

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 21 May 2014

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

Also Present :- Pauline Rodger Cllr Craig Martin

Apologies :- Rev J Todd

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

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

Police Report

Maria had advised at the last meeting that police would probably not attend this meeting due to a re- organisation that was taking place.

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Bob is meeting Elspeth from Falkirk Council on 22 May at 10 am to point out Japanese Knotweed other invasive species. They are going to be sprayed with something stronger.

Litter pick – there were very few people. A disappointing turn out especially from the schoolchildren.

Tesco supported and provided water and crisps. It was agreed that we need to get children more involved. It was suggested the school children could coordinate the litter pick with their Green Eco Flag.

Bob got employee from shop out to show him 15 bags of litter and asked him to take it up with his boss. We said we might send the before and after pictures to the Falkirk Herald.

Gillian Mackay – student marine conservation. She is going to email us the stuff to look at and Bob will pass it on and then we'll need a joint discussion.

Mr Robin Baird Waste Strategy Co-ordinator i.e. new bin collection regime is still to be contacted to give a talk at our next meeting.

Community Council review of support meeting. Domini attended. Are we being supported enough? Do we know what support/money is available? Domini was excited to hear that monies available ie) for newsletters, leaflet printing at One Stop Shop. We can also invite councillors to our meetings.

Around the Parish News

Jim reported that the school walking bus anniversary was celebrated. School are looking to expand it and get more children involved.

Mrs McKenna asked Jim to mention the school travel plan. The inspectors have made recommendations and are looking to widen sections of pavement and put a new pavement in. They are going to widen the road at Castle Drive and extend the pavement at Kennedy Way.

They might widen pavement to turn in for Pineapple too. The school Safety Group also got a good mention in the report too.

School were gifted ground down by pavilion. About 40 feet. They need someone to help advice on a fence and rotivation of the ground. It's to be an outdoor activity centre for the children. Craig says that Falkirk Environmental Trust could help with funding. He's happy to meet with Jim and the Head Teacher and then can take funding forward. Willie suggested raised beds might be way forward.

Domini walked down Letham Woodland. The trees are in a terrible mess. They need the plastic taken off. Possibly the Woodland Trust should have come back and sorted. It is a huge job. Bob says that the land is owned by the Sutherlands but they allow the public to use it so people using it should maybe take some responsibility. Bob says not all protection on trees is ready to come off but he's got someone coming to have a look and assess. Central Scotland Forest Trust were looking after trees but they only maintained for 5 years. Craig will look into it. He says there should be funds available.

Castle View speeding. Police did a survey and put round leaflets but Jim reported that it had made little difference. We will email Maria again. It was suggested that car registrations of offenders are taken and reported.

Willie reported that an onsite meeting is being held re Dunmore woodyard as they need change of planning permission. The funding is in place for the sensory garden.

He also reported that there was a "stooshie" about the "Dunmore Duck" and other play toys on village green at Dunmore. He wanted it noted that this was nothing to do with the Village Association who didn't object to it. Certain residents have raised concerns so Council haven't finished it. A meeting was held with Falkirk Council and the people who objected although not all residents were informed. Willie didn't object to the play toys but he wasn't speaking on behalf of the D.V.A.

Letters are going out from the Council to see what people think. Willie thinks it's sad that it looks like Dunmore isn't a child friendly village. Council allocated money for Dunmore and chapped doors to see if anybody objected to upgrade of playpark but didn't say what was going in.

Emergency Planning (Falkirk Council)

Fiona McLuckie and Malcolm Wilson (Civil Contingences Co-Ordinators) gave us a presentation. They deal with emergency matters ie) floods, petro chemical complex, Grangemouth, flu pandemics, power outages. They don't focus on cause but they focus on the consequences.

Work with other agencies. Deal with Council's moral responsibility. There is a big drive to help communities help themselves. Check Ready Scotland web site. We can ascertain how to help ourselves in these contingencies. Community Emergency Plans are made by communities. It has taken off in England. Up here it is more driven by necessity. Do we want a CEP? If we do they can help us if we say what we need. Get a group and build a plan around it. Especially we need to consider how we can assist vulnerable people. We should know who needs help and also who can help as we have the local knowledge. The Plan should contain contact telephone numbers etc. They will do the administration for us. May even be funding for high vis jackets and snow shovels etc. Our CC insurance will probably cover us. We can be their intelligence on the ground ie) people in bungalows can't put belongings upstairs and they might be the vulnerable people so our plan should take notice of these. If there are warnings they can communicate them to us and we can take action for these vulnerable people. It was discussed about getting all community groups involved from Powfoulis to Dunmore etc. It was suggested that we have a public meeting to get people involved. We should try to get people from each group. Malcolm says looking for 4 or 5 key people. It was suggested we try to get something done before summer break. It was suggested we could use The Hub in Letham for a meeting. Use Ready Scotland.org

Malcolm suggested that they start drafting some proposals for us. We agreed that would be good and then we could feed in. It was suggested that we hold a meeting and maybe approach some key individuals. Bob will contact Ronnie Martin at Powfoulis. Possibly Jo from South Alloa. Bob will also speak to Davie Gilmour. We will speak to Ian Penman. It was agreed that we get a plan together and then go to the community with it. A meeting was suggested for 4 June 7pm and Bob will contact Ian about using The Hub. Jim was asking about plan for the school. Malcolm says that Education Services will have their own plans but check Ready Scotland web sites.

Flood Defences Update

No time to discuss.

Correspondence

Noise Action Week – meeting in Edinburgh tomorrow – nobody can go.

Letter from Falkirk Council about allocations policy review. Questionnaire for us to look at. Comments by 6 June. Bob will let everyone have the link. It was suggested we meet 30 minutes early on 4 June to fill in.

Report and consultation re public meetings for Catholic schools. Should Catholic children get precedence? It was agreed that we put it on notice boards in Airth, Dunmore and Letham.

Jasper Kenter – 49 page report and statistics. Bob has read it. Inner Forth Projects can give benefits and economic value.

Consultation on Local Development Plan has been forwarded to everyone. Timescale is 21 June.

Various emails to and from Craig re invasive species etc.

Shona Barton asking if anyone wants to take part in a promotional video? No takers.

Email from Maria inviting us to a meeting in Municipal Buildings Wed 11 June 6.30pm re fuel poverty and renewable energy. Let her know by 28 May if anybody wants to attend. Domini will go and Aileen might go too. Domini will email Maria.

Planning Issues

One application for a change of use of outside building/offices to form dwelling house at Agricola House with separate access. Mrs Sutherland was asked to leave the room while it was discussed. Original Sec 75 hasn't been removed yet ie) the condition stating that main house should be agricultural. It was wrongly stated at the March meeting that this application for change of use had been granted.

It was agreed no objections so leave to the planners.

Aileen raised matter of planning for blue tank at Bowtrees – we should look at this. What is it?

Treasurer's Report

Aileen reported that we have £1967.55 in the bank. £90 has been paid out for secretarial services to date. It was agreed that Bob and Aileen should claim more for his ink and paper. Domini raised again that we need to separate our two accounts. We won't get as much if they review our Bank accounts. Aileen will try her contacts in Clydesdale Bank where she banks and try to get second account set up.

A.O.C.B.

Agreed we should look at getting a newsletter printed again especially if we can get grants for printing.

Willie raised that there is a trouble with speeding cars in Dunmore. One of the culprits is the carer for Elma Strathearn.

Craig said that 30 is the limit. Twenty's Plenty is only a suggestion. Craig repeated that he should get numbers and report to the police. It was suggested that contact is made with Falkirk Council carers. Email Craig registration numbers of speeders. The same goes for Castle View.

Bob asked Craig to contact Frank McChord for us re funding for the survey for the banks.

Craig says that the Crawford Square bricks have been sorted. There is a bigger project proposed for the area so we need to wait to see what this is.

Date of Next Meeting 18 June 2014