

Minutes of Meeting of Elie and Royal Burgh of Earlsferry Community Council held on 1st September 2026 at Earlsferry Town Hall

Present: Angela Anderson, Carol Birrell, Cath McIntosh, Grizelda Cowan, Kirsty Barclay, Christian Aitken, Richard Smith, George Cowan, Alison Christian

Apologies: None

New declarations of interest: None.

August Minutes: Proposed by Cath, seconded by Carol.

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

We have received a request that the 20MPH sign on Ferry Road be moved up to just above the turn off to Ferry Road. It is a busy road used extensively by pedestrians and golfers crossing from 3rd green to 4th tee. Grizelda agreed to send request to Nigel Hampton.

Anti-social behaviour

It was agreed that the following actions should be taken to address this repeated problem during the months of July and August;

- Signs to be printed and distributed throughout the village reminding youngsters that all anti-social behaviour including drunkenness, fires, loud music and vandalism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police. The signs will also include advice on best ways to report any disturbance. We will make final decisions on the detailed content prior to the Easter holidays.
- Letters to be written to the heads of all the independent schools within the central belt highlighting some of the problems we had to face during the summer months and asking them to advise their pupils accordingly.
- The EECC will make contact with all known letting agents inviting them to discuss with us how numbers of tenants and their ages can be determined and controlled.

On going sewage problems

As discussed at our last CC meeting 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 and that FCCT are conducting tests using dye from various households.

Following Stuart Gibson's request that we should consider contacting all CCs along the coast and work together to urge Scottish Water to address the wider problem it was decided that we would contact all of the Fife's coastal Community Councils to ask whether they are experiencing sewage-related problems in their areas and, if so, what action they are proposing to take to address them. It was also agreed that we would ask Largo, in particular, what they believe, prompted Scottish Water to install their new sewage system.

Concern was expressed that there could be a possibility that our position might be overlooked and de-prioritised against other areas whose bathing water is much poorer and whose sewerage infrastructure is in a worse state than ours.

NnG Windfarm Funding

The CC has received two further applications. The closing date for this second round of applications is 30th September. It was agreed that Cath should be added as an editor to the Google Forms containing information from all applicants. Grizelda to action. 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 CC expressed gratitude to Medical Research who have paid the full cost for the repair to the Toll Green flagpole and to Jo Mendum for liaising so efficiently with them and their solicitors. George and Gerry from Riggerous Rigging are making plans on how to solve the snaring problem. We are still investigating ways in which the ownership of Toll Green can be transferred from Medical Research to 'the community'. It is understood that there will be a significant cost in actioning this and it was decided that we should seek advice from Cllr Alycia Hayes.

Planning issues

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.

Infrastructure

We have received an email from Cllr Alycia Hayes listing some of the infrastructure repairs that are being attended to but there are still many more needing attention. Right now, Grizelda is compiling a list of rusty and broken poles. Already 12 have been identified. If anyone knows of any that we might have missed please send details and a picture to grizelda@eastergrange.co.uk

Treasurer's Update

Bank balance - £7776.14

Elie Kirk Update

The opportunity to buy shares in the purchase of the Kirk from Church of Scotland is open till end of the month. So far £110,000 has been raised

You can follow all its activities on Facebook -

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

Contact: eliekirkCE@outlook.com

EAG Update – provide by email from Graham Meacher

The main activity continues to be the care and maintenance of the floral displays throughout the village. This involves a lot of effort by just a few, particularly in ensuring regular watering and weeding/deadheading. It is felt that the displays have worked particularly well this season and the village really is blooming.

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, plus new gravel for Archbald and Hyde Parks. The works to lay paving and install the bench and picnic table plus spread the gravel remain outstanding due to a series of delays on the part of the contractor. This work was due to be completed in early June. The contractor has been hastened several times, with little effect.

The bus shelter on Toll Green recently suffered damage from vandalism with a pane of safety glass being smashed. This has been reported to the police and the EAG is dealing with repair action.

The influx of summer visitors brings with it the usual negative impact of poor parking, litter, damage, late night noise and rowdiness. EAG team members have been doing their best to mitigate the littering issue and damage to plants.

It has been noted that the letter box on Earlsferry High Street has been removed, presumably by Royal Mail. This may be due to damage, rusting or lack of use. The CC may wish to seek clarification from Royal Mail regarding replacement of the box (customer.service@royalmail.com).

Fundraising is ongoing and the latest donation from the collecting box in Elie Newsagent was a very welcome £150.

Remembrance Sunday

The memorial service will be held on 8th November, gathering at 10.45 for 10.50. The CC Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday have been ordered. Thanks were expressed to Graham Meacher who has prepared a poster for this year's ceremony. Angela agreed to contact the various people to help with the organisation and conducting the address.

AOB

Angela reported that the parking for disabled sign at the Sports Cub has disappeared. She agreed to report this.

It seems that nearly all CC members are now able to access our gmail – equiries.eecc@gmail.com; to enable simple electronic conversations among CC members it was decided that we should set up a WhatsApp group. Grizelda to set it up and all members are to let her have their mobile numbers by text to 07711395136 or email.

We welcomed Bill Porteous to the meeting who expressed disappointment that many of the suggested actions listed in the Going Forth Project -

<https://www.elieandearlsferrycc.org.uk/Index.asp?MainID=36596> - have not been actioned. We asked him to bit a bit more specific but he was not forthcoming. We were puzzled.

At the end of the meeting Angela dropped a bombshell by announcing her immediate retirement as chair of the EECC. *

Next meeting Tuesday 6th October 7.30, Earlsferry Town Hall.

* Angela later explained her reasons:

'As it was late last night when I advised you all about my decision to step down from the community council, I thought I should now fill you all in on the reasons. I am now beginning to realise, that I would be unable to deal with all the work involved with the community council plus my growing involvement with Cupar Development Trust (CDT) in trying to save Elmwood College and Further Education provision for the next 1-2 generations of students in the Fife region seeking a route into education and training that is right for them and which will enable them to progress on their journey into the work environment.

Over the last few months our small Save Elmwood group which came together in 2024, has had numerous meetings with MSPs across the region plus a meeting in parliament which we hope will result in a cross-party debate when parliament and government resume, about Further Education provision in relation to land-based services i.e. farming, forestry, animal care and estate management not just in relation to Elmwood campus and the Fife region but also covering the other regions in Scotland where the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) has a campus. We have also requested that questions are raised in parliament on the future funding and provision of all Further Education throughout Scotland.

Cupar Development Trust recently agreed to become involved and the first meeting of the CDT working group took place last week. I am looking forward to seeing how we can progress the proposals put forward at that meeting and ensure a positive outcome not just for Elmwood Campus but for the land-based services across the whole of Scotland.'

This came as a big shock to all CC members and, really, all we can say at the moment is a huge **'Thank you, you will be sadly missed and lucky Elmwood Group'**.