

Minutes of Meeting of Elie and Royal Burgh of Earlsferry Community Council held on 4th August 2026 at Earlsferry Town Hall

Present: Angela Anderson, Carol Birrell, Cath McIntosh, Grizelda Cowan, Kirsty Barclay, Christian Aitken, Richard Smith, George Cowan and Cllr Alycia Hayes.
Community Police officers PC Rob Wallace and PC David Gordon and Robbie Blyth from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust.
Plus several members of the public.

Apologies: None

New declarations of interest: None.

July Special meeting: Proposed by Christian, seconded by George

June Minutes: Proposed by Kirsty, seconded by George.

Councillors' Updates

Alycia reiterated the problems caused by tenants of STLs not disposing of their rubbish appropriately. FC Street Cleansing Department have agreed to increase number of collections in a bid to alleviate the problem.

FC have agreed to remove the ban on Christmas decorations being attached to lamp posts etc but have requested that this should be done with care and that any damage or deterioration to such posts be reported to FC.

Questions from the Public re Anti-social behaviour in the village

Community Police officers PC Rob Wallace and PC David Gordon welcomed to the meeting. They explained that they were aware of the anti-social behaviour we have been experiencing throughout the village and on the beach. During the period 21st – 28th July there were 11 reported calls although they admitted that there will have been more unreported incidents and they stressed the importance of calling 101 or, if actual danger, 999. They also explained that the Police Scotland on line Reporting Form - <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/> is actually a more effective way of reporting an incident and will be dealt with more promptly than calls to 101. They also explained that they were overstretched during July because of the Commonwealth Games and other incidents but agreed to increase safe patrols with increased hours till midnight. They agreed that they will be more proactive next year during this historically difficult fortnight.

It was suggested that cameras throughout the village might help to deter trouble makers. It was agreed that this suggestion should be explored. Once again, it was agreed that letting agents should be encouraged to take more responsibility for their tenants re under age occupants and lets being over occupied. It was noted that this is also the responsibility of the property owners and that any antisocial behaviour by their tenants could affect their STL licence. It was also felt there was a need for schools to educate pupils. It was agreed therefore that prior to the start of the summer term, the CC would write to all relevant and local schools in relation to this matter

Parking at Ruby Bay

It was recognised that there has been some confusion re parking at Ruby Bay car parks. It was reiterated that the parking at the lower car park is controlled by the land owner, Elie Estate Trust and payment is made at the machine in the car park itself. The upper car park is managed by Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. There are number plate recognition cameras at both car parks and fines/invoices will be issued for non-payment. Due to the popularity of both car parks the tank provided for disposal of the contents of chemical toilets is often unable to cope with the amount and sometimes the regular toilets are being used. As a result, the toilets have had to be closed occasionally for repair. FCCT are looking into a solution for this.

On going sewage problems

There is still concern over the quality of the bathing water and it is understood that SEPA is conducting new testing programme which will complete by the end of September. Meanwhile, it has

become apparent that there is sewage coming from the Loch Run and that the Loch Run itself is in urgent need of repair. It is understood that it is the responsibility of Fife Council to address this problem. Meanwhile signs have been put up advising bathers to take care around the Loch Run particularly when the tide is out. It was stressed by member of the public, Stuart Gibson, that the problems facing us in Elie and Earlsferry are not confined to our area but are significant all the way along the Forth. It was suggested that all CCs should consider working together to urge Scottish Water to address the wider problem.

NnG Windfarm Funding

The CC has received several more applications. The closing date for this second round of applications is 30th September. Anyone wishing to apply should go to the EECC website for details and application form - <https://www.elieandearlsferrycc.org.uk/Index.asp?MainID=36822>

Toll Green Flag and transfer of ownership

The flag pole has been repaired and we are glad to see the flag now flying. Thanks to Riggerous Rigging for the work carried out and to our flag master, George Cowan. There is, however, a problem with the flag getting snagged up when the wind is strong and changing direction. George has ideas of how to address this and will liaise with Gerry from RR on how to fix this.

Medical Research have confirmed that they wish to transfer ownership of Toll Green to 'the community'. The CC agreed to look into how best this can be achieved.

Planning issues

Wadeslea Development, 26/01491/ARC. Letter from EECC, as Statutory Consultee to FC Planning Department and has been sent and objection on the Portal has been submitted. The letter can be read on the CC website - <https://www.elieandearlsferrycc.org.uk/Index.asp?MainID=36593>

Application Georgeville, 26/00979/FULL Links Road has been withdrawn.

Application re Strathneuk, Earlsferry High Street, although approved with conditions on appeal has been abandoned in favour of a smaller cottage in the garden. We look forward to having sight of these plans.

Plans for development at Elie House – we understand that plans for several houses with garages will be 'live' shortly.

Elie Watersports 26/00745/FULL

Installation of hot/cold tubs, installation of 2 no. sauna/steam room, installation of solar panels, formation of decking, formation of parking and associated works has been approved.

Infrastructure

There are still a number of issues needing attention including repair to and painting of the bus stop outside the entrance to Elie House.

Treasurer's Update

Bank balance - £7776.14

Elie Kirk Update

There is now the opportunity to buy shares in the purchase of the Kirk from Church of Scotland. You can follow all its activities on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61570226601836>

Contact: eliekirkCE@outlook.com

EAG Update

The small team have been working hard to provide floral features around the village, including large planters at key points, especially entry points to the community.

NNG Windfarm funding has enabled the purchase of new planters for the War Memorial, a memorial bench for Bob Mitchell MBE, a replacement picnic table for east end TG, which is fully accessible, plus new gravel for Archbald and Hyde Parks.

Other routine work throughout the year has included regular beach cleans, litter picking, sweeping, cleaning benches and picnic tables on TG and Hyde Park, sweeping and cleaning around the High Street benches and TG bus stop, plus painting and general tidying. Much of this is work undertaken by individuals from Team EAG when it suits them, such as litter picking whilst on daily walks. A small annual floral grant from Fife Council is helpful, however, self-help fundraising provides the main source of income required to achieve the desired results.

AOB

It was agreed that the EECC should, as usual, place a wreath at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Robbie agreed to chase up repainting of yellow lines from Stenton row to the Harbour.

Next meeting Tuesday 1st September 7.30, Earlsferry Town Hall.