

SALINE AND STEELEND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTE OF MEETING: 24th JUNE 2025 at 7.30 pm in SALINE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present. Claire-Louise Cuthbertson(C-LC) (chair) Donald Murdoch (DM) (Secretary) Marie Crane(MC) (treasurer) Cllr Karen Beaton, Jean Morris, Janet Murdoch, Sharon Glendon (SG), Annabella Davidson, Sonja Jones, Di Crawford, Gary Collins, Jonny Noblett, Lorraine Dobie, Lynda Bath, Ken Fraser, Colin Boag, Jacqueline Stones, Lisa Duncan, Kay Jackson, Essie Tough

Apologies: Tina Chapman (TC), David Chisholm, Irene Wardell, Cllr Sam Steele, Ali Macrae, Ada Cooper

1. Welcome

Claire-Louise Cuthbertson welcomed those present to the meeting. She congratulated Kay Jackson on her Volunteer of the Year award. She also said that the Community Pantry had been a big success and thanked volunteers for their efforts.

2. Notes of Previous Meeting

The May 2025 notes were approved

3. Matters Arising

a) Community Web Site: TC has confirmed that the community council has been approved by trustees for a Digital Fife web site. She has completed the application. She and Claire-Louise Cuthbertson had signed the agreement. ACTION: TC

b) Oakley Road safety issues: TC has submitted a complaint to Fife Council's Chief Executive who passed it to the person complained about. The reaction was that there is not a problem and that there would be no site meeting. The meeting confirmed that the issue is parked vehicles close to the bend and not residents' parking opposite the school. Cllr Beaton agreed to take the problem up with the head of Transportation.

c) Pharmacy: Lisa Duncan indicated that she had signed a lease with Fife Council, A shop fitter has been appointed and should start works in July . These would take 1-2 weeks to complete. She has to check some matters with the Pharmaceutical Society and hopes to open in August. Initially she will be looking for a part-time pharmacist and will later need other staff, preferably local. Ken Fraser identified a possible local pharmacist and agreed to investigate their availability ACTION Ken Fraser

d) Bus Services: Sharon Glendon outlined her and Ken Fraser's meeting with Stagecoach. The company will not change their decision to miss out the turning circle on journeys from Dunfermline. However, reversing the route may be possible. She had raised the issue of access for disabled people. Stagecoach confirmed that all buses have ramps and facilities for wheelchairs. They will carry mobility scooters if they can access the wheelchair area. The company will send a bus to check accessibility and Sharon should call to agree a time and date. ACTION Sharon Glendon

e) Defibrillator: TC continues to seek a meeting with the head teacher and golf club. It was noted that the Steelend one was installed and working

f) Loop System: It was confirmed that the acoustic panels are ineffective but those in the big hall were. Di Crawford (as part of her later report) suggested that the community council should change to a different night and use the big hall. She also advised that a relatively new resident was a voice-over actress who understood acoustics. She might be able to advise. It was agreed that C-LC should contact her. ACTION: C-LC

4 Discussion Items

a) Graveyard speed bumps: Following complaints from undertakers and mourners, TC contacted Bereavement Services. It was explained that the bumps were installed to divert water away from the entrance but this had been ineffective. Consequently, it was agreed to remove them. MC confirmed that this had been done.

b) Community Centre notice board: Fife Council confirmed that the board had been damaged and dumped during renovation of the centre and has no funds to replace it. TC is investigating the cost of a replacement for this and Steelend one. ACTION TC

c) Electric Vehicle Charging Points: in response to requests for public charging points in Saline and Steelend, TC contacted the officer responsible who confirmed that Saline was in Fife Council's programme including a charge point at the bus turning circle. It was felt that this is not an appropriate location and that alternative locations should be considered, including Steelend.

CLC described the Facebook survey she had conducted. 102 people had responded with 58% who would use (58) the remainder either wouldn't use or were opposed (3), The meeting felt that provision was necessary and identified visitors as other potential users.

d) Broadband provision/Speeding on A823 to Saline unclassified road: Eassie Tough described the problems that she and other remote locations were experiencing with getting acceptable broadband. The cost of alternatives and technical difficulties were unaffordable for residents. It is also likely landlines will be disconnected, which is causing concern. It was pointed out that both the community council and Fife Council were sympathetic but do not have any powers. This relates to Scottish Government policies and it was suggested that she contact her MSP.

She also raised incidences of speeding on the winding road that links the A823 with Bridge Street, Saline. It was felt that measures were required and should be raised with Transportation. ACTION: TC/C-LC/DM

e) New Speed Restrictions: It was noted that the speed warning devices were still programmed to the previous limits. Notwithstanding this, there are reports of vehicles complying with the limits being passed at speed, particularly on Main Street, Saline. It was felt that more effective traffic calming measures (not bumps) were required.

f) Off-road Bike Track: Jonny Noblett described his aim of providing an attractive facility that could be used by young people for cycling, roller skating and skateboarding. He felt that the existing skateboard area was not particularly attractive. He wished to recruit helpers but needed help. The meeting supported the concept and agreed that a group should be formed to research needs/support, identify a suitable location, prepare a business plan and obtain funding. DM will help him prepare an application for a Fife Council small grant. (copy of information attached) ACTION: DM

g) Steelend potholes: Jean Morris advised that gulleys had been fixed but kerbs had not been raised while potholes remained. DM suggested that a specific pothole was on private ground and that, despite the area being widely used by the public, Fife Council might not be willing to repair it. A local man has offered to do a fix for the materials cost and it was agreed that DM should discuss this with the owners. ACTION: DM

h) Overgrown Hedges: It was noted that Cllr Steele had spoken to officials and that the problem hedge has been cut back. However, there are continuing complaints about hedges on Main Street and between Saline and Steelend. Councillors should be asked to raise this with officials. ACTION: DM

Cllr Beaton advised that she had received complaints about road signs being obscured by vegetation. She had raised this with officials. Ken Fraser advised that some work had been carried out but that there were examples of overhanging vegetation creating problems. Cllr Beaton asked him to advise her of the locations. ACTION: Ken Fraser

i) Main Street, Saline Traffic Island: still no action

5. Reports

a) Secretary: DM advised that planning permission in principle has been sought to erect a house at Cults farm and farm buildings at Hillend. If these are required for farming purposes, they fall within Fife Council's policies. There is no adverse impact on the community and there is no need for community council action

The Memorandum of Understanding between Saline and Steelend Community Development Trust and Groupon re the Community Fund has now been signed. The next stage is to agree criteria for funding and the application processes. When this has been completed there will be publicity about the Fund and how to apply.

b) Treasurer: MC confirmed that the grant application has been submitted but not yet received

c) Police: No report

d) Councillors:: Cllr Beaton's input is covered by her actions in items on the agenda. Cllr Steele's report covers items discussed above and is attached for information.

e) Community Groups

I) Heritage Society: No report

II) Gardening Group: Jacqueline Stones reported that the the plant sale had been a great success. Special thanks were due to those who had donated plants and home baking. It was a busy event that would have benefited from more space. Everyone enjoyed themselves raising funds that will go back into the villages. The first new raised bed on Oakley Road has been completed. It replaces the two plastic tubs near the bus shelter and is planted up with perennials and shrubs. The group plans further raised beds to replace tubs at the at the West Road entrance and at the top of Main Street. It will also be installing raised beds at Saline and Steelend bus turning circles, as well as planters for the front of the community centre. The group has also added some more plants and summer bedding to the pots at Saline Glen entrance.

The Garden and Craft Show will take place on Saturday 6th September. It's not just about "big onions", the group would like to encourage everyone to celebrate their gardening successes by exhibiting and attending the show. .

III) Saline Environment Group: Di Crawford said that Scarecrow event had been very popular and would be organised again in 2026

IV) Community Pantry: Kay Jackson advised that the Pantry continued to be well attended. It will be providing lunches for schoolchildren during the summer holidays. It will continue to provide space for consultations, which could include the circuit referred to above.

6. AOCB

None

7 Date of Next Meeting

26th August 2025 in Saline Community Centre at 7.30 pm. All welcome

