**The Royal Burgh of Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke Community Council Meeting re: RNLI Shed held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7pm**

CC Members: Daryl Wilson, Gilllian MacLaren, Andy Peddie, Ali McLeod, Louise McEwan

FC Staff: Janice Laird

Members of the public: David Tod, Ian Goodyear, Joan Paton, Jill Saunderson, Susan Coates, Elizabeth Riches, Simon Hayhow , Shaun Suttie, Shona Muirhead, Michael Bruce, Alex Gardner, Alistair Ramsay, Roy Giles, Roger Grundy, Kate Anstruther, Martin Dibley, Louise McEwan, Carole MacLaren, Ally Sampson, Cllr Holt

Andy thanked all for attendance and explained how meeting will proceed. Welcome to Janice Laird from Fife Council who has offered her support with this venture.

Despite demolition, there remains approx. 18 months to save shed. Required to look at car parking issues, money has been sought and PAS have accepted Anstruther as a town to undertake comprehensive transport survey. Also need to find a new group to take over the shed, RNLI will hand back to FC and FC can hand to community via asset transfer.

Community Council have to date spoken with all local organisations who run property in the town, whilst all keen to help, none in position to take on the running of the property.

Janice explained Community Asset transfer process (CAT) is part of the Community Empower Act Section 5, process to support communities who may want to take over an asset. It is a grilling process but lots of support is available from within the council and other outside agencies. Within Fife there are several CAT’s, in past year there have been 8 applications for this in NEF, 5 of which are in East Neuk. Crail Community Partnership have successfully taken over Crail Community hall and 3 areas of land and Earlsferry Town Hall Ltd have taken over Earlsferry Town Hall.

**Key factor is the reason for taking over the asset** – many groups begin with premise of saving building, however this does need a clear idea of purpose to follow through the process. Clear aims. Two stage application process in Fife – stage 1 – pre application stage, groups can put in a note of intent, gives Council and other organisation’s the opportunity to work with groups, look at constitutions, ensure it is community controlled body as defined by Community Empowerment Act. At Stage 2 the clock starts ticking according to the Scottish Gov timeframe. From the submission of application and supporting evidence, the Council have 6 months from that date for council to give decision. CAT panel operate in Fife and Janice is current chair – group looks at financial viability, community benefit etc to ensure the group has the capacity to take it on and be successful. Onerous process but lots of support in place. FC willing to work with any community group who wish to pursue this.

AP – explained the CC cannot be the group due to constitutional and time restraints. Office bearers will assist and offer support but will not be the group who leads this. Nicky from DTAs is ready to assist also.

Andy explained he wished all present to have a say and sought four things – who you are, do you represent organisation of group? Do you want to use building? Do you want to give time to be part of steering group?

Jill Saunderson – represent St Ayles rowing club, happy to give time to group and very important that users of sea have facility to turn it into a hub

Joan Paton – Boats Club (part of SFM), like to be involved as a group with the building, utilising for club activities, sharing with other bodies within museum and the town? Sea growing activities

Susan Coates – Member of St Ayles Rowing Club. Very strongly would like to use the RNLI building, perspective of accommodation for both boats and maintenance and for social space for members. Need a strong membership and base. Affiliated with SFM , would like to work with other groups in the town and hope to be part of group taking things forward

Elizabeth Riches – Attending as member of Murray Library Trust, trustees have no use for building, has been involved in Murray library and AIA project – very keen to help, but not in forefront. Keen to give advice and support but not time to give over to lead project

David Tod – Local resident, also vice president of SFM, Rowing Club, James and Mary Walker Project. Personal idea, SFM at some point were looking into national museum of fisherman. Silhouettes of boats, fisherman covering the building (not unlike poppies in London). Keen to support but health rules out day to day running of it

Ian Goodyear – Director of operations at SFM. Keen to support, initially lending expertise, looking at financial plan, structure. SFM cannot commit at this point to management of building but support boat club and rowing club to use the building.

Shone Muirhead – Cpt St Ayles Rowing Club – as previously said keen to use building, perfect location, space is essential for storage, focal point for club, first skiff club established in World, great opportunity to showcase how skiff started , potential visitor attraction?

Shaun Suttie – Local resident would like to be part of steering committee. Idea to install a lobster hatchery in the space, ideal for the community and giving something back to the local fisherman.

Alistair Ramsay – Generally interested in the building. Trustee of SFM. Moral support and interest offered.

Roy Giles – Rep RNLI Operations Manager at Anstruther, possible commercial interest Alex will speak on that matter to avoid conflict of interest

Alex Gardener – Anstruther Pleasure Cruises and Ise of May Boat trips – interested in parts of building for commercial operations -Changing room for passengers oil skins, drying room, operation presently from back of trailer and great benefit to business – interested in being tenants. Have small information centre from small hut so keen to relocate to shop unit. Very willing to play a part if felt appropriate.

Simon Hayhow – Director of Development SFM, involved in initial consultation, just to add his support to the SFM clubs. Willing to be involved

Martin Dibley – Treasurer of East Neuk Trust who manage 4 community halls in East Neuk, only 4 trustees at present so do not have ability to sit on any steering group on this exciting project

Roger Grundy – Admin Officer RNLi and Architect – here tonight as secretary of James and Mary Walker Preservation Trust, 1904. Building was originally built for this boat which has been restored and is currently stored in a barn. Ideal place to store this boat as a tourist attraction, main priority to save building

Ali McLeod – Here to support the project and can help anyway he can. Experience in community consultation, fundraising – important link between town and sea whether leisure or historic, all proposals sound great

Ally – General interest, read about it in Crail Matters, new resident of the area. Not sure what can do to help but general interest.

Kate Anstruther – Rep AIA trustee – no interest in occupying building in anyway. AIA is absolutely constituted to do this type of thing and have experience of ownership and management of town hall (Dreel Hall). AIA very supportive, can offer advice, experience but not in resource position to take this on as they are. Would need a group of enthusiastic, energetic people to take forward if AIA were to be the vehicle to move it forward. It is not for fainthearted and cannot understate the level of work and commitment, time and energy required to achieve this. Having said that, on a positive note, the AIA are a vehicle that could be used to do this if people came forward.

Carol MacLaren – Resident of Cellardyke with general interest. Happy to help if needed.

Louise McEwan – CC member and also works for ENCT in office – here to offer support to the project and hopes to try maintain and get the building in use to the local groups who have expressed an interest.

Michael Bruce – Full time Coxswain/mechanic of Lifeboat station. Past 30 years has seen building change, vested interest in the building. Great ideas coming forward. Also, chairman of James and Mary Walker Restoration Project – would love to see the boat put back into the shed that it was built for, designed, and paid for. It is the only place that would suit the boat and it is fitting it goes there. Understands there are many interests for the building and will be supportive. Harbour does lack facilities, showers, laundry, galley for boat users. Other visiting harbours have great facilities and Anstruther is very poor in comparison so would be very supportive of this. Unfortunately have no additional time to commit to steering group but would like to see it go ahead.

Cllr Linda Holt – Feels outraged it can be knocked down for car parking and determined it should be saved. Anstruther is a place with amazing number of community halls but from tonight clear need a facility clearly connected to the sea, seems tailor made to meet that need that no other community building can satisfy. Niche use for the building. Argued very strongly at planning committee that it should not be demolished, it can be stopped if a good plan is in place and as a councillor happy to be involved and support it.

AP – stated all Cllrs fought hard, however the way it was presented to committee made it almost impossible for the new RNLI build to go ahead without the authority to demolish the current shed.

There is presently a small working group between Fife Council, Community Council, RNLI and local Cllrs – Ken Gourlay, Janice Laird, Daryl , Andy, Roy and 3 councillors who are aiming to move this forward and it has a proved a good way to plan further steps in the process. Group also discussed the potential use to move the harbour master’s office and public toilets into the RNLI shed and demolish existing toilet block. FC officials agreed to look at feasibility of this, whilst still retaining use for community groups, this will be determined at next meeting on 12 Nov.

Roger Grundy has agreed to draw basic plan of the building. RNLI cannot allow access at this present time therefore a plan will be used. MD has done some initial costings, at this stage though we need to establish use of building and how it could all fit together. As soon as plan is ready, DW will forward to all who is interested. If every group/individual could plan which parts they would like to use and then all come together to view how it could potentially take shape. E.g. would one communal area work for clubs? SS – Lobster idea, more detail on how community involvement would be, e.g. satisfy criteria community v profit.

Questions –

Roy- Thanked everyone for what they are doing. Costs – further to a meeting earlier today is aware of document in RNLI system with building / running costs, can share this information. Apologies due to COVID, RNLI cannot allow access to view the building at this present time. Timescales, no earlier than 18 months so time is on our side. AP thanked RNLI who could have walked away from this and passed building back to FC, so goodwill all round to make this happen.

Roger - Detailed drawings that now belong to RNLI – wall thicknesses, areas, basic dimension, no services are on the plans, it only involves size shape of building. Impossible presently to locate all the services.

Roy – V grateful that proposals went through to allow continuation of new build.

DW – asked all to email with contact details for circulation of minutes

JL – suggest next meeting is after our subgroup meeting, therefore likely to be end of November.

Andy closed meeting by thanking all for attendance, minutes and building plans will be circulated alongside next meeting date