

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 23 April 2014

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

.

Also Present:- Cllr Stephen Bird Pauline Rodger Davie Gilmour Kirsty
Hamilton and Callum Page (both FCCS) Cllr Craig Martin Margaret Connell
Ann Marshall Rev Jim Todd Ian Penman PC Maria Crawford

Apologies:- John Anslow

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

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

Matters Arising

All being dealt with later in meeting.

Police Report

See attached Report.

Maria explained that the report format has changed. Two more people will be joining the community team. One of the area commanders will come in to speak and explain. Maria will still be involved for Airth.

Schools traffic and congestion still a problem.

Domini was saying lots of broken bottles on streets which are a danger for dogs and children. Think it is teenagers 15-17. They are coming from Stenhousemuir and Denny. Meeting at one house in particular. Maria will be informed.

28 calls – 5 High St disturbances. Vandalism report too. Disturbance outside Elphinstone Inn – no one charged. Racial incident at Eastern Spice – charged – not from Airth.

Letham 3 calls – 1 theft of cable from phone mast.

Dunmore and Alloa 1 call for advice.

33 road traffic area offences in area.

Phone useage in cars – Stephen notices an increase.

Bob asked about a tractor/car incident he'd seen with 2 police cars. Maria will check.

Around the Parish News

Invasive species- Japanese Knotweed. Can destroy house foundations etc.so can't sell house. Airth Castle to start spraying in September. It was agreed that we should advise residents about encroaching weed. It can definitely be seen on the woodland walk and on path. Council would only deal with it on its own ground. Stephen said that its presence had been raised in Graeme Terrace and appropriate Department notified. Also behind shop but that's private land. Hogweed also beginning to encroach. Giant Hogweed can cause blisters. Stephen suggested Bob could take some photographs of it so people can identify it. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Litter Pick has been arranged for Sat 10 May 10am Community Centre. Jim will let school know the date. Bob will organise materials.

School report from Jim – HMIE gave the school a good report – puts school in a glowing light. Certain things highlighted as an example for other schools. Playground- Mrs McKenna keen to raise funds for climbing frame and possibly area of grass/astro turf – fundraising is issue. Since voluntary one way system implemented things have improved. They try to notify people with occasional bulletins but can't put notices on Council properties. There is also the walking bus initiative. There has been one person fined for parking on zig zag lines. The school has invited community councillors to a nature event in school. Domini will email details.

Dog fouling – Kirsty from Community Safety Team has become heavily involved. Posters etc helping a bit. And parking van there. Domini said she had noticed at Helix about 30 bags all piled up. Agreed this was terrible. Bob read out an email from Agnes Duncan – about Michelle Allan's death – she was a volunteer – organised events. Involved in CGI IN Denny—Set up Green Dog Walkers and organised Canine Capers. Her contribution will be sadly missed.

Kirsty explained that she is a Community Safety Officer. She issues fixed penalties. Litter fine is now £60, fly tipping £200 and £40 for dog fouling. We all agreed fine should go up. She has spoken to people – sprayed paint to highlight poo to shame people into picking up from £40. If pick it up and throw it away this is still classed as dog fouling. She explained that there is Zero Tolerance – if she sees an incidence she must issue a penalty. She advised she can visit the school and help them form a Young Community Team. They get notebooks and bags. They go out in the community and come back with information for us. They get the police involved too and the children can get a chance to play on a scarab road sweeper. They can show the children needles so that if they see a wrapper/needle in the street they will know what it is. They get a Certificate at the end of the initiative.

The Community Safety Team will also come out to help at litter pick if we want them to. Kirsty gave us some magnets and poo bags. She said that they would be willing to attend more meetings – can do a power point presentation for us here or in schools.

Ginny asked if there were signs for littering-. Kirsty said not really – just on side of vans. She is reluctant to put them up at a cemetery but will put them up for 2 months on nearby lamp post. They get taken down after that but then they can get put up again. She will come and put some up tomorrow. At end of woodland walk only one bin – maybe should

be one at other side of walk. One at Terraces/Letham Cottages but a bit further away. She will ask for a litter bin at Letham as doubts we will get another dog poo one.

Two farmers' complaints about dog fouling in hay. She has been going down and seeing less people in the field so maybe message is getting through.

The football hut is in need of being replaced. It was discussed that we need boys from Gairdoch FC to get involved. Davie says pitch is waterlogged too. Man from Shieldhill Community Council. Stirling District said we should contact the SYFA. There are grant schemes available through proceeds of crime grants. It is a Falkirk Council pitch – leased to Gairdoch. Craig said that a state of the art facility was offered. Everybody at Wilderness complained. It was a portacabin but it was nice inside. It was a £50,000 facility and residents said “no”. It was there for 2 days only and had to be removed.

The fields are drained so why can't pitch be drained? Has to go through Dick's field drains. Davie will contact Gairdoch FC through James Jack or Joe Begg and we'll find out about grants.

Domini said that it had been raised with her that the email coverage is terrible in Airth. We need to take action to get faster broadband. We think we need 250 signatures or more. BT said that the exchange in Airth is “running on steam” as it's so old. How do we raise a petition? There is a dedicated BT web site where you can express an interest in doing this. It was agreed that this should be checked out.

Willie handed in the quarterly newsletter from Dunmore with all that is going on handed over by Willie.

Aileen asked if Bob had contacted Robin Baird of Waste Management Strategy to come along to speak to us re bin collections. We will invite him along to our next meeting.

Correspondence

Bob wrote to the planners about The Parsonage. He suggested points to be addressed namely that permission should be for 3yrs not 5yrs and that the Roads Department need to assess. A Traffic Management Plan needed. An acknowledgment has been received by us.

Guidance on high hedges- new legislation

Email on rubbish at cemetery brae. Stephen has contacted John Paterson.

Stephen reported that the new bench for the play park will be provided soon.

Aileen and Ann went to a meeting organised by Brian Pirie at Falkirk Council and have emailed round a report on it. Stephen says there is a wheelchair facility at the Council but Willie says he should be able to walk in like anybody else as doesn't actually need a wheelchair and wants to keep his independence.

Letter about Inner Forth Landscape update.

Letter re the glasshouse development. A pre application enquiry has been made for tomato and soft fruit growing. Only informal approach at present and no application anticipated yet. 80 hectares involved in the proposal. It could have a potential environmental impact.

Community Council Review of Support meeting on 30 April. Domini and Aileen will attend.

INEOS looking to set up Community Liaison Group. Looking for one member of Community Council to be involved in what they are doing. Ginny will go. Meetings to be held twice a year. First meeting is 16 June 6pm.

We were invited to a procurement meeting but it was too expensive.

A DART representative in Nottingham was assaulted. We need to be on the lookout as similar trouble might come up here.

There is a meeting this Friday at 10am in Grangemouth for an update on flooding issues with Angus McDonald. Bob is going and Domini might attend too..

Letter from a student doing research for her Masters degree on public attitude to marine conservation. Research form/questionnaire to be completed. It was agreed that Bob will contact her to say we'll participate.

Dart Public Enquiry

Public enquiry now finished. Reporters now to make decision. No further correspondence. Extension granted. Maria asks to be copied in if on anything on DART as police want to keep an eye on matters.

Planning Issues

Parsonage planning permission has been granted but we don't know what conditions have been attached (if any).

Flood Defences Update

At the recent public meeting it became apparent that we will be working with lots of different organisations. We need to do something. We have agreed to apply for a grant to do a planning survey for work to be carried out to banks. We needed a mandate which we got at the meeting so now we can start the process to get money. There is a meeting this Friday where hopefully landowners will be given directions on what they can do to repair banks without being prosecuted. Ginny says they have not been allowed to do normal maintenance and that caused the first breach. If walls come in – landowners have more to lose – the first defence needs to be strong. Domini says we will try to get landowners involved but we need to do planned survey first.

Davie says that if the Council are to put something up as secondary defences they will need to buy land to do so. Falkirk Council maintain the flood defences in Grangemouth and Bo'ness only. The Council are not responsible for flood defences on private land.

Ginny advised that landowners need to be able to get on other side of bund to carry out essential repairs. She added that the landowners are happy to take responsibility. If they had been allowed to do their usual repairs there would not have been a breach. It's the first serious breach in 100 years. If the land is protected then it stands to reason that the houses will have be protected too.

All paperwork is available on the Falkirk Council website.

Treasurer's Report

Aileen reported that we have £2057.55 in the bank. £42.93 has been paid out for insurance.

A.O.C.B.

Craig got back on footpath at 11 Carse View. The damage should be dealt with soon.

Pauline and Domini said that there was a lot of glass on the cycle path to Bowtrees. Craig and Stephen advised that it gets swept with the sweeper van every week. Craig will check.

It was agreed that the road out of Airth is in bad condition. It needs resurfaced. Craig says it's already been noted.

Bob gave an update on the wind farm at Letham Moss. He heard that Link have withdrawn from it as the results weren't promising. Less wind than anticipated, funding was difficult and a large number of geese were likely to be affected. It looks like it is not going to happen.

Craig advised that some local youngsters have asked for a skatepark. A new one would be expensive. It is proposed to set up a temporary skate park. Currently have a wooden one in storage. Going to repair/paint it and lay it over the summer to see if kids can use it. It will be situated at the Wilderness. Ann is going to be the point of contact. If it is used then might be worth investing further in it. We agreed we would need to take the community with us on this proposal.

It was noted that for the Airth Highland Games, the hay field has now been ploughed up so it will not be available for parking.

Ann and Aileen volunteered and helped out at opening of Helix.

The Convenor thanked everybody for attending and confirmed the date of the next meeting as 21 May 2014 at 7pm.



Police Service of Scotland

Community Council meeting

Name of
Community Council:

Airth Community Council

Date of meeting : 23rd April 2014

Report for period 19/03/14 – 23/04/14

PACT:

The PACT priority for April was:

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

This was due to more complaints from parents and schools in relation to this on-going issue. Schools were attended however due to Easter holidays this PACT will be carried on into next month.

Proposed PACT for May 2014:

It is proposed that the PACT priorities for May, 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.



POLICE
SCOTLAND

Police Service of Scotland

Community Council meeting

Ward Priorities

CARSE KINNAIRD & TRYST MULTI-MEMBER WARD PLAN

Local Priorities

1. Anti Social Behaviour

23/3 – Disturbance call in the area of High Street, Airth – relevant forms submitted to council in relation.

24/3 – Vandalism to motor vehicle High Street, Airth – undetected

07/04 – Disturbance outside Elphinstone Inn, Airth – no formal police action

2. Road Safety

During the stated time period there were 33 road traffic offences detected in the area including, driving whilst using a mobile phone, driving without a licence, speeding offences and offences in relation to the condition of vehicles.

3. Acquisitive Crime

4. Community Engagement and Reassurance

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



Police Service of Scotland

Community Council meeting

Other Incidents of note/relevant Community Council information.

Crime Report

Airth

28 calls to police during stated period

- 23/3 – Disturbance call in the area of High Street, Airth – relevant forms submitted to council in relation.
- 24/3 – Vandalism to motor vehicle High Street, Airth – undetected
- 4/4 – Petrol drive off from Bowtrees - detected
- 07/4 – Disturbance outside Elphinstone Inn, Airth – no formal police action
- 12/4 – Racial Incident at the Eastern Spice, Airth – detected.

7 other crimes or offences recorded.
16 calls in relation to advice or assistance.

Letham

3 calls to police during the stated period

- 27/3 – Theft of cable – undetected

1 other crime/offence
1 call for advice/assistance

Dunmore

1 call advice/assistance

South Alloa

1 call advice/assistance

Your Community Policing Team

PI 632 John Kellett
PS 752 Alisdair Goldie
PC 044 Maria Crawford
PC 402 Lynsey Scott

How to contact us

Telephone; '101' the Police Scotland non-emergency number.
Telephone; '999' in the event of an emergency

Follow your Community Officer

Twitter - @FalkirkPolice
Facebook – Police Scotland