

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 19 March 2014

Present:- Jon Anslow (Deputy Convener in DG's absence) Robert (Bob) Smith
Aileen Amos Ginny Sutherland Willie Watson Ann Ramsay

Also Present:- Cllr Stephen Bird Pauline Rodger

Apologies:- Ian Penman Domini Grant Jim Flynn

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

It was agreed that the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014 in Airth Primary School be amended as follows: - agreed to change Mrs Watson "shouted" to "raised her voice". In correspondence refer to "a fund" rather than "Climate Change Fund". Change "Mrs Edwards" to "Mrs Stewart" in dog fouling section and reference to "Mr McGann" to "Mr Makan".

In particular Willie asked for it to be noted that he and Mrs Watson take issue with fact it was minuted that Mrs Watson shouted. It was agreed that she raised her voice.

They were then approved as a correct record, moved by Aileen and seconded by Ann .

Matters Arising

Email from Craig re proposed bus shelter at Dunmore. He has passed road concerns to Roads Department and re the rubbish in the fields at Letham –a litter pick has been undertaken.

There was a meeting with Angus McDonald attended by Ginny Aileen, Domini and Bob (see later).

The Constitution not yet drafted due to Bob's computer problems.

Aileen attended Forum at Municipal Buildings to hear a presentation from Alex LINKSTON Chairman of NHS Forth Valley. Aileen spoke to him re use of Health Centre and he took our details. Aileen suggested we write to him giving him full details. – S Bird suggested a public consultation to get ideas to negotiate with Health Board. Ginny wondering about using it for get togethers for the terminally ill ie) massage, cup of tea, biscuit etc. All manned by volunteers. Agreed it was a worthwhile suggestion. Bob to arrange meeting with Practice Manager.

Noted that a new Maggie's Centre was being built at Larbert and there were new visiting hours 11.30am to 8pm at FVRH to ease parking congestion.

Police Report

See attached Report.

The Convenor thanked PC Scott in her absence for her report.

In email from PC Scott she says that John Kellet, Community Policing Inspector will be in touch to arrange to attend a meeting to update us on Police Scotland's Policing Model.

Correspondence

There was an invitation from Shona Barton to a Leader Consultation Meeting but it arrived too late for anybody to attend.

Shona Barton – wants an update of current Councillors and a statement from the Community Council together with a note of our meeting dates. Bob will respond. Brian Pirie organising training about representing the community - 26 March 6.30pm.

Letter from Falkirk Council - Local Development Plan has been submitted to Government Reporter – re future housing provision etc.

There is a proposal that Eastfield Farm should be included in housing area. It was agreed that we need to watch they are not allowed to build on the flood plains.

Dart Public Enquiry

S Bird was there on 18 March. One of witnesses for DART went through the detailed process. Level of detail they went into was amazing. Andrew Sloan – oil specialist – went through all materials that were being used and stored. CCF disputed some of them as dangerous and hazardous to health per manufacturer's instructions. Enquiry is being held at Inchyra Hotel Grangemouth - 10am to 4.30pm then moves to Falkirk Stadium. Scheduled to run for 3 weeks. Probably turn of the year for a decision and then probably will be appealed. Discussed that big issue is "control". We need to make sure we have some and that monitoring is stringent.

Also concerned re constitution of sludge – it will have iron in it. SEPA to have monitoring role. Dart offered to get an independent monitor and they'd pay but it was agreed that this leaves it too connected to Dart. Once uncontaminated the sludge still needs to go somewhere. Jon thought Cumbria.

Planning Issues

Planning application in for marquees at The Parsonage. Looking for 5 years. It was agreed that this was a long time for a temporary building. They are already up too. Marketing it as commercial so not just marquees attached to a residential house. 450 people can be in

one marquee. This has road traffic implications when there are functions. It should be looked at by Roads Dept. Bob will respond that we expect to see a traffic impact assessment and that 5 years for a temporary structure seems excessive so we would recommend that it be only for 3 years. We have some comments but don't object as such. Ginny says it brings jobs and people to our area. That was agreed.

Sec 75 – discharge of planning obligation re Agicolae House so that non-agricultural occupation permitted.

Bob raised that he had heard “rumours” of a planning application being put in for the erection of glass houses – from Brewers Fayre up Belsdyke Road. 200 acres.

Flood Defences Update

Angus McDonald saw what had happened and what had been repaired. Saw salt marsh damage was due to natural sources and where water got out. Another issue is the bit downstream. The banking is now taller but weaker. At high tide on 30th March it is likely that there will be more slippage.

Meeting to be held Monday 24 March in Airth Community Centre 2pm - Angus McDonald, Falkirk Council, SEPA, SNH, Water Board to attend. Ginny says that A McDonald and Craig Martin asked for submissions from landowners but this is a busy time for farmers. It was agreed that they need to give some indication of what they want. They do need input from farmers as to what they want to do. Without a submission, it makes it easy for people to put up obstructions. Noted that Grangemouth may already have their bid for funding for flood defences in. It was noted that landowners are not legally bound to protect village (only their own land) so if walk away from it then will be Council's responsibility. Bob said not a case of “if” it happens but “when”. Aileen suggested that maybe need notices to warn people that dangerous at high tide. Ginny wondered if warning notices admitted responsibility. Bob says people are responsible for their own safety. Aileen, Willie, Bob and Ginny will go to the meeting. There may be a requirement to look at site so bring your wellies.

Aileen raised culvert in Dunmore is dangerous. Stone possibly needs reset. Willie said should be piped and closed.

Treasurer's Report

£2100.48 in our account includes Christmas light money. Aileen received the letter needed for the bank from Robert. Jo Tibbles gave Aileen a large amount of old documents and accounts and she will pass these onto Robert.

Flowers were sent to Domini Grant.

A.O.C.B.

Ann - South Green Park a disgrace. Benches are wrecked. Need new plants for raised beds. Ann says she can get volunteers. Bob is going to look at it.

Ann says football hut is a mess too. There was talk of a replacement hut. Should we form a sub committee to take something forward? S. Bird will ask around and find out what's happening.

Ann and Ginny raised the matter of rubbish at the graveyard. Ann will get in touch with school to see whether children want to get involved in a litter pick. Ginny has already tidied up there but bad again.

Bob raised dog fouling. There is one man in particular who lets his 5 dogs loose to run about in the hay field at foot of Airth Castle (walk to Letham). It was thought that more bins won't solve the problem. Angus Duncan at Falkirk Council has been notified. Get warden notified too Bob stated that it's a dangerous health issue. Contaminated hay fed to cows and disease enters the food chain. Bob wondered if notices highlighting the danger to health could be put up. Tend to think culprits will still do what they are doing and will pay little notice. Agreed that warden was way to go.

The Convenor thanked everybody for attending and confirmed the date of the next meeting as 23 April 2014 at 7pm.