

# AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD IN AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013

### COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESENT.

P.RODGER, (Convenor) R.SMITH,, A. AMOS, A.RAMSAY, I.PENMAN, J.ANSLOW, J. TIBBLES.

### ALSO PRESENT.

Cllr C Martin. (F.C.) Lynsey Scott, Alan Waddell (police) M..Penn, V..Murchison, M..Miller, T..Taylor, C. Donnelly, J..Doyle, J..Hamilton, F. Williams, C. Anderson, G. Brophy.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Stephen Bird, D .Gilmour, D.Grant.

### .MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of our meeting on 20th March were approved as a correct record of the proceedings. subject to minor amendments regarding the pavement at the Village Store as discussed. Proposed by A. Amos. and seconded by P. Rodger. R. Smith will amend and redistribute the minutes.

### POLICE REPORT.

P.C. Lynsey Scott of Police Scotland delivered the police report covering the period from 17<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April.. A copy of this is appended.

Following improvement on this issue, the P.A.C.T. priority to prevent and reduce inconsiderate and illegal parking at Airth school is now closed, however, P.C. Scott will continue to work with the school and the Junior Road Safety Officer to develop and implement initiatives to further improve the situation. M. Penn thought that a one way system in Elphinstone Crescent would help and had previously delivered a petition to the police on this matter. It was pointed out that this had been discussed previously and a voluntary one way system had been proposed but not implemented. Jo Tibbles asked Lynsey to follow up a complaint about youths hanging about at the community hut in South Alloa. Lynsey reminded us that the telephone number for the new National Police Service is 101 instead of Central Scotland Police headquarters number 01786456000. 999 will still be used for emergency calls . R.Smith informed Lynsey that an environmental group would be surveying parts of Dunmore estate for great crested newts on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April and would be using lamps up until 10.30 pm

She then introduced Chief Inspector Alan Waddell who is now in charge of the Falkirk Command Area for the new Scottish Police Force.

C.I. Waddell gave us a briefing on how the new Police Force operates.

The new headquarters for the whole of Scotland is at Tulliallan with Randolphfield in Stirling operating as the Command and Control centre

The new Forth Valley Divisional H.Q. is based in Falkirk and the person in charge is Chief Superintendant David Flynn. As the Police are now a single national institution, there should be a better use of available resources. The police involvement with communities will continue and it is hoped that there will be opportunities for improving resources in our area and building on the P.A.C.T. process. The same numbers of police will be on the beat.

It was noted that some Police Officers are patrolling the Inches area of Larbert on bicycles however it was pointed out that this was not very practical when making arrests.

The convenor thanked C.I. Waddell and P.C. Scott for their involvement and C.I. Waddell left the meeting.

### **MATTERS ARISING.**

A.Amos had asked Cllr. Martin at our last meeting if he had any information on the current situation regarding the Woodyard at Dunmore. He had not been able to find out anything but was asked if he could get us an update for our next meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

27/03/2013 E Mail from F.C. confirming support for our litter pick.

28/03/2013 E mail from Shona Barton regarding a seminar by Digital Scotland in Edinburgh on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Most of us are working during the week and are unable to attend .

2/04/2013 E mail from Cllr. Martin re. the Community Schools Charity Board funding.

2/04/2013 E mail with link to NHS Forth Valley Community Health News.

5/04/2013 E mail from Shona Barton with a poster from Dart Energy stating that the exhibition in their Stirling office was being extended for an indefinite period. This was displayed on the Community Notice board.

8/04/2013 E Mail from P.C. Lynsey Scott regarding the visit from C.I.Waddell.

9/04/2013 E Mail from Cllr S. Bird with information on the Coastal Communities Fund.

15/04/2013 E Mail from John Milne F.C. planning with an update on the Dart Energy application.. No date has been set for the public hearing.

17/04/2013 E Mail from Jay Dawson of Stirling Council regarding the P.A.N. by Powercrofters for the waste to energy plant at Throsk.

Letter from Vodophone regarding the telecommunications mast at Bowtrees farm.

Consultation document of the local transport strategy. Jon Anslow will compile a response and pass it to other members for approval. The return date is the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Letter regarding the schools charity board.

E.Mail from Fiona Williams of the Kinnaird and The Inches residents group enclosing their Community Mandate regarding unconventional gas extraction in our area and requesting that Airth Parish Community Council support it.

This will be discussed under the Dart item on the agenda.

The convenor has sent an e mail to Trevor Taylor regarding his proposed donation towards the Christmas lights fund.



### **PLANNING ISSUES**

The application for alterations to the rear of "Carsaig" in Dunmore has been approved.

There have been no new Proposal of Application Notices submitted for our area during the past month.

### **THE DART ENERGY UPDATE**

John Milne of Falkirk Council e mailed the following update on the Dart Planning application on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

No date has been set for the public hearing relating to this application.

Falkirk Council have commissioned AMEC Consultants to review certain aspects of the consultation. These include--

The possibility of works causing geological instability.

The possibility of the process drawing water from more than one seam,

The possibility of the process causing dewatering of local aquifers.

The possibility of the process encouraging methane migration and promoting fugitive emissions through the vertical bores and potential cracks in the geology following dewatering.

The preclusion of hydraulic fracturing potentially being applied to the proposed operations. Any other matters arising following assessment of the actual investigations.

Trevor Taylor and Chris Donnelly both thought it wrong that AMEC had been picked because of their involvement in Shale gas and questioned their objectivity in dealing with this issue and advising Falkirk Council.. They will be objecting to the appointment of AMEC. Cllr Martin wondered why concerns were being raised at this stage and pointed out that strict Scottish Government procurement guidelines had been followed when making this appointment.

A.Amos said that a company with experience in this field was needed and AMEC seemed to have this.

The convenor curtailed the discussion on the issue of the appointment of AMEC.

Pauline had received a lengthy document from Fiona Williams on behalf the Kinnaird and The Inches residents group asking for the support of Airth Parish Community Council for their "Community Mandate" which detailed various concerns over the Dart Application. Fiona and several members of the group from Larbert and Stenhousemuir as well as two residents from the "Fairfields Houses" on the Moss road who had been involved in compiling the document were in attendance to explain the reasoning behind it. This is to get the Community Council to understand the issues and highlight the genuine concerns people have for the area. Their aim is to letter drop this mandate to 10,000 people in the area. The group



had held several meetings and this document was the 11<sup>th</sup> version. The feeling amongst them is that Airth Parish C.C. should have been involved at an earlier stage. There were various discussions on the subject of Dart energy, many of which have been aired at previous meetings and included questions on the calorific value of the gas produced, Dart's contract with Scottish Power to supply gas to Longannet power station and the drawing of water from old coal workings.

The group invited us to attend their next meeting in the Plough Hotel Larbert at 7pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to discuss this issue further.

A. Amos questioned why none of those present had attended the presentation by SEPA at our March meeting as requested by attendees at our February meeting. T. Taylor had been in Spain at the time and C. Donnelly had met with SEPA at a different time.

V. Murchison stated that her husband was a doctor and had great concerns about the capability of SEPA to monitor this development effectively.

T. Taylor said that Dr Marion Lloyd-Smith who is an Australian expert on toxins will be in Scotland next month giving talks on the subject.

As the "Community Mandate" had only been received the previous evening by e mail, there had not been time for us to discuss it in detail and make a response. We agreed that we will convene a separate meeting of the community council members after they have had time to examine the document. The group requires a response from us before the 7<sup>th</sup> May which is the deadline for responses.

The convenor had to leave the meeting at this point for another engagement and asked Jon Anslow to take the chair for the rest of the meeting.

### **POWERCROFTERS P.A.N. FOR WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT AT THROSK.**

We had received a notification that a Proposal of Application Notice has been submitted to Stirling Council by Powercrofters (Scotland) Ltd., to form a facility comprising a materials recycling facility to sort waste and redirect it to specialised facilities off site or to an on site plant generating energy in the form of electricity or steam at the Bandeath Industrial estate in Throsk. The original application for a waste to energy plant on this site was refused on appeal but this new one appears to concentrate more on sorting and shipping out waste. This could mean a greater volume of traffic using the A905 than on the original application which we had strongly objected to. Information is sketchy at this stage but we will make contact with Throsk Community Council to get their views on the application and R. Smith will contact the planners in Stirling for further information. Normally the P.A.N. period runs for 12 weeks before a full application can be submitted and this could be done during the summer recess when the Community Council does not meet. If this happens, we may have to call special meetings to discuss it and formulate our response.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**



Jo Tibbles indicated that we currently had £2041.53 in our account and had paid the bill for the Christmas lights in full. The bulk of this cash is the accumulation of donations and fundraising for our Christmas lights fund. Our savings account has not yet been opened by the Bank of Scotland and we will continue to investigate other banks to see if they will be more helpful.. It is important that our fundraising capital is shown separately from our working capital which is the grant we receive from Falkirk Council.

### **LITTER PICK**

The community litter pick will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April from 10 am until 12 am.. All community councillors who can manage should meet at the Community Centre for a briefing and to collect equipment.

### **WILDERNESS PARK UPDATE.**

There are 2 pieces of equipment still to be installed to complete the project. An official “opening” event is to be arranged to give publicity to our sponsors E Score.

Ann Ramsay has been heavily involved in the project and we will support her in organising the event.

### **A.O.C.B.**

Trevor Taylor said that the road signs at Murrays Caravans indicating that the Moss Road was closed were badly positioned and had the potential to cause an accident. Stirling Council is carrying out culvert work near South Doll farm and is responsible for the road closure.

Ian Penman has viewed the Falkirk archives to gain information about Letham and it's connection with coal mining to gain information for use in the centenary celebrations.

Cllr. Martin said that the Provost would be interested in being involved in this project..

A.Amos said that there was a large hole at a drain in the road at Dunmore village opposite her house and was causing problems for drivers. She asked Cllr. Martin to arrange a repair.

The Falkirk Outdoor events diary for 2013 was distributed to those present.

Jo Tibbles thanked Cllr. Martin for arranging to have the hut at the South Alloa play park removed.

A.Ramsay pointed out that a meeting of the South Green Drive Residents group was overdue and since Walter Douglas has resigned as Convenor the secretary of the group should call a meeting as soon as possible.

We will post a notice on the Community Notice board publicising the meeting arranged by the Kinnaird and The Inches residents group to be held in the Plough Hotel Larbert on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to publicise their “Community Mandate” which relates to the proposals for coal bed methane production in our area.

The acting convenor Jon Anslow thanked everyone for attending and noted that the date of our next meeting is Wednesday 15th May2013

## Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report

17<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### Dunmore

1 crime report relating to the theft of a caravan from Murray Caravans – enquiries ongoing.  
3 calls- 1 relating to above theft, remainder non criminal reports.

### South Alloa

No crime reports  
2 calls, both relating to non criminal reports

### Letham

2 Road Traffic offences (minor) defective lighting and an illegal registration plate.

5 calls – 3 non criminal reports/ advice and 2 reporting road traffic offences including

1 reporting vehicles speeding through the village. Vehicles were from a named construction company who have been advised of the complaint and are briefing drivers. We will be using Hand Held Radar and a mobile speed board to assess the area.

1 call reporting an untaxed vehicle. A Fixed Penalty fine has been issued for as it is an offence to keep a vehicle on a public road without valid tax.

### Airth

4 crime reports

- Taxi Fraud - Report of two youths failing to pay a taxi fare –positive line of enquiry being progressed
- 48 year old male reported in relation to producing a controlled drug.
- Theft of copper from roof of Airth Parish Church. Reported by property convener as having occurred sometime between 24.03.13 and 11.04.13. Copper lightening conductor cable stolen from the base of the tower section. Metal theft is an issue being targetted by Police and is not specific to this area. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Police on 101 or via 999 if you believe a metal theft is in progress.
- 33 year old female reported to Procurator Fiscal in relation to a domestic incident.

Road Traffic Offences:

- 2 Road Traffic offences including a minor lighting offence and a road collision in Elphinstone Crescent whereby the offending vehicle has failed to stop at the scene or report the collision.

26 calls during time period (comparable to March and to this time of year in general)

- 22 calls relating to advice /information /non criminal matters
- 4 calls in relation to incidents recorded above.

The March PACT priority for Airth of reducing instances of illegal and inconsiderate parking , Airth Primary School has been closed. School staff and parents reported an improvement in the issue.

Whilst the PACT priority has been closed, PC Scott will continue to work with the school and the Junior Road safety Officer to develop and implement initiatives to further improve the issue.

Other Matters:

Please be aware that the new National contact number for the Police is 101. This replaces the 01786 456000 number. Also, my email address is now [Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

The Police Service of Scotland website is [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)