Update It had been understood that a new timetable would come into effect from January this year, with a trial of new times with Moffat and Williamson monitoring usage. This appears to have not happened yet. Times are under review. DH will update the website. DH needs to get data from Letham residents via a survey as to how the bus service is used together with the train service from Ladybank. It was pointed out that several residents, a teacher at the school and members of the Secret Garden depend on the service. The 64 bus attracts the highest subsidy from Fife Council £200,000. A service hourly would be ok but the current erratic times are not helpful.</p> <p>Water Issue on The Row This problem has been ongoing at the top of The Row. DH contacted Fife Council to clear the drains down The Row. 3 drains were cleared. JF stated that the drain outside her house was blocked again within 30 minutes of the action. The pavement outside KS's house had for the second time been raised despite the previous repair to a pipe and pavement. This issue was now being handled by Fife Council</p> <p>Mud Hut Root Damage Roger Honeyman had met with DH. This tree in Letham Park is still on Roger's list for trimming but it is the roots that are the issue. In the past Council representatives have stated that this tree needs to be removed and was planted in an inappropriate place.. This tree has roots that undermine any structures nearby particularly the Mud Hut with its Earth floor. Roots growing up through the floor will compromise the structure of the Mud Hut. The shallow roots have also come up in neighbouring gardens The issue needs to be dealt with before any further damage is done.</p>

	<p>Recycling Appointment System</p> <p>DH spoke to a colleague in St Andrews Convenor of Port Services who suggested that the rational for the booking system at Ladybank to avoid traffic accidents was not a valid reason for the booking system.</p> <p>There is no abuse of staff at the Ladybank Centre.</p> <p>Registration of cars are taken of residents using the recycling to ensure they are from the local area. Every site has its own arrangements. There is a need to take HGVs separately from cars to avoid conflicts and potential queuing as has happened in the past.</p> <p>There has been a suggestion that a separate entrance might be made for cars but this would be a costly exercise and is unlikely to happen</p>
6.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Eden Springs Development</p> <p>Eden Springs no news. Henry reported a communication about what is progressing from the application process.</p> <p>Comments sent to JV from MF Communicated via DH</p> <p>“ It seems we are sleep-walking into this development being waved through. I am not sure if everyone is aware but the development has managed to “squeeze past” having to have an Environmental Impact Assessment. It seems ridiculous that the fishery needed one when this much more invasive development of holiday lodges doesn't. I think that this is to do with the size of the area to be developed. A full planning application does not appear to have been submitted yet - although it was supposed to be in by Oct/Nov 2023”.</p> <p>Change of land use plan approved buy the Planning Committee on October 23 but this has not happened to date. CC has to wait for the main application to develop the site before it can put its point of view. Could a special meeting be arranged with representatives from Collessie to discuss the development as they currently do not have a CC. DL will notify us if there are changes in Howe of Fife. DL stated that the whole of Fife will be notified. DL will contact DH.</p> <p>JF stated plans will be submitted 75 chalets would mean a lot of people using Eden Springs.</p>
7	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>JV reported that the balance in the bank account was £3239.87</p> <p>This includes the per capita contribution from Fife Council that was finally paid at the end of December.</p> <p>The Defibrillator was disconnected by JV and is waiting to be fitted with new batteries. He had reported it being unavailable on the two on line web sites in England and Scotland. It was agreed that the costs be paid by the CC</p>
8	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>Village Hall (extract from report by MF)</p> <p>£12.1k received from Fife Rural Development Fund to help us carry out our feasibility study for draught-stripping and insulating the hall. This was 100% of what we requested. Grant has to be spent by end of February. Work begins on 18th Jan with air-tightness and thermal imaging tests followed by a PassiveHaus assessment.</p> <p>Arc Architects will then draw up options and get a quantity surveyor to quantify costs. This will then be put to the community for comment and ideas. We can then put this into a new application for funding for the main works. An application to the Fife Environment Trust large grant scheme (up to £50k with a requirement of the community to come up with up to 25% of eligible costs) has already been partially drafted. The Hall Committee are likely to need some community fund raising to support this.</p> <p>Letham P.S.</p> <p>The school is interested in doing projects with the pupils e.g. Youth Parliament exploring how decisions are made in the community. A similar project was done at the time Letham Playpark was being developed. The pupils were shown selections of apparatus suitable for the playpark and votes were cast to choose the most popular Items.</p> <p>It was also suggested that perhaps the pupils at Letham Primary School could be invited to give their views on current issues under discussion at CC meetings.</p>

	<p>Letham Nights (Extract from report by MF) AGM on 3rd Feb in the Pitlessie Inn – all welcome 4 shows booked for 2024 and another almost decided. Feb 10th – Juliette Lemoine (folk/Jazz cellist with Mercury nominated pianist Fergus McCreadie in her band!) April 27th – Megan Henderson Trio (fiddle, cello, piano. Megan is a key member of highly rated band Breabach who played here in Oct 2022) June 29th – The Tomorrow Band – high energy almost-all female funk band August 24th – The Bluebells (yes, the ones who wrote Young at Heart!)</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Any other Business CC - School Get a date when school children could meet with CC members to discuss what they think of Letham and how to improve the environment School Brae It was reported that School Brae had been jet tar patched. There was still evidence of pot holes The question was asked what would the implications be if a local inhabitant took action and filled the holes themselves. Would the liability for any issues arising from this action be with this person? There was a detailed discussion about the use of the Brae and how use might be limited and may be with the use of signs. Could the parents of the Primary school children and Secret Garden be persuaded not to drive up to the school steps? Have an agreement with the landlord. Walkers use the track at the top of the road., School Brae is also an unadopted road and is used for access by residents and essential traffic. (school bus, delivery and refuse collection for example).</p> <p>Secret Garden (SG) . There was a long discussion between the chair and HB regarding the letter that had been send to the Trustees of the SG regarding the request for a discussion about relocating the Secret Garden's Office. The Chair suggested to HB that it was inappropriate for him to be representing the SG as his duty at this meeting was to act (only) as a Community Councillor. He therefore requested a separate meeting with all the Trustees of SG to take the matter forward. HB stated that the Trustees of SG had felt that the tone of the letter was “threatening” as it implied legal advice or other steps might be taken on behalf of the community. The Chair explained that the letter said that the Community Council would consider all avenues, a direction he had been given by the Community Council at a previous meeting. HB would speak with other SG Trustees to find an appropriate date and venue.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting 11th March 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall</p>