

CROMBIE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CRA)

Minutes of a General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 30th April 2013 19:00 at Crombie Community Centre

Present:

Tony Orton (TO) (Chairman)
Hans Wallace (HW) (Secretary)
Helen Baldwin (HB)
Craig Mitchell (CM)
Sandra Schafferius (SS)

Apologies:

Neil Baldwin (NB) (Treasurer)
Ruth Padmore (RP)
Katherine Pearson (KP)
Scott Mullings (SM)

Guests:

Cllr. Alice Callaghan (LAB)
Cllr. Robert Clelland (LAB)
Cllr. Kate Stewart (SNP)
D Manson, Fife Ed
A Watt, Fife Ed
S Meal, Fife Ed
MacGregor, New City

Residents:

Joan Allen
K Strachen
D&L Stephen
J&S McGhee
T Reynolds
Christine Walker
David Ganley
Helen Pratt
Carole Young
Caroline Welch
Janette Hall
Lyndsay Fox
A Stewart
A Hastings
Darren McFadden
Liza Mitchell
Paul Gibson

1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

TO welcomed all present and thanked everyone for attending.
Apologies; RP, KP, NB and SM (resigned)

2. MINUTE of the MANAGEMENT MEETING Tuesday 16th April 2013.

The minute of the Management Meeting was unanimously accepted.

3.BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MANAGEMENT MEETING

Not Discussed

4. STATEMENT BY CHAIR

TO stated that the meetings only focus was to be on the potential school closure, and Councillors and Fife Ed reps to give statement and answer questions.

5. DISCUSSION.

Questions raised by community members to fife education and responses from Fife Ed.:-

ACTION

1. **Q** - Why does it cost so much to send pupils to Crombie compared to other schools?
A - In general, any school with a small roll will have a cost per pupil higher than the average
2. **Q** - Why is building cost taken into the costs for Crombie?
A - This is consistent for all schools when calculating the yearly cost per pupil.
3. **Q** - How much is the saving of closing, considering the costs that will be in place in transferring the pupils to another school?
A - The net saving will be £117,049 per annum.
4. **Q** - Parental choice - Limekilns nursery will they accept the Crombie children on parental choice and how does this impact on secondary schools?
A - The nursery admissions process is different from the primary enrolment process. Parents of nursery aged pupils can make a 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice to attend any nursery in Fife. Parents of primary aged pupils can make a placing request to attend Limekilns PS, although the Council does not have to approve these requests if an additional teacher or accommodation is required. Where a placing request is approved, the Council will not provide free transport for any child.
5. **Q** - By September one class from P1-7 and Fife Council don't listen so why should I leave my child at Crombie?
A - Parents may make a placing request at any point, which will be considered if there is space available. However, where there are pupils enrolled at Crombie, current education provision will remain.
6. **Q** - As there is no bus service from Crombie to Cairneyhill if the children went to Cairneyhill and child is sick and the parent doesn't drive how would a parent pick up a sick child?
A - When children are enrolled in schools parents are asked to supply emergency contact details in case of medical or other issues arising. As in other schools this can be a difficulty as the responsibility is with parents to transport themselves to and from the school. Some arrangements which have worked in other schools are that parents have made use of a variety of transport options for such circumstances, e.g., calling on friends and family for support, using a taxi service, private car etc
7. **Q** - What about issues with Limekilns nursery, are there enough Nursery places and how this would accommodate placing requests at Limekilns?
A - It is the Council's ambition in the longer term to remove the temporary accommodation for the nursery at Limekilns and move the nursery into the main school.
8. **Q** - If the school closes what will happen to building?
A - The building would be declared surplus by the Education and Learning Directorate and the Council's Asset & Facilities Management Service would make a decision on its future.
9. **Q** - What about the new houses to be built and more families might come into the village could the school stay open?
A - The impact of new housing (27 units) has been taken into account in the roll projections and the school is not sustainable long term.
10. **Q** - If new houses are built - where are the children going to go to school?
A - If the proposal is accepted the children would go to Cairneyhill. There is sufficient capacity within Cairneyhill PS for the current Crombie catchment pupils and any new pupils from the proposed 27 housing units.
11. **Q** - How do the costs get reduced as the staff will get moved elsewhere?
A - The net saving will result from building costs, management costs, admin costs and non-teaching staffing.

12. **Q** - If parental choice was removed for rural schools is this likely to change?
A - No
13. **Q** - Why is parental choice being taken from Crombie?
A - Parental choice is not being removed. Parents of Crombie can still make a parental placing request to attend any other school in Fife.
14. **Q** - What happens when they go to secondary if the catchment changes and children already in Limekilns is the cost down to parent?
A - If the proposal is agreed and Crombie PS is closed and the catchment merges with Cairneyhill, the new catchment secondary school for the Crombie area will be Queen Anne HS. For any parent within the Crombie catchment enrolled in Limekilns PS, their postcode would then be within the Queen Anne HS catchment area. For any parent wishing to transfer from Limekilns PS to Woodmill HS, they would have to submit a parental placing request and the cost of transport would have to be borne by the parent.
15. **Q** - If child already at school, does the younger sibling once they reach secondary age continue to get transport paid after catchment changed?
A - See 14 above
16. **Q** - Crombie is associated with Limekilns; could the Crombie building be used for Limekilns nursery?
A - No. This would not be a practical or cost effective solution.
17. **Q** - Can we argue the catchment be Limekilns rather than Crombie?
A - Alternatives may be suggested during the consultation period.
18. **Q** - If the catchment area is Cairneyhill, secondary school is QAHS, at the minute everyone goes to WHS; a bus will need to come to Crombie to collect the QAHS children? 2 buses to village, one for QAHS and one for WHS, would they both still come?
A - Yes, until there were no longer pupils requiring transport to Woodmill.
19. **Q** - Once in a school do your rights continue when catchment changed? What about for younger children would they be liable for the costs of transport?
A - See 14 above
20. **Q** - If Crombie parents all left Limekilns and moved to Cairneyhill what would happen, would there be space?
A - Yes
21. **Q** - The proposals for closure are not saving much money; will there be investment in the receiving schools?
A - A report on investment in receiving schools will be brought forward in June.
22. **Q** - If school was at full capacity would it be safe from closure?
A - Our projections do not indicate that this possibility will arise
23. **Q** - How does under occupancy affect the costs?
A - Running a school incurs a number of fixed and variable costs. As rolls rise, fixed costs are distributed over a greater number of children.
24. **Q** - Is it not wrong to use same occupancy for rural schools compared with other schools?
A - Any proposals brought forward will comply with legal obligations regarding rural schools and where possible the recent recommendations of the Commission on Rural Education will be incorporated.
25. **Q** - Would there be consideration of Crombie building for nursery or children with ASN?
A - No

26. **Q** - Money for pre-school provision what about the play group in Church hall in Limekilns. Could Playgroup be moved to Crombie?
A - If the proposal is accepted, the building will be declared surplus by the Education & Learning Directorate, and the site would pass to Asset & Facilities Management for disposal.
27. **Q** - Have arrangement for catchments ever changed after consultation?
A - Not to our knowledge, but that doesn't mean they can't be changed.
28. **Q** - Has any proposed rural school closures been overturned?
A - Yes, where the statutory consultation has been judged defective by Scottish Ministers.

6.CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence presented.

7.ANY OTHER BUISNESS

No other business discussed.

8.MEETINGS

Committee:	07/05/13	1930	5 Orchard Grove
General:	11/06/13	1900	CC&LC
Committee:	25/06/13	1930	5 Orchard Grove
General:	13/08/13	1900	CC&LC
Committee:	10/09/13	1930	5 Orchard Grove
General:	08/10/13	1900	CC&LC
Committee:	12/10/13	1930	5 Orchard Grove
General:	10/12/13	1900	CC&LC

MEETING CLOSED

2025