

COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 3rd September 2020 AT 7pm via zoom video conferencing.

PRESENT: D. Roan – Chair, S. Pain - Vice Chair, S. Gourlay - Secretary, S. Robertson - Minutes, M. Pennell, T. Roan, K. Filer, K. Coltart, M. Pumphrey, A. Whitby, J. Coates

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: G. Webster, J Rowland, J. Stanning

GUESTS (joining at 7:30pm) C. Souto, R. Thomas, V. Dunlop, C. Elliott, C. Bartholemew, J. Gallagher

APOLOGIES: M. Parry, R. Davidson, D. Stitt, T. Nicol

AGM: The accounts and supporting evidence received by our auditor had some bank statements missing. This means our accounts could not be audited and the AGM will be held at next meeting.

POLICE REPORT: No police presence this evening. A police report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. This focused mainly on the longer waiting times for the phone to be answered during the pandemic.

There was a complaint about parking in Rockcliffe, more police cars have been seen recently in the area, but do not seem to be enforcing any parking restrictions.

MINUTES OF MEETING 04/06/20:

D. Roan asked for any amendments to the prepared minutes and a correction was made to change 'Anchorage' to 'Anchordale' under planning applications.

Approved: S. Gourlay Signed: D. Roan

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- **E Communications**

Several letters were sent out to MPs MSPs and Ofcom and we have received a number of responses. F. Carson MSP intends to join us for our next meeting. As time is limited this evening this issue has been deferred to October's meeting.

- **Core Path 20**

The Community Council has received some correspondence, from several individuals relating to the Core Path and furthermore the Right of Way issues. G. Webster was present this evening and commented that he feels many individuals within the community are unhappy with the current situation. G. Webster requested that the Right of Way issue is added to our October meeting agenda. It was reiterated that while we can discuss this at the October meeting the Community Council is not able to make decisions or rules on Rights of Way. We can facilitate discussions with interested parties and if appropriate, make recommendations to the local council.

- **Website**

The website provider has been changed. It is noted that it may be beneficial that a community council member is more familiar with the website and how it operates.

- **CC Volunteer HiVis Waistcoats**

6 bespoke HiVis waistcoats have been purchased and received at a total cost of £32.40p .

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Accounts will be presented at the October meeting after they've been audited.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

There was some discussion on who merits an award for efforts during the pandemic. It is difficult to single out one business when so many members of the community have helped. It was decided to send a bottle of sparkle to the shop proprietors and consider a plaque thanking all members of the community for their efforts. (Action Ms K.Filer)

TREE PLANNING

There are two proposed woodland developments, one located at Southwick Estate and another at Glensone. Currently there is a preplanning consultation, CSCC are not asked to make a decision right now on whether they are 'for' or 'against' the development but rather are tasked with gauging public opinion and the practical and business interests involved.

Southwick Estates

Charlie Elliott from Scottish Woodlands gave a brief outline of his role, which is to create the scheme as requested by the estate and send it out for consultation with the Forestry Commission and statutory consultees. Full habitat and birds surveys have also been implemented, in addition to a landscape survey. Initial responses from these surveys have been positive. They are now at the final design stage, where it opens to the community to ask questions and raise any issues they might have.

The first issue raised is flooding at the particular area, which is felt has become worse in recent years. There are also concerns about the species that are planned, it is felt there may be a 'uniform' look which might not be visually appealing. C. Elliott addressed this and discussed how some of the planting would break this up.

Mr Vic Dunlop expressed concerns relating to the effect on ecology, aesthetics and heavy traffic on local roads during the timber harvesting period

The RSPB representatives also has concerns about the aesthetics of the planting, feeling it could create a dark corridor that would be off putting for visitors to the area. Again the flooding issue was raised, with some efforts already made to alleviate this issue which haven't worked. There are concerns about implementing a new plantation on ground that suffers from both freshwater and saltwater flooding. There are additional concerns about the geese and how they use the fields currently. The survey undertaken found that the outcome is that the effect wouldn't be significantly detrimental to wildlife there.

Glensone

This scheme has been proposed by the local farmer who owns the land. Again surveys have been undertaken including landscaping and habitat. They are also at the stage where the opinions from the community are sought.

It is felt that some species at more hedgerow plants with growth under 20m. There are also specific classifications, called the NVC, or National Vegetation Classification which groups species based on various factors like soil type, rainfall, elevation etc. The woodland types that are decided are based primarily using this classification system and what that area can support.

It was asked where access would be for the works to take place, the roads proposed are very narrow and an assessment will be undertaken to check if roads need to be adjusted prior to work starting.

There was some discussion on wider tree planting across the country and how management is essential, with different techniques to encourage restructuring and diversity.

From these discussions it was apparent to the CC that most of the discussions were centered around Southwick estates rather than Glensone. There are significant concerns regarding flooding and the aesthetics of the suggested planting. The biggest issue with Glensone is access to the site and this will be further discussed with the Roads Department. CSCC were also asked by Ms. C. Souto, representing

Mark Hamilton, Landscape Services who are developing the proposal, if we could possibly identify locations of final gates on the rights of way through the plantation. We will respond to this request and ask if anyone has knowledge of this area to please contact us.

At this stage members of the public left and the meeting went into "closed" session to allow the C&SCC to consider its responses to the developers.

Following a brief discussion the C&SCC concluded that :

i. The Community Council's policy on tree planting schemes would be generally supportive, where it results in better use being made of poor-quality agricultural land, as this leads to enhanced "carbon capture" and additional employment at the planting, maintenance and harvesting stages. It is noted that the number of formal expressions of concern from the community have been relatively small at this stage.

In the case of the Southwick Estates development an additional point was made:

ii. Taking into account the feedback from the consultation, the effect of the development on the flooding of the Mersehead access road is a significant concern as the road already suffers from severe flooding which leads to total closure on occasions. The C&SCC requests that Southwick Estates, RSPB & the D&G Roads Department collaborate in trying to ensure that if this development proceeds that it results in the existing and any consequential flooding problems are minimised.

The CSCC will respond in writing to the two developers, summarising the views of the local community consultation. (Action S.Pain)

PLANNING:

APPLICATIONS:

- 20/0986/FUL Mr. Aston - Barean Way Colvend - *ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSE* - retrospectively

CORRESPONDENCE

- Woodland Creation Proposals
- Reviewing the Scheme of Establishments
- Major Festivals and Events Strategy
- Core Path 20 - members of the public

Anyone wishing to see a comprehensive list of correspondence should contact:

Mrs Sue Gourlay: suegourlay@me.com

AOCB:

1. Proposed Planning:

The Crannog Interpretation Board, the bus shelter up at Southwick Church, and possibly benches at Rockcliffe and other local paths were proposed as ideas.

It was decided that as the time scale is very short the Interpretation Board would be the best application to put forward at this time. We will try and find out some more information about the bus shelter, as it may be worthwhile to pursue this.

2. Meetings:

The next meeting will be held on 1st of October and will be preceded by the AGM. We are unsure if we will be able to hold a meeting in the hall. If we are unable to hold a physical

meeting it was agreed to upgrade our zoom account so that our meetings are not cut short prematurely.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS PROVISIONALLY PLANNED FOR THURSDAY THE 1st OCTOBER

AS THE CURRENT SITUATION IS CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW THESE PLANS MAY CHANGE. PLEASE EMAIL OR CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUR WHATSAPP GROUPS & WEBSITE.

We encourage people who live in the area to attend these interesting meetings!

Find out what is going on in your community.

www.colvendcommunity.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page and WhatsApp groups!

If further copies of these minutes are required please e-mail colvendandsouthwick@gmail.com