

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 18 June 2014

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

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Also Present :- Pauline Rodger Cllr Stephen Bird Robin Baird (FC)
Ross Fenwick (FC)

Apologies :- Rev J Todd Jim Flynn Cllr Craig Martin

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

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

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Domini explained we had set up a Resilience Group which is not part of Community Council and more details of what it's about will be provided as it proceeds.

Bob met with Elspeth Forsyth – Environmental Planning from Falkirk Council. He showed her the Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. She will identify areas which are Council responsibility. A possible source which spreads the weed is the grass cutting moving along from Stirling to Airth. Ginny gave a book to Bob advising that there is a chemical that will kill it. The Mare's Tail is worse and has not been sprayed by Council as promised.

Domini missed Maria's energy saving meeting so will apologise to her. Stephen heard that it was quite good. Aileen says that Maria has produced a questionnaire so we should look at it and see if we want to fill it in. Aileen will forward the questionnaire to everyone.

Speeders in Dunmore – Craig was dealing so will pick up on it later. Speeding at Castle – the police are going to put up speed strips.

Police Report

Not produced.

Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Presentation

Robin Baird came to talk about the changes to the litter collections.

When was the last time you put £20 in your bin? Each time we don't dispose of our waste properly we are throwing away money. The Council used to pay £18 per ton to landfill.

Cost is now is £91. We need to divert waste from landfill. 60% of what was landfilled should have gone into other waste services had been utilised.

Council now duty bound to collect the waste that they do. Falkirk is one of highest recycling Councils. Now doing 53% recycling. We need 60% recycling by 2020. Bio degradable waste is to not to go to landfill by 2021.

First collection has now taken place. 50% of people in Airth are now using food caddies. Looking at locking caddies etc to safeguard against rats/squirrels.

Recycling Packs have been handed out.

The scheme will be rolled out once they have implemented any changes that are necessary. They will get feedback and try to improve the scheme.

They will report back to members in August about Phase 1.

School has to do recycling as part of their Eco Flag and it is important that recycling is emphasised to children.

It was recommended that we shred documents before putting in the blue bin.

Bob asked about general waste at the Council dumps which is full of recyclable stuff. Will soon need to hand residual bags over at new building that is being built at Rough Mute and they will sort it out.

It was agreed that producers are responsible too for packaging. There is too much packaging and using of non- recyclable plastics. Producer responsibility needs to be addressed.

See Marks and Spencers - Plan A sustainability posters – They said “if you don’t have a product which is recyclable then we won’t sell it”.

From statistics from new collection, it is clear that we have managed get recycling up. Food waste was up 20% and blue waste was up considerably.

Glass and cans in Norway and Sweden can be put in a machine and you get vouchers to spend. We agreed it was a good idea.

You can put dog poo bag in food waste.

Around the Parish News

Aileen asked about grass cutting. Stephen says there are major problems with grass cutters. They have assured the Council they will get on top of it but not sure that is going to happen. Send him complaints. Yearly contract so would hope it will not be renewed.

The children’s toys in Dunmore. Craig forwarded an email. Mike Joyce to David Crichton – the result of the Dunmore consultation is that most people don’t want them. It was European Funding that provided for them. 73% want removal of the goose and the majority want removal of all the toys. A balance needs to be struck but it would appear that the goose is the main contention. Domini and Bob expressed that it would be a shame if everything was removed and there should be a compromise. Aileen would prefer that all

the new toys are removed. Domini doesn't think there is much we can do and should be left to Council. Suggestion by Bob that if the toys are removed that they can be used in Airth or South Alloa so not wasted.

Domini has had lots of complaints about a howling dog. Craig is dealing and contacting environmental health. Letters were sent out so if we have a similar problem we could follow the process.

Craig emailed that there have been complaints from Shore Road residents as heavy vehicles going down road and shaking foundations of houses. Work needs to be done to safeguard from flooding.

School did a litter pick during the week. It was expressed that it was a shame they hadn't joined our litter pick.

Litter behind shop and takeaway. Domini has taken photos. Stephen suggested might get Falkirk Herald to highlight issue. We can't go back year after year and pick it up. The shop owners need to take responsibility.

Correspondence

All correspondence has been in emails which have been passed on.

Work to Airth floodbanks - Donald Campbell says doesn't need planning permission and Neville will probably ok if he gets some more details.

Mobile skate park – Craig has spoken to Alan Wylie and the skate park trailer is out of commission and there are parental consent issues.

Gillian McKay – apologised for delay in sending out Participant Information Sheet.

Community Workshop is to happen in August. There will be a charge.

There is a new format for letting of the school.

Stephen passed on information about the consultation re Standard of Void Properties. Any comments to Bob.

We have received 3 consultations from Shona which have to be back by 27 June. Bob says that everyone should open them up and have a look and see if we have any comments.

Planning Issues

Bob not sure what the application for a blue tank at Bowtrees is about. It hasn't been granted yet. There are no other applications.

Emergency Planning Update

See separate note

Garden Competition

Aileen will speak to Graeme Bryson at Dunmore Perennials about judging the competition. Decided we will give out the usual cash prizes.

Fundraising

Highland Games - Bob thinks it's a lot of effort for not much return. They are on 26 July. It was decided that we wouldn't take a stall this year.

Bob suggested that we do a prize draw with printed tickets round the doors and it was agreed that this would be organised.

Stephen suggested a quiz night. Possibly Bar 189. Charge an entry on the door. Quite cheap to organise. Stephen said he and his wife would offer to do quiz.

Domini suggested a Bingo Evening.

Treasurer's Report

£1967.55 in the Bank.

New Donations Account

Bank of Scotland has advised that we need to start again from scratch. All done by computer banking now. All Community Councillors have to agree that they want to open a New Donations Account for fund raising donations. It was unanimously agreed that we want to open said account.

A.O.C.B.

South Green Play Park – Ann says that dog poo on equipment and it needs cleaned. Grass needs cut. Need some volunteers. Domini agreed to volunteer in holidays and Ann said she'd help. Bob said he'd go down with Domini on Saturday. Ginny says she can spray if required. Raised beds need tidied too.

Complaint from George Crawford re poplar trees. Under High Hedges legislation you have to ask your neighbour to bring the trees under control first and then if they refuse or don't do anything then you can report to Council who will write to them and will eventually cut them if necessary and charge the proprietor.

Aileen reminded us that we need a new Constitution to be adopted. Possibly just accept or tweak our existing one until Brian produces new one.

Date of Next Meeting AGM 17 September 2014 (to be confirmed)

Apologies from Stephen for that meeting.

We will call an emergency meeting during the holidays if necessary.