

# AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD IN AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013

### COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESENT.

.R.SMITH, A. AMOS, I.PENMAN, J.ANSLOW, J. TIBBLES, D.GRANT

### ALSO PRESENT.

Cllr C Martin. (F.C.) Cllr, S. Bird, P.C.Lynsey Scott, . Rev, J.Todd, W.Watson, L. Watson  
D..Jarvis, D. Moodie, A. Thomson, K. Fuller RSPB.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from P.Rodger and D .Gilmour,.

As both our Convenor and Vice Convenor were absent, Jon Anslow took the chair.

### MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of our meeting on 17th April were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.. Proposed by A. Amos. and seconded by J.Tibbles.

### POLICE REPORT.

P.C. Lynsey Scott of Police Scotland delivered the police report covering the period from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May... A copy of this is appended.

The PACT priority is to prevent and reduce speeding on the A905 at Airth and at Letham Cottages, Falkirk Council roads department have placed speed monitoring strips on the A905 at Kennedy Way to monitor the speed and flow of traffic..

Lynsey reminded us to report any suspicious or unusual vehicles in the area as metal thefts are still occurring.

R.Smith commented that this was the peak time for deer/vehicle collisions happening as young deer from last year are being evicted by their parents and looking for new territories. There had already been one collision on the A905 near the parsonage and 2 he knew about on the M876.

The acting convenor thanked P.C. Scott for her report.

### 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. Lilian Watson of the D.V.A. informed us that the group had put a summary of their proposals for the Woodyard to Falkirk Council and were awaiting a response.

A.Amos noted that the repair to the road opposite her house in Dunmore had still not been carried out despite reporting it to Falkirk Council and Cllr Martin at our last meeting. Cllr.

Martin confirmed that he too had reported it to the officials and was surprised that it had not been carried out. The drain cover had been replaced, but the repair to the road had still to be completed.

Ian Penman informed us that he is collating information on Letham from the Falkirk archives and from Ian Scott. Funding is to be raised and an artist commissioned to create the mural on the Hub as part of the Letham centenary celebrations.

### **THE INNER FORTH LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE.**

Kate Fuller of the RSPB gave an informative update on the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative which will engage various projects and involve rural communities from Stirling to Bo'ness in the south of the Forth and Stirling to Fife in the north.

The project is now in the development year with projects expected to run from 2014 to 2018. It is a Heritage funded landscape scheme with funding of £4 million and is a partnership which includes the RSPB, Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannan Councils, Sustrans, C.S.F.T., S.N.H., S.E.P.A., Historic Scotland and various volunteers.

The range of projects will deal with conserving and improving our natural, cultural, and historical heritage and exploring our mining and trading links to the past.

The steering group is made up of the 10 partners and will meet in November this year to decide which projects to take forward with a decision being made in April 2014 with a view to start work on the ground in May. The budget will be divided to cover various aspects, e.g. information and access.

The group plans to hold more community events this June in Bo'ness, Valleyfield, Alloa, Fallin and Airth to publicise the project and ask the public for their views and ideas.

Ideas put forward by some of our members included the creation of bird hides on the foreshore, creating new access routes and improvements to existing ones including the foreshore path between Airth and Dunmore and a footbridge over the March Pow and possibly making it suitable as a cycle track. Also the access from the RSPB reserve at Powfoulis up to the Kincardine bridge. These would complete the foreshore path from Grangemouth up to South Alloa. S.N.H. will be assessing the effects of these projects on the foreshore which has S.S.S.I. status and there are concerns that disturbance caused by increased human traffic and uncontrolled dogs could have a detrimental effect on the wildlife of this sensitive area. A group called "SKAPE" have an interest in the archeological features on the foreshore. Other references to the Bothkennar pools and the management of trees in the National Trust area at the Dunmore Pineapple were made.

As Kate is researching the history of our area as part of the project, we agreed to provide her with a copy of our history book for her information.

Kate agreed to keep us informed of progress and we agreed to publicise the community events when dates are known.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

26/4/13 Copy of our response to the consultation on Falkirk Council's third local transport Survey. This was compiled and submitted on our behalf by Jon Anslow.

19/4/13 E mail from TM design consultants regarding the PAN by Powercrofters for a waste to energy plant at Throsk confirming that a public consultation will be held in the near future.

19/6/2013 E mail from P.C. Scott regarding access to our notice board on behalf of Paul Campbell neighbourhood watch co-ordinator.

22/4/2013 E mail from Cllr. Martin clarifying the situation regarding flooding at the village store.

22/4/13 E mail from Fiona Williams of the Kinnaird Village and the Inches group regarding a meeting in the Plough Hotel in Larbert to discuss their community charter relating to unconventional gas exploitation in our area.

24/4/2013 Letter from Falkirk Council regarding the Local plan consultation process along with a summary leaflet.

24/4/13 E mail from Roy Mitchell regarding the PAN for the proposed development of the escarpment.

25/4/13 E mail from Angus Duncan of Falkirk Council regarding a consultation on Falkirk Greenspace with 9 various issues to be considered. This was forwarded to all members previously but will be sent again so people can pick a subject(s) and respond.

29/4/13 E mail from Terry Walker regarding the PAN for the escarpment proposals. He expects to have issues resolved within the next 6 to 8 weeks.

29/4/13 E mail from Major Roy Robertson a Falkirk veterans advisor offering to attend one of our meetings and explain funding possibilities for projects involving local veterans. We will contact him and invite him to attend our next meeting.

29/4/13 E mail from Fiona Williams of the Kinnaird Village group thanking us for attending their meeting in the Plough Hotel and asking us to publicise the screening of a film called "Gas leak" about unconventional gas extraction. R Smith will post this notice.

30/4/13 E mail from Shona Barton enclosing a press release from Angus MacDonald MSP regarding environmental regulation reform.

30/3/13 E mail from Shona Barton with details of the consultations on the National Planning Framework. The nearest locations to us are Edinburgh on the 30<sup>th</sup> May and Glasgow on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

2/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton with a link to the Scotland Rural Development Programme consultation. The Scottish Government will be holding roadshows on this in due course.

3/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton enclosing an invitation to attend the Scottish Voluntary Sector and Community Resilience Seminar on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

3/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton enclosing an invitation from the Falkirk Disability access and assessment group to attend their AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

8/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton enclosing a communication from Maria Montinaro regarding the film "Gas leak"

10/6/13 E mail from Aileen Amos enclosing a communication from Walter Attwood of Friends of the Earth Stirling regarding a meeting with eminent Australian toxicologist Dr Mariann Lloyd Smith on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in Falkirk regarding coalbed methane extraction.

10/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton enclosing information from the Scottish Government on the National Planning Framework 3/ Scottish Planning Policy.

10/5/13 E mail from Shona Barton regarding the Volunteer Recruitment Fayre to be held in 3 Space, Falkirk from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June.

12/5/13 Copy of E mail from Pauline Rodger with our reply to the Kinnaird Village and Inches group regarding their request for us to support their Community mandate on unconventional gas exploitation in our area.

15/05/13 E mail from John Milne Falkirk Council planner with an update on the Dart planning application.

15/5/13 E mail from Robert Bogan of the Dunmore Village Association regarding their objections to the planning application to build a new house on land adjacent to Riverbank cottage in Dunmore.

### **REPORT ON PLANNING AID TRAINING DAY BY DOMINI GRANT.**

Domini and Aileen both attended the Planning aid training day in Falkirk on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April and found it informative and useful. They reported as follows.

Planning Aid is a voluntary group comprising professional planners who give support, training and advice to Community Councils to help them deal with planning issues which affect their communities. This training event concentrated on the current consultation regarding the Local plan and explained how important it was for community councils to respond to it before the deadline as this was the last chance for submitting comments. This is to be clear and concise with valid reasons given for any proposed changes to the draft and to contain no more than 2000 words. The new Local plan will run from 2014 to 2034 and will be subject to a review every 5 years.

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

There has not been any publication of a community consultation on this issue. We will keep alert on this subject during the summer recess and we have asked Throsk C.C. to let us know if there is any movement on it.

### **PLANNING ISSUES AND LOCAL PLAN**

Given the importance of us responding to the local plan Consultation before the deadline on 7<sup>th</sup> June, we will hold a meeting next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to discuss it and formulate a response.

Three of the residents present were from Shierlaw gardens at the North end of the village and they expressed their concern and objections to the proposals in the local plan to the inclusion of part of the Glebe as land for housing development. They would be objecting to this part of the Local plan and David Jarvis said he would send us a copy of his response before we meet to discuss the issue.

There is one new planning application for a private house on land adjacent to Riverbank Cottage Dunmore and this is essentially the same application which was submitted in 2006. At that time we attended a meeting with the Dunmore Village association to hear their views on it and we submitted a detailed objection to the application at that time. It was pointed out

to us that 5 members of the Dunmore Village association are directly affected by this proposal and because of this they have declared an interest in the issue and will not take part in any of the discussions or decision making by the association .but would be objecting as individuals. We indicated that if invited we would attend a meeting of the association to hear the views of residents. Aileen Amos pointed out that 2 new houses had been built since the original application, one in the village and one outside the village at Dunmore home farm and that the applicants were former residents of the village who already owned the piece of ground. However, there may also be flooding issues given the proximity to the river. As personal issues which were not relevant in planning terms were being raised between Aileen and Willie and Lillian Watson, Jon Anslow curtailed the discussion at this point. R Smith agreed to contact the planners on this issue to find out if there is anything new or different in the application which would change our response from that previously submitted.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Jo Tibbles indicated that we currently had £2021.53 in our account and we had still to claim our operating grant from Falkirk Council.

#### **LITTER PICK**

A few of the Community Council members and a number of children and their parents attended the litter pick and collected over 40 bags of litter and bottles and cans from 4 areas in the village. Juice and crisps were donated for those who took part. It is hoped that the areas in private ownership are looked after and kept tidy by the owners from now on. Many thanks to all who participated.

#### **WILDERNESS PARK UPDATE.**

As Ann Ramsay was not present we have no report on this.

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

Lillian Watson asked how we dealt with planning applications within our area. R,Smith replied that we have several options open to us as Community Councils. We can take no action, we can object to an application, we can support an application and we can comment and make suggestions regarding an application. If there are major issues affecting our community we will generally consult with the community and include it on our published agenda. We also consider representations received from members of our community but all planning applications which are relevant to us are looked at objectively and our decisions are made on sound planning rules and issues.

No planning application or application for change of use has been submitted for The Parsonage which is now owned by Aurora Hotels.

We agreed to hold the garden competition again this year with judging taking place during the week before Airth Games. It was suggested that we ask Chief Inspector Waddell of Police Scotland to act as judge this year. R.Smith will make contact. with him.

The acting convenor Jon Anslow thanked everyone for attending and noted that the date of our next meeting is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013. This will be a shortened public meeting finishing at 8.30 pm to allow time for a committee meeting afterwards.

## Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report

17<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### Dunmore

1 crime report relating to a domestic matter.

5 calls – 1 relating to a domestic matter, 4 relating to advice in non criminal and civil matters

### South Alloa

1 crime reports – break in to Thermalite premises, Ferry Road (possibly persons accessing with intention of stealing scrap metal)

3 calls, 1 reporting above crime and 2 reporting non criminal matters.

### Letham

1 call seeking advice on internet safety matter.

### Airth

5 crime reports

- 11 year old female received a Formal Warning following a report that she had assaulted an 8 year old at friend.
- Theft of oil from an oil tank on farm premises (Linksfield) between 21.04 and 04.05.
- 3 Road Traffic offences including 33 year old female from Airth and a 57 year old male from Stirling being issued a Fixed Penalty fine for speeding on Main Street and a 43 year old male being issued a Fixed Penalty fine for using a hand held mobile phone.
- Theft of vehicle from Cemetery Brae occurred between 20-23.04, lines of enquiry being progressed.

22 calls during time period (26 calls in period covered by last months report and comparable to average figures for this time of year in general)

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

The April PACT priority for Airth is to prevent and reduce speeding at Letham Cottages, Letham and A905, Main Street, Airth.

Falkirk Council Roads Department have placed speed monitoring strips across the roadway at Kennedy Way to monitor traffic flow and speed.

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).