

FREUCHIE



**Minutes of the Special
Flooding in Freuchie
Meeting 7.30pm 27.08.08
The Lumsden Memorial Hall**

1. **Welcome:** Chairman, Patrick Laughlin welcomed a good turnout of approximately 50 residents to the Special Meeting organised by Freuchie Community Council following the floods of the evening of Saturday 9 and the early morning of Wednesday 13 August.
2. **Panel:** Cllrs D Lothian and D MacDiarmid, Mike Thorpe, Jim Moodie and Harry Byers (Transportation Services, Fife Council), Gordon Bayne (Scott Bennet Associates) and Alan Simpson (Kingdom Housing Association) and CI David Brown (Fife Police).
3. **Apologies:** Cllr A. Arbuckle and P Craig, Millside, Freuchie Mill Road
4. **Meeting:** The Chair noted the extensive damage and near damage caused by flooding in Freuchie Mill and other areas of Freuchie. The meeting had been called to establish what happened and how procedures could be improved. He invited members of the audience to ask questions and recite their experiences.

FREUCHIE MILL

Neil Duff, 15 Freuchie Mill, Noted that on 18 August the road in Freuchie Mill was still covered in mud and silt. Harry Byers said that Environmental Services had been unable to clear this and not communicated this fact to Transportation Services, who had eventually cleared the road.

He noted that the culvert exit at the bridge was still blocked.

No one from Environmental Health had visited despite residents concern about mud and silt.

He asked who was responsible for the land and culvert maintenance. If the culvert is correctly sized how is further flooding prevented?

He asked if work at the top of the burn by Network Rail for an aqueduct and trench had exacerbated the problem downstream. He noted that there had been a landslide on the embankment and that on walking upstream there were few places where the natural stream had burst its bank.

Margaret Parker, 19 Freuchie Mill, noted that a hole in her garden was getting bigger and asked about responsibility for water running under foundations of a manhole. It was suggested that she contact Scottish Water, who had not been invited to the meeting.

The chair asked who was responsible for the big view. The answer seemed to be no one and that it was the riparian landowner's problem.

Cllr McDiarmid said he was accessing the original planning permission for Freuchie Mill which was archived to see if a flood risk assessment had been carried out. He reported that the aqueduct was 20 times bigger than before and was shifting more water. He asked if a licence from SEPA was required for the work. He suggested that the Freuchie Mill Burn should be rerouted and that the culvert was no longer legal.

It was asked who was responsible for the culverts (2 culverts, one for burn and one for mill lade).

J. Moodie, Fife Council stated that the original developer was responsible for the culvert. The original developer is no longer in business. Fife Council had adopted the road and footpaths.

It was stated that the development took place 12 years ago and was designed to the standards of the time.

J Thomson noted that Freuchie Mill lies in a basin and that flooding was compounded by building works of Network Rail. He asked if Fife Council had given planning permission. He stated there was visual evidence of flooding coming down from the other burn (the mill lade?).

Kingdom Housing Association stated they were responsible for the houses and that part of the culvert in their ownership. Structural surveys have been done by Kingdom Housing Association and the culvert will be repaired as it is.

Fife Council stated that they are not responsible for the culvert or burn.

Responsibility lies with the riparian owner. SEPA have a statutory responsibility for any change in watercourses. Clearing vegetation from burns has to be done with regard to wildlife and the preservation of the environment.

GREENTREE BRAE

J Mullen complained that sandbags had not been delivered when requested for the flooding on the evening of Saturday 9 August. In the end it was Tuesday before sandbags were obtained and they had to be collected. Fife Council commented regarding delivery of sandbags that it had the whole of North East Fife to look after and that a great many claims were exaggerated.

J Mullen reported that Freuchie Burn came up very quickly rising 4 inches in 10 minutes. He commented that new building work on what was once a flood plain had been given planning permission despite objections and had created pinch points. He mentioned agriculture and building work as contributing to the flood risk along with the current climate. There is a need for engineering to control the flow of water and an early warning system.

Jim Moodie of Fife Council said the Council looked at the flood risk of watercourses in Fife. Alleviation measures come out of the Revenue Budget and are subject to a cost/benefit analysis with the possibility of 80% funding from the Scottish Government for suitable schemes. He noted that the procedure was a long process.

The bridge let water overflow into property. Who is responsible for the bridge? Water reached a height of 7 feet (it had never been over 5 feet).

L Young reported that Waterside House, downstream from Green Tree Brae, was flooded and a seven foot high garden wall collapsed.

HOLMSIDE LITTLE FREUCHIE

Severe flooding at Falkland Road released water which knocked down bridge. It was asked if water released caused a tidal wave. This prompted the question if the Fire Brigade and Fife Council in clearing flooded roads had a responsibility for the consequences of releasing that water on properties further downstream.

Harry Byers quoted the rainfall figures for the 10th August and 13th August as being 31mm on each occasion. 141 mm of rain was recorded at Leuchars from 1 to 20 August.

MUIR PLACE and THE FEUS

Water was running down ditch at Old Road and off field. The Fire Brigade pumped water further down the road. The question was asked if the drainage in the village requires upgrading as the main drain was backing up.

LINEN MILL CLOSE

Freuchie Burn came up to the patio of 5 Linen Mill Close. There was a lot of rubbish brought down. The owner had never seen it higher.

FORTHARFIELD

Water reported as coming up to the house at 13 Fortharfield. It disappeared in 20 minutes.

Questions relating to Police Response

CI David Brown said that the emergency was unprecedented and he had never seen anything like it. A multi-agency response was set up. The A92 was flooded south of New Inn. The A914 was flooded at Pitlessie. The New Inn/Falkland road was flooded. There were police officers up to the arm-pits in Cupar. The A92 was closed north of Melville Lodges roundabout causing traffic to divert through Cupar. There were fears that the Kinnessburn would flood at the 1pm high tide in St Andrews. In addition there were problems at Shell Bay. In this situation the Emergency Response Plan is for a Multi- Agency Response in which policing becomes everyone's responsibility. In the event it had not been possible to get a police presence in Freuchie.

GENERAL

Cllr Donald Lothian requested that a list of houses flooded be drawn up. He noted that Dunshelt 4 miles away and normally prone to flooding had not been affected. Exceptional rainfall came down the side of the hill causing flash floods.

Jim Kenyon, Freuchie Community Council, said that the flooding happened two weeks ago and that we had been expecting a report from Fife Council and Kingdom Housing Association engineers.

Councillor David McDiarmid is to look at planning permission (currently archived) and has a meeting with Network Rail. Councillor Donald Lothian is to ask Fife Council Lawyers about the legal side of matters and whether individuals can take action to prevent their property flooding. MSP Iain Smith is to ask questions of SEPA, Network Rail and Fife Council.

Kingdom Housing Association is to prepare an Action Plan.

Chair, Patrick Laughlin, said this experience has been a learning curve for us all. It is still to be established what caused the flooding. The likelihood is a combination of weather, building and the maintenance of watercourses. He said it seems to be no one's responsibility to build up an overall picture. Each agency is looking only at its own bit. A more holistic approach is needed. A hydrological study needs to be undertaken and pinch points identified. It was requested that Fife Council help to identify problems.

The Community Council meet in two weeks time and will discuss what else the Community Council can do to expedite matters. It was suggested that another special meeting on Flooding take place in the Lumsden Memorial Hall on Wednesday 8 October — agreed. Since this date coincides with the Community Council meeting, this is to be held the following week.

Chair, Patrick Laughlin, thanked all the representatives, the councillors and the residents for attending.

Next Meeting Wednesday 8th October 2008

Attendance

FREUCHIE BURN

Little Freuchie

Mr and Mrs Steven, Holmside, Little Freuchie

Green Tree Brae

Miss D Orme and Mr C Sweet, Torville, Green Tree Brae

Mr and Mrs Porter, Carian, Green Tree Brae

Mr and Mrs J Mullen, Rivendell, Green Tree Brae

High Street

L Young, Waterside House, West End

Linen Mill Close

C Normand and P Normand, 5 Linen Mill Close

Eden Valley Gardens

L Maloney, 9 Eden Valley Gardens

FIELD WATERCOURSES

The Feus

Mr and Mrs J Forbes, Camberley, Upper Feus

Mr S Lawson, Aros , The Feus

Muir Place

N Hay and B Hay 15 Muir Place

Millburn Place

J Duncan, 12 Millburn Place

J Lowrie, 16 Millburn Place

Fortharfield

Mr and Mrs A Turner, 13 Fortharfield

PITILLOCK/FREUCHIE MILL BURN

Freuchie Mill

Agnes Young, 2 Freuchie Mill

David Young, 2 Freuchie Mill

Jim Henderson, Kay Henderson and Erin O'Conner, 3 Freuchie Mill

Neil Duff, 16 Freuchie Mill

Audrey Duff, 16 Freuchie Mill

John A Thomson, 15 Freuchie Mill

Dr P Ross and Mr D Buchanan, 17 Freuchie Mill

Mr and Mrs Douglas, 18 Freuchie Mill

Mrs Parker 19 Freuchie Mill

J Allan, 21 Freuchie Mill

From outside Freuchie

Andrew Blankenstein, Balmalcolm, (Kettle Community Council), Donald Low, 6 Largo Road, Lundin Links,

MSP Iain Smith

KINGDOM HOUSING ASSOCIATION Gordon Bayne (Scott Bennet Associates), Alan Simpson, G McKenzie, A Walls, B Banks,

FIFE COUNCIL Councillor D Lothian, Councillor D McDiarmid, M Thorpe (Team Leader Structural Services), Jim Moodie (Lead Officer Harbours, Floods and Coasts), Harry Byers (Roads and Lighting Response), Colin Gilbert (Locality Manager)

FIFE POLICE Chief Inspector David Brown

COURIER C Wood

FREUCHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL P Laughlin, (Chair), C Black, J Kenyon, T Hartshorne, E Jardine