

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 19 February 2014

Present:- Domini Grant Robert (Bob) Smith Aileen Amos Ginny Sutherland
Willie Watson Ann Ramsay

Also Present:- Lillian Watson Cllr Craig Martin Margaret Connell
Ann Marshall Elizabeth Dick Leslie Dick William Dick
PC Lynsey Scott Jean Stewart Edward Stewart Pauline Rodger

Apologies:- Cllr Bird, Jim Flynn, Ian Penman, J Anslow

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014 in Airth Primary School were approved as a correct record, moved by A Amos seconded by G Sutherland.

Matters Arising

Bob advised that there had only been one response to the advertisement for a Minute Secretary namely Pauline Rodger. There were no objections to the appointment and it was agreed that Pauline would take Minutes for this evening's meeting.

Flood defences. It was noted that Mr Leslie Dick had repaired the breach and common sense had prevailed and the action taken against him had been dropped.

Police Report

PC Scott advised that they had set their PACT priority. They base these priorities on calls received so we are urged to call/email with concerns to suggest issues. School parking is one priority. They are keeping an eye on the situation.

This is a low crime area.

In Airth theft of bikes, scrap metal – be vigilant. Lock away these items.

1 Neighbour dispute

3 road traffic incidents

We were encouraged to phone 101 if any social/neighbour issues so these do not escalate with people taking matters into their own hands.

No crime reports for Letham, South Alloa or Dunmore.

Domini raised concern about parking in designated turning parking. PC Scott said that somebody was probably just trying to cause annoyance. Get the neighbours concerned to call her. They might be causing an obstruction. Domini will give details and the police will check it out.

Domini raised issue of a commercial van parked on corner near school road. This will be looked into. She'll check it on her way out of this meeting.

Dog fouling is another concern especially in front of the Castle. Mrs Edwards says that North Green Drive doesn't seem to have an issue as dog walkers do seem to pick up after their dogs. We should contact the Community Safety warden who will check it out and issue fines if appropriate.

The Convenor thanked PC Scott for her report.

Full Police Report attached.

Updates from around the Parish

South Alloa -30 March afternoon flood warning- because of high spring tides. SEPA will contact ones at risk.

Letham- Ian in hospital. We will send him a card and flowers. It was noted that all murals were now up.

Mr Dick raised issue of plastic bottles and rubbish thrown into his fields in front of the Terraces –

There are 3 new bus shelters.

Airth – Domini has spoken to some residents especially at the Health Centre. This will be raised under the Health Centre update.

Parking still issue at school and concerns re dog fouling and the mess on the ground behind the former Crown Hotel.

There is also an issue at Carse View outside No 11 with a sinking drain. This was raised with Cllr Craig Martin who will get somebody to look into it.

Anne says Lillian is making tablet for youth club funds £1 bar.

Dunmore- 1 new bus shelter.

Dom would like to attend local Residents' Associations. It was agreed that Letham meeting would need to wait until Ian was out of hospital. Dunmore RA will let her know when it's suitable as they only have one more meeting before their AGM.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that there was £ 2347 in funds. Lights were £20 more than originally quoted. With regard to contribution to CCOF (Concerned Communities of Falkirk) no money from Xmas lights can be donated as it has to be ring fenced. We can afford to give £200 donation from other funds. The treasurer reminded Robert she had not received the letter from him to enable her to change the signatories.

Adoption of Constitution

One or two amendments require to be made- Bob will make them and pass it round again.

Correspondence

PAN for top of the hill is in. 25 Feb - meeting at Welfare Hall for whole day. It's a consultation to see what they are proposing. Notices up on notice board about it and advertised in Falkirk Herald. It is just to gauge comments/ concerns. This has to be done before planning application goes in.

Event Edinburgh 25 April Disability Scotland – details available from Bob.

Bob, Ginny and Domini went to Scottish National Heritage Evening 18 Feb – They asked questions like what do the authorities want landowners to do if/when same flooding situation arises again? Leslie says there was a 20 m hole and into it disappeared 1000 ton of demolition rubble. Mr McGann phoned. He said that a degree of common sense was needed hence the quashing of the action against Mr Dick. Rather than tell them what they can't do as landowners press to find out – what can they do? Community Council is pushing to get people round the table. Somebody needs to take responsibility.

Letter from Local Energy Scotland – Domini suggested we invite them to a meeting to see what they are about. Agreed.

Invitation to a dinner dance to raise funds for CCOF to be held this Friday - £45 head.

Letter of invite to event in Edinburgh re online safety – 25 February – ask Bob for details if interested.

Invite to event re Community empowerment ie) ideas on how to deal with community issues – 6 May - Bob might go.

Letter advising about Climate Change Fund – if we can reduce our carbon footprint ie) in village hall, there is money available. Bob suggested Dunmore Bowling green – might get money to insulate? Bob suggested the Climate Change fund may be of interest to the Bowling Hut at Dunmore. Willie said that Mrs Watson was already looking into it.

Letter from Craig Martin advising of changes to buses and timetable. The bus won't go to Falkirk Community hospital now.

Email advising of explosions/noise tomorrow (20 Feb) as filming is taking place at 12noon. Simulated explosion test.

Emails from Craig and reply from Angus McDonald re flooding have been circulated to everyone.

Adoption of Charter

Domini had a response to her letter to CCOF – It was clarified that APCC would be represented by the legal team not by CCOF itself.

APCC can make separate points as long as not contrary to CCOF points. No need to
There is no requirement to adopt Charter. APCC can still agree to be represented.

It was pointed out that there is already a previous Charter which was adopted by us in 2003. At that time residents/farmers of the community were consulted including Mr Dick. Domini advised that we need to look at it and update it. Many of the items it dealt with were similar to the one in the new Charter. It was suggested that maybe we need to get a group together to look at it.

With regard to the proposed Charter it was pointed out that individual residents can sign up to it themselves.

Domini expressed concerns about whether we had been given enough time to consider the document as it had only been emailed to us 10 days ago. We can accept the legal representation without signing up to the Charter and just let residents decide for themselves if they want to sign up to it.

Bob pointed out that the new Charter goes much further environmentally and that was something that should be considered as it could have implications for landowners.

Mrs Dick was concerned about the Community Council's lack of involvement. She asked why the Community Council wasn't taking more action as people round the world have contributed to the CCOF cause and it was embarrassing at meetings when it was pointed out that Airth Community Council hadn't become fully involved and didn't seem to be fully supportive.

Domini advised that this was untrue as we have signed up to CCOF and are going to contribute. We have also held and attended numerous meetings all of which are minuted on the Council website. Domini added that as a Community Council we have to represent the whole community. We have submitted a lengthy letter expressing community views and concerns to Falkirk Council.

Willie asked what the disadvantages of signing up would be. Domini said she wasn't sure and still didn't feel enough time had been given to digest the contents of the Charter.

Mrs Dick said she felt the matter was just getting put off when other areas outwith are doing so much. She said that water contamination, when it happened would be everybody's problem.

Ginny said that the fracking site had been picked because it will go into the river. Concerned about the implications and the waste that would lie in the salt marsh.

Willie says we need to decide whether to support and not sit on the fence.

There was discussion about whether copies could go out to residents but it was felt that it was too late to organise this as time was getting short.

There was discussion about the "Australian film" and how it was the ordinary people who had hassled DART out of Australia.

Bob advised that three members of APCC had attended a meeting in Falkirk and had seen the film.

Mr Stewart said that it might only be a symbolic gesture and he was concerned that if we don't indicate that we are of a similar mind – it looks bad. He said that there was total apathy in Airth and on the part of APCC. He said the APCC needs to look pro-active.

Domini reiterated that the APCC had to represent all residents. It wasn't for us to decide. Domini started reading constitution. Mr Stewart asked her to stop as the screed flies over everybody's head. He said that all you get from APCC is dribble. What is needed is positive action to show people don't want this.

Domini asked him to stop. Mr Stewart said he wouldn't and asked not to be addressed like a child.

Domini said we need to reflect and come back to it.

Ginny said she was for the coal bed methane extraction initially but she has changed her mind. She thinks others would change their minds too if they had the details.

Bob says he's wary of signing for the reasons he outlined before and our current Charter should just be updated.

Willie said that if there was no harm in it – he was for signing it.

Aileen advised that she wasn't up for signing it just advertise that people can sign it individually.

Ann advised that she wasn't willing to sign something she hadn't read yet and Ginny advised that she hadn't read it either.

Domini said she was wary of signing Charter without re reading it and that Brian Pirie, the Community Council Liaison Officer Has been advising other Community Councils that they don't need to sign - indeed he seemed to be advocating that it wasn't signed.

Mrs Watson asked Aileen, "What are you looking at?" When Aileen stated that Mrs Watson was making faces at her, Mrs Watson shouted back "So what!" Mrs Watson said that she was sick of seeing Aileen sitting, writing at the meetings and hiding behind her papers.

Mrs Watson shouted that she was dismayed about this Community Council and was fed up being told to shut up. Domini then responded that she had never asked Mrs Watson to shut up. Mrs Watson called for APCC to be accountable and accused Aileen of smirking at her behind her papers. She accused APCC of being against Maria and that that was why

APPC wasn't committing to the cause. Domini disputed this. Mrs Watson also accused the Community Council of covering things up and lying.

Domini again disputed this and tried to bring the meeting to order.

Flood Defences Update

Ginny and Bob met with Scottish Natural Heritage and inspected banks. Flooding issue. Bob and Ginny walked along banks. They expressed concern about parts of the banks. Mr McGann agreed some of banks could go at any time – slips and cracks evident. Landowner responsible. Carse View and Bank View most at risk. Bob advised that we needed to involve Scottish government, local government, SNH and Scottish Water.

Response from Angus McDonald said that he would be happy to attend a meeting on Mondays, Fridays or a Saturday.

He advised that landowners should be allowed to take emergency measures and shouldn't be charged for doing so. He would make officials aware.

Bob says we should get MSP's down to see damage before houses are damaged in floods.

Domini suggested making a display of photos – all day event – let people see.

Craig says we need to produce a plan. There is competition all over Scotland for funding. He asked how much it would be for a company to do a feasibility on the banks. APCC could possibly ask for European funding for a feasibility study. Craig said that he had made a press release to paper saying Mr Dick's response was great but not sure if it was published. There is a flood defence plan for Grangemouth but we need to argue and fight to get one sorted for this Parish.

Health Centre Update

No time to discuss – to be carried over to a future meeting.

Newsletter/website

Hoping to reinstate newsletter so we can communicate better with residents. Looking for ways to go forward on these issues but will have to be carried forward to a future meeting. Domini suggested these matters could perhaps be addressed at an informal meeting before the next public meeting so can be actioned asap.

Planning Issues

Extension to house at South Alloa – no comments.

A.O.C.B.

The Convenor thanked everybody for attending and confirmed the date of the next meeting as 19 March 2014 at 7pm.



Community Council Meeting

Police Report

Community Council:

Airth

Venue:

Airth Primary School

Elphinstone Crescent, Airth

Date:Wednesday 19th February 2014**PACT Update:**

The PACT priority for January was:

- **Prevent and reduce instances of illegal and inconsiderate parking at local Primary Schools**

Proposed PACT for March 2014:

It is proposed that the PACT priorities for March, as stated, should be:

- **Ongoing issue – Prevent and reduce illegal and inconsiderate parking at local Primary Schools.**

However, if you have any issues that you would like to raise as a potential PACT priority, these can be considered and the PACT priority reviewed or added to.

We will continue to carry out high visibility foot and mobile patrols within the area and address any issues observed or reported. In addition we will seek the assistance of partner agencies if repeat offenders are traced, in a bid to prevent escalation and educate those responsible.

Crime Report:

Airth: 1 crime report in relation to the theft of a bike on 4th February from Kirkway. Bike thefts are usually seasonal but have become more frequent over winter months across the Division this year. This may be attributed to the current economic climate and linked to an increase in scrap metal thefts.

Please be vigilant with your property and secure items like bikes with bike locks or chains and where possible, keep secure and out of sight over night.

1 crime report in relation to a neighbour dispute. A Fixed Penalty fine was issued to one party who took matters regarding noise nuisance into their own hands. Please phone Police on 101 or alternatively the Falkirk Council Noise Team on 01324 504982 for advice and assistance in these matters.

3 Road Traffic Act offences, 2 relating to minor defects (lighting) and 1 to a HGV parked on footpath in the village- driver issued with a Fixed Penalty fine

Dunmore: 0 crime reports

South Alloa: 0 crime reports

Letham: 0 crime reports

Signed - PC 402 Scott.