

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD IN AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2013

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESENT.

P.RODGER, R.SMITH, A. AMOS, A.RAMSAY, I.PENMAN, D.GRANT, JO TIBBLES

ALSO PRESENT.

COMMUNITY CONSTABLE LYNSEY SCOTT, CLLR CRAIG MARTIN, (F.C.)
BRIAN PIRIE (F.C.), W.WATSON, L.WATSON (D.V.A.) M. MONTINARO, J.SINGH,
(S.C.C.C) M.DAVIES, S.DAVIES, J.DOYLE, T.TAYLOR, C.DONNELLY, I.CURRIE,
R.MARTIN

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Stephen Bird, Jon Anslow, D.Gilmour & W.Douglas.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of our meeting on 12th December were approved as a correct record of the proceedings. Proposed by D.Grant and seconded by A.Amos..

POLICE REPORT.

Lynsey Scott of Central Scotland Police gave a comprehensive report on police activities in the parish from 12th December to 15th January. A copy of this report is appended.

The P.A.C.T. priority is to prevent and reduce speeding by vehicles on the A905. Hand held radar has been used and the mobile speed board will also be used in the coming weeks.

Test purchasing operations were carried out at all licensed premises in Airth to see if they would sell alcohol to an under age person and all premises were found to comply with the law in that no sales were made..

The convenor thanked Lynsey for her report.

MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising from our last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

12/12/12 E mail from Shona Barton with Dart Energy poster publicising the exhibition in their Stirling office.

17/12/12 E mail from Alexandra Lewis F.C. planning officer re. the planning application for 3 wind turbines at Rosehill near the border between Stirling and Falkirk districts. This fall within Stirling District.

17/12/12 E mail from Cllr. Stephen Bird with a link to the Funding at Falkirk newsletter.

18/12/12 E.mail from Lynne James of the D.V.A. with the number of the telephone kiosk at Dunmore to allow us to enquire about adoption of the kiosk.

19/12/12 E.mail from Shona Barton (F.C.) regarding a training session to cover data protection and freedom of information to be held on Wednesday 30th January at 6pm.. R.Smith will attend this.

21/12/12 E.mail from Kate Fuller of the R.S.P.B. with an update on their consultations on the Inner Forth landscape initiative.

28/12/12 E.mail from Cllr.Martin regarding the proposed windfarm at Rosehill.

08/01/13 Letter from F.C. regarding the Litter Strategy awards to be held on 17th January.

08/01/13 Letter from F.C. planning confirming the grant of various planning applications at Letham farm.

08/01/13 Letter to Dunmore Village Association regarding recent events affecting our relationship.

09/01/13 E.mail from payphones at BT.com with a contract of sale of the Dunmore kiosk. This is quite a large document with many conditions attached and will require study before we agree to sign it. Pauline will read this to see what the implications and obligations would be for the community council. We will keep the D.V.A. informed on this issue.

09/01/13 E mail from Planning Aid regarding a training session to be held in Falkirk on 16th February. Domini Grant wishes to attend this.

09/01/13 E mail from Cllr Bird regarding the flooding and parking on the pavement at the Village Store. The roads department are looking into this and may consider installing barriers to prevent parking on the pavements which may be damaging drains.

10/01/12 E mail from Dart Energy declining our request for a further exhibition in Airth.

10/01/13 E mail from Roy Mitchell confirming his attendance at our January meeting.

11/01/13 E.mail from Iain Edwards (F.C.) regarding damage to a core path at Bothkennar.

15/01/13 E mail from Brian Pirie (F.C.) regarding a request for an investigation into the affairs of Airth Parish Communiy Council by Maria Montinaro and her request for minutes of the public meeting held on 12/12/12 and details of any follow up meetings with Dart Energy.

15/01/13 E mail from Maria Montinaro with copies of objections to the Dart Energy planning application..

16/01/13 E mail from S.E.P.A. detailing their role in regulating coal bed methane gas extraction and an offer to attend one of our meetings to give us a presentation on this.

We will contact S.E.P.A. and invite them to attend our next meeting.

16/01/13 E mail from Robert Sloan from the Bothkennar Residents association informing us of their support for the Dart application.

PLANNING ISSUES

There were no new planning applications within our Parish during the past month.

The following planning applications have been approved and granted by Falkirk Council.

14/12/12 Smiddy House Dunmore -- replacement windows and patio door to rear.

30/12/12 Letham Farm, Letham—Part retrospective.--

Fence, gate and bund; New Agricultural building; Change of use from agricultural land to private garden; Alterations and extension to existing farmhouse; re-routing a core path.

Dunmore Home Farm -- Part retrospective – Outbuilding and hardstanding.

The Paddock, Fairfields, Moss Road—Part retrospective.

Change of use from agricultural land to private garden.

06/01/13 Woodlea, Dunmore Village – New conservatory to rear.

13/01/13 Letham Moss Community Renewables –Temporary

80m Anemometer mast as part of a feasibility study for a wind farm.

The Dart Energy application

The convenor voiced our concern and disappointment that we had been unable to hold a vote amongst residents at the public meeting held on 12th December. For the record, 67 residents from Airth Parish registered their attendance as well as 7 residents from outside the area, 3 councillors, 7 members of Airth Parish Community Council and the 3 representatives from Dart Energy. Notes taken at this meeting are available and are appended.

She acknowledged that there is a considerable amount of concern about and opposition to the proposals with some vociferous and articulate residents making a strong case against the application. However we also know that there is a degree of support for it from other residents in the parish.

Although this issue has been in the public domain for some time, there are still people asking for information about it and we have asked Dart to arrange a further exhibition and consultation in Airth but unfortunately, they will not do this but have arranged to hold an exhibition in their Stirling office until the end of January and this has been publicised on our

notice board and in the local press. Dart Energy have offered to arrange transport for anyone wishing to attend their exhibition.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the issue with various points of view being aired, many of which had been made at previous meetings.

Ian Penman left the meeting partway through the discussions.

The following points were made--

W. Watson was concerned about the effect the twice daily tides in the estuary would have on the dispersal of the treated water from the well sites.

D. Grant expressed her concern about the quality of treated water from the site. The Convenor pointed out that SEPA would be monitoring this.

M. Montinaro referred to objections made by other community councils.

T. Taylor said he had met Dart on 3 occasions and felt that they were avoiding answering some questions. He asked for further opportunities for residents to get all the information they require and to put their views to the community council. He questioned what would be left on the sites after work is complete. He also acknowledged that every person was entitled to their own opinion and he respected the views of other people. However a criticism of the community council was made in that he felt there was a reason for them not making a decision on this application.

A comment was made that our last public meeting in December appeared to be a promotion for Dart Energy and that the Community Council appeared to be "in their pocket". This allegation was strongly refuted by the convenor.

Brian Pirie of Falkirk council indicated that it was not necessary for the Community Council to take a vote amongst residents on this issue, but to collate the questions, concerns and comments they received from residents and pass them to the planning officials to evaluate. The application would not be determined on the basis of a Community Council response.

C. Donnelly asked about the provision for compensation or repairs to property should problems occur due to subsidence caused by the project. and how would the community benefit from the development.. He also said that if the application is referred to the Scottish Government and A.P.C.C. has not lodged an objection to it, this would be exploited by dart.

R. Martin indicated that he and the Bothkennar Residents had met with Dart energy representatives and had found them helpful and courteous and answered the questions put to them. They had also agreed to help improve the drainage in the Powfoulis area when laying pipework into the Forth. He also noted that the reason for the outfall pipe going direct into the river was to protect the sensitive salt marsh from being eroded as has happened elsewhere in that locality.

Cllr. Martin acknowledged that this was a major application and stated that all questions and concerns raised by the community and put to the Planning officials must be raised with the applicant by the planners. He also noted that if the application is refused by Falkirk Council,

the applicant could appeal to the Scottish Government and if granted by them, F.C. could lose any influence on imposing conditions on the applicant.

To show that some residents had been aware of the exploration and development of coalbed methane gas in our area for some time, R. Smith quoted from a letter sent in by a resident in June 2011 voicing her concerns about the "fracking" going on in our area as she had read articles about it in the press. She had researched fracking on the internet and asked to speak to the Community council about the subject. She attended our June meeting with her husband and explained her concerns. We contacted Dart energy at that time and they assured us that they were not "fracking" and had no intention of using that process in our area in the future.

As this subject had taken up a great deal of the time available, the convenor curtailed the discussions and moved to the next item on the agenda.

Some residents made to leave the meeting at this point but it was pointed out to them that there were other issues on the agenda which would affect our parish and that they should stay and hear the following presentation.

**BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ON THE ESCARPMENT ABOVE
AIRTH PARISH CHURCH BY ROY MITCHELL AND TERRY WALKER.**

Roy Mitchell introduced himself as the architect responsible for the development proposals and Terry Walker as representing those holding the development option on the area.

Roy presented a proposed site plan of the area which covered 25 acres from Agricola House north down to the old curling pond field. and this showed around 130 homes in the development. Half of the site will be given to green space, preserving existing woodland areas This will be maintained by a registered factor on behalf of the residents.

There will be a percentage of affordable housing within the development, possibly even council houses and a small development of sheltered or semi sheltered accommodation in the form of bungalows for older residents in the old curling pond field. This may release larger local authority houses currently tenanted by single people for occupation by families.

Proposals for houses types for sale will be a mix of 3 bedroom semi detached , 3 and 4 bedroom detached. Price range from £145,000 to £250,000. Road access to the development will be direct from the A905 just to the north of the HL plant yard but there will be pedestrian links into the village from all parts of the development. Planning gain of £5600 per property or approximately £600,000 will be allocated to the education budget to help Airth primary school cope with the increase in population. The Airth waste water treatment plant is currently being upgraded to cope with additional developments in the area

Building rate for such developments is normally about 2 units per month so it could take around 5 years to complete the development depending on sales.

No building will take place on the sites of the old mine workings.

The Pre Application Notice will be lodged with Falkirk Council in the next few weeks and will trigger the 12 week public consultation process. Part of this will include a public exhibition to allow residents to view the proposals and make comments. This will probably be held in the village on a Saturday from 10am until 5pm and will be well publicised..

Terry Walker said that similar developments he had been involved in were most successful when designed to accommodate a mix of various age and social groups. He also suggested that part of the success of other developments in Airth is down to support and information from the community.

Domini Grant voiced her concern that the area planned for the older residents was furthest away from the main facilities in the village.

The convenor thanked Roy and Terry for their presentation.

PATHS LEAFLET

A final draft of the paths leaflet has been issued to us by Lesley Sweeney for checking prior to being printed and copies of the draft were issued to those who requested it. R. Smith will return any comments to Lesley as soon as they are received.

W. Watson asked if Falkirk Council were responsible for the upkeep of countryside core paths and the answer given was no.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CEREMONY.

It was acknowledged that the Christmas lights ceremony had been a success with the large crowd present being entertained by the school choir and enjoying some mulled wine, cake and mince pies. The visit by Santa was appreciated by the younger children..

Below is the list of sponsors for our lights. Thank you letters have already been sent out.

Murray Caravans	- £ 50
HL Plant Ltd	-£100
Scottys garage	- £ 40
Airth Community Centre	- £100
Alison & David Dick	- £100
Paterson Garden buildings	- £100
Leslie Dick & sons	- £500
E.Burgoyne	- £100
George Russell Constr.	- £150
Scotts Letham Moss	- £ 50

Guy Davidson LIDLs mince pies, D. Gilmour Cakes, R. Smith mulled wine and firework, I Penman Bottles of wine for raffle, The late Albert Ramsay Whisky for raffle.

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer indicated that our bank balance was currently £4475.25 but we had committed expenditure of £3562.11 which leaves a balance of £907.14. It was noted that members of the community council were using their own P.C.s, e mails, stationery and telephones at no cost to the community. Cllr. Martin pointed out that grants may be withheld if funds are not used up.

A.O.C.B.

None.

The convenor thanked everyone for attending and noted that the date of our next meeting is Wednesday 20th February 2013

Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report

December 2012 – January 2013

Dunmore

0 crime reports

South Alloa

0 crime reports

Letham

1 crime report relating to a domestic incident.

Airth

4 crime reports

- Assault involving a 22 year old and a 24 year old local male at High Street– enquiry ongoing.
- Domestic incident. A 55 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- Assault (minor). A 49 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- Vandalism. Counter complaint relating to above complaint. A 36 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Two motorists dealt with for minor vehicle lighting defects.

The PACT priority for Airth for January is to prevent and reduce vehicles speeding on the A905. We have been using Hand Held Radar and will have the use of a mobile speed board in the next few weeks.

Test Purchasing Operation:

We recently carried out a Test Purchase Operation at all of licensed premises in Airth. This tests whether an off licence will sell alcohol to a person under 16. We are pleased to report that no sales were made and all premises were found to be acting in accordance with their licences.