

# AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD IN AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> September 2013

### COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESENT.

R.SMITH, A. AMOS, I.PENMAN, J. TIBBLES, P.RODGER, D.GRANT, D.GILMOUR  
A.RAMSAY, JON ANSLOW

### ALSO PRESENT.

Cllr C Martin. (F.C.) Cllr.S.Bird (F.C.) LynseyScott, W.Watson, L. Watson.,  
George Russell and Alastair Bell

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Rev. J.Todd.

### MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

As the minutes of the June meeting had only just been distributed, it was agreed that members will read these later and make any comments.

These minutes were subsequently read and approved as correct. Proposed by P.Rodger and seconded by I.Penman.

### POLICE REPORT.

P.C. Lynsey Scott of Police Scotland delivered the police report and a copy of this and one for the previous 2 months is appended . She noted that youth related calls and incidents were much reduced in the Airth area. Lynsey also told us that Maria Crawford has returned to work after maternity leave and would be involved with community policing in the Parish.

### MATTERS ARISING.

At our last meeting we agreed to write to the Health board about our health centre and community room being under used. This has not yet been done as we need to agree what facilities and clinics we wish to have so that we can approach the Health board with a list of our requirements. We agreed to leave this issue until after the election of a new Community Council.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

See the list of correspondence appended.

## **PLANNING ISSUES.**

At our last meeting a planning application no. P/13/0483/FUL by H Burgoyne at Halls of Airth was wrongly assumed to be for the new house at Higginsneuk. It was actually for an extension to the existing workshop and garage within the existing property at Lightbody's corner and has already been granted.

Application no. P/13/0505/75D by G. Paterson is for a discharge of obligation on the occupancy of his new house at South Alloa. This has been granted.

Application no. P/12/0110/FUL for an agricultural building at Letham Farm has been granted. The Dart Energy planning application will now be the subject of a public hearing.

Alastair Bell, who is a former planner with Falkirk Council, informed us that there would be a pre enquiry hearing involving 2 reporters and that their decision would determine the outcome of the hearing and will be based solely on planning issues. It will not be made by the Scottish government. It was noted that an STV programme "The Truth about Fracking" was to be aired the following day.

We agreed to publicise any information we receive about the public hearing.

Pauline had received notification about a housing development comprising 165 units at the harbour area in Alloa, which is directly opposite South Alloa. As it is on the other side of the River Forth, it should have no detrimental effect on the residents of South Alloa.

## **GARDEN COMPETITION RESULTS**

C.I. Alan Waddell of Police Scotland judged the gardens in July and was accompanied by Pauline Rodger, Bob Smith and Willie Watson who donated the prizes this year.

First was James Hutchison, Bankend Cottage, Airth £30 plus shield for a year.

Second was David Stevenson 14 Elphinstone Crescent, Airth £15

(David asked that this be donated to Airth and District Senior Citizens)

Third was Drummond Penn 59 South Green Drive, Airth £5

## **FUND RAISING AT AIRTH GAMES**

Aileen, Jo and Bob manned a stall at Airth Games selling History books and raffles and raised the sum of £165 towards the Christmas Lights Fund.

## **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED WINDFARM AT LETHAM MOSS.**

We had a meeting with Peter Rae of Link Renewables on 4<sup>th</sup> September and he gave us an update on their proposals for a windfarm at Letham Moss comprising 3 large wind turbines. A report on this meeting is appended.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Jo Tibbles indicated that we currently had £2029.24 in our bank account and our accounts would be submitted to Falkirk Council for auditing.

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

R.Smith noted that our current community council will be dissolved after our October meeting and Falkirk Council are seeking nominations from prospective community councillors. Several of the existing community councillors indicated that they would not be seeking re-election this term and only Jon Anslow, Domini Grant and Aileen Amos confirmed that they would be seeking nomination..

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

Lilian Watson of the D.V. A. asked why the community council had instructed Jacqui MacArthur of Falkirk Council that Dunmore Village should not get a Christmas tree when the majority of villagers when asked had said that they would prefer a Christmas tree to the current Christmas lights provision. Aileen Amos stated that when she was asked her opinion about the tree by a member of the D.V.A. she understood that the reference was to a permanent tree donated by Mrs Sutheland in memory of her late husband. It was pointed out that although this issue had been brought up at an informal meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September to agree an agenda and go through correspondence prior to our general meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, the agreement was made that although we were happy to see the current lighting provision for Dunmore maintained, we would leave it to the Dunmore Village Association to negotiate direct with Falkirk Council on the provision of a Christmas tree. Lilian also pointed out that informal discussions between office bearers of the DVA and APCC last December had taken place to discuss communications between our groups. After our meeting Aileen questioned Pauline about this as it had not been discussed by the Community Council and Pauline explained that they were informal discussions held at Cllr. Martin's surgery when it was agreed that communications between the groups would take place through their respective secretaries.

The DVA annual dance held at the Parsonage was well attended and proved to be a great success. An information Lectern has been installed in Dunmore and will be unveiled by Ian Scott the local historian on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Lilian invited the Community Council to insert any notices into the DVA newsletter.

It was noted that the Letham fun day in July was a great success and plans were under way for a mural depicting the heritage of the village and memorial cairn honouring those people killed in Letham pit and villagers who were killed in action during the two world wars.

The convenor thanked everyone for attending closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## **PRESENTATION BY GEORGE RUSSELL ASSISTED BY ALASTAIR BELL ON HIS PROPOSALS FOR A HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT AIRTH MAINS FARM**

As this was a planning issue which may be presented to Falkirk Council, Cllr. Craig Martin left the meeting at this point before it was discussed.

George Russell showed us plans of his proposals for a large development on land he owns to the west of the road known as the Black Avenue which joins the A905 just past the old curling pond field up past the water tank to Agricole House.

His proposals include 300 houses ranging from smaller affordable houses to large 4/5 bedroom villas, a Nursing Home, a visitor centre with car parking to the north of the Airth Station Road where it joins

the A905, and various recreation areas and facilities. His intention is that the development is integrated with the existing village but only pedestrian and emergency traffic will be allowed to use the Cemetery Brae to access the development.

Access to the development would be taken off the Airth Station Road and up behind the manse and roughly parallel with the existing Black Avenue. His proposals include for a new roundabout at the junction of the Airth Station Road and the A905.

This area of land is not currently zoned for development, but he has made representation to Falkirk Council to have this included in the next development plan for the area which is currently under review following the consultation which ended in June.

It was noted that options already exist for 115 houses on land which is currently zoned for development on the escarpment above the Cemetery and church and if both the existing and proposed developments went ahead it would be difficult for the infrastructure of the area to cope. There are many people in Airth who do not want to see the existing provision on the escarpment developed and would presumably object to these further proposals. The Community council has consistently supported the development of these existing sites on the escarpment and had hoped that their completion would be the end of the expansion of Airth.

George Russell said that he had concerns over the viability of these existing sites on the escarpment and that there were unresolved issues regarding them.

As regards time scale, he said that detailed planning permission would take about 1 year after outline planning permission had been obtained and that the development would be done in phases and could take 10 to 15 years to complete, depending on sales.

He said that the Airth WWTW has been upgraded and can cope with the proposed development as can the water supply. He felt that his proposals would have a positive effect on the shops and businesses in Airth as well as the Health centre

The main concern expressed by members was the impact the proposals would have on Airth Primary School which has fairly recently been altered and extended and is already at capacity and would struggle to cope with an increased population. Alastair Bell suggested that the existing school could be extended upwards but it was suggested that a new school on a bigger site would be more appropriate. Concern was also expressed over the impact an increase in population would have on Larbert High School which is already under pressure from other developments in its catchment area. A. Bell pointed out that the planners had formulae to determine the increase in pupils for all schools affected by housing developments.

Increased road traffic on the A905 through Airth and possible congestion at the proposed roundabout were also cited as potential problems.

Various comments were made regarding pedestrian and traffic access, and George said that he would look at all suggestions and options and keep the community council informed of his intentions.

The convenor thanked George and Alastair for their presentation and closed the meeting.

## Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report – August 2013

28<sup>th</sup> June– 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### Dunmore

1 crime report – theft from Murrays Caravans (chassis plate) 30.07-14.08– enquiry ongoing

### South Alloa

No crime reports

### Letham

No crime reports

### Airth

12 crime reports including

Theft of Diesel from HL Plan, Main Street overnight 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – lines of enquiry ongoing.  
 Theft of petrol (drive of /fail to pay) , Bowtrees Service Station – enquiry completed  
 Assault and Breach of the Peace – 50 year old male reported to Procurator Fiscal  
 Theft of bike – Paul Drive, 21.07 – lines of enquiry completed.  
 Theft of power washer from Airth Mains Farm – 27.07 - enquiry ongoing  
 Assault (domestic related) - 20 year old male reported to Procurator Fiscal.  
 Theft – Airth Castle – theft of money from safe within premises – lines of enquiry ongoing  
 Breach of the peace – 16 year old male reported to Procurator Fiscal  
 Possession of drugs – 14 and 16 year old youths traced in possession of drugs, personal amount of Class C drug which were confiscated and males received formal Police warning.

6 Road Traffic Act offences including driver using hand held mobile phone, no seatbelt and no insurance.

If you have any information on these crimes please speak to us separately , phone or email.

This is a relatively low number of crimes for this time of year and of note there have been a very low level of youth disorder complaints,

We did however observe a large amount of rubbish at Cemetery Brae which we arranged for the Council to remove. We will be monitoring the area along with Community Safety Wardens.

### Other Matters:

There have been bike thefts across the area command. New bike security marking kit has been obtained should anyone wish to contact us to arrange bike marking. We have marked several in Airth already and will be offering this service to Airth primary School during cycle proficiency training.

PC 044 Maria Crawford has returned to duty following maternity leave and will continue to work with PC Scott as Airth Community Officer.

(6)

The new national contact number for the Police is 101. This replaces the 01786 456000 number. Also, our email addresses are now [Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and [Maria.Crawford@scotland.police.pnn.uk](mailto:Maria.Crawford@scotland.police.pnn.uk)

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

You can suggest issue for the upcoming September Police And Communities Together (OACT) priority to us.

## Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report – September 2013

18<sup>th</sup> August - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### Dunmore

No crime reports

### South Alloa

No crime reports

### Letham

No crime reports

### Airth

8 crime reports including

Theft from staff locker room at , Bowtrees Service Station – enquiry ongoing  
 Assault– 46 year old male received Formal Police Warning  
 Assault (domestic related) - 20 year old male reported to Procurator Fiscal.  
 Robbery – 19.08 - Airth Castle – theft of money from safe within premises – lines of enquiry ongoing  
 Vandalism-09.07 - Airth Castle- several vehicles vandalised following a function at the [remises – suspect identified and lines of enquiry ongoing.  
 Breach of the peace – 16 year old male reported to Procurator Fiscal  
 Possession of drugs – separate cases whereby 14 and 16 year old youths traced in possession of drugs, personal amount of Class C drug which were confiscated and males received formal Police warning.

2 Road Traffic Act offences including driver using hand held mobile phone and driver not wearing a seatbelt. It is of note that the penalty for these offences increased to £100.00 from £60.00.

If you have any information on the crimes documented in the report please speak to us separately , phone or email.

This is a relatively low number of crimes for this time of year and of note there have been almost no youth disorder complaints,

We did however observe a large amount of rubbish at Cemetery Brae which we arranged for the Council to remove. We will be monitoring the area along with Community Safety Wardens.

### Other Matters:

New bike security marking kit has been obtained should anyone wish to contact us to arrange bike marking. We have marked several in Airth already and will be offering this service to Airth primary School during cycle proficiency training.

PC 044 Maria Crawford has returned to duty following maternity leave and will continue to work with PC Scott as Airth Community Officer.

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Also, our email addresses are now [Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lynsey.scott@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and  
[Maria.Crawford@scotland.police.pnn.uk](mailto:Maria.Crawford@scotland.police.pnn.uk)

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## AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE TO 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2013.

24/06/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Martin regarding a public meeting on the National Planning Framework 3 in Grangemouth Town Hall on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Chair will be Cllr. Joan Paterson

24/06/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding an NHS grants scheme. Applications are open until the 27<sup>th</sup> September.

25/06/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Stephen Bird enclosing the draft order for parking restrictions at Elphinstone Crescent.

01/07/2013 `E` mail from George Russell regarding a meeting to discuss his proposals for a development at Airth Mains Farm.

01/07/2013 `Letter from Police Scotland regarding traffic warden provision and police station opening times. (from David Flynn local area commander)

08/07/2013 Letter from F.O.E. making us aware of the methane gas exploration in our area and offering to meet us to talk about becoming an unconventional gas free zone.

18/07/2013 Reply to F.O.E. by Pauline Rodger deferring the decision on the above until after the October election.

18/07/2013 `Letter from Falkirk Council regarding the appeal by Dart Energy because of the non determination of their planning application. This sets out the framework for a public hearing.

25/07/2013 `E` mail via Shona Barton regarding grants for orchards by the Central Scotland Green Network Group.

26/07/2013 `E` mail via Shona Barton enclosing the representation by Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council to the Dart Energy planning appeal.

26/07/2013 `E` mail from Peter Rae of Link Renewables regarding a meeting to give us an update on the Letham Moss wind farm proposals.

30/07/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Stephen Bird regarding a climate challenge fund advice surgery in Falkirk Town Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

01/08/2013 `E` mail from George Russell looking for a date for a meeting with the Community Council to discuss his proposals for Airth Mains Farm.

01/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding Community Council elections and giving a timetable of events.

01/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton enclosing a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk regarding the Queen's award for voluntary service.

01/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding "Tell me" the public information portal.

02/08/2013 `E` mail from Terry Walker with an update on his position regarding the development of the escarpment above Airth.

07/08/2013 `E` mail from Jon Anslow with his objection to a speed restriction on the A905 between Skinflats and Grangemouth. (this was his personal response)

09/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding a Giant Hogweed survey on the River Allan in Stirling district.

12/08/2013 `E` mail from Stirling Council to R.Smith who volunteered to take part in the survey.

12/08/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Craig Martin regarding seats to be installed at Airth cemetery.

16/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding a consultation on our marine environment by Marine Scotland. Jon Anslow will respond to this. The deadline for responses is 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

16/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding a consultation on The National Litter and Flytipping Strategy. R.Smith will respond to this. The deadline for responses is 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

19/08/2013 `E` mail from Aileen Amos regarding the Parish Christmas tree which Falkirk Council has agreed to supply, erect and decorate.

20/08/2013 `E` mail from George Russell regarding a date for our meeting with him.

20/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding the Keep Scotland Beautiful dog fouling campaign.

23/08/2013 `E` mail from Shona Barton regarding the Forth Valley Wildlife and Landscape forum event in Larbert High School on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

23/08/2013 Letter from the Scottish Government Directorate for planning and environmental appeals relating to the enquiry session on the Dart Energy appeal. If we do not attend, our previous submission will still be considered.

23/08/2013 `E` mail via Shona Barton regarding the Litter Free Scotland consultation—closing date 27<sup>th</sup> September.

29/08/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Craig Martin with information from Robert McMaster of Falkirk Council roads department regarding various roads related issues in our area which they are dealing with.

28/08/2013 Letter from F.C. regarding a consultation on the relocation of Carrongrange school. Both of the suggested locations have their merits and potential problems, so we agreed to wait and see if any affected families in our area wish us to respond.

02/09/2013 `E` mail from Peter Rae of Link renewables regarding a meeting date of 4<sup>th</sup> September to update us on their proposals for a wind farm at Letham Moss.

02/09/2013 `E` mail from Cllr. Stephen Bird regarding the funding at Falkirk newsletter.

03/09/2013 `E` mail from Peter Rae of link in answer to our queries on the mast erected at Letham Moss.

03/09/2013 `E` mail from George Russell confirming that he and Alastair Bell will attend our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

06/09/2013 `E` mail from Brian Pirie with up to date information on the forthcoming community council elections.

17/09/2013 `E` mail from Peter Rae of Link Renewables regarding distribution of a newsletter he will be developing to give residents information on the Letham Moss windfarm proposals.

**AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.**

**MEETING WITH PETER RAE OF LINK RENEWABLES AT  
7 PM ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 AT**

**100 SOUTH GREEN DRIVE AIRTH.**

**PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO UPDATE AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL ON THE PROPOSALS BY LINK RENEWABLES FOR A WINDFARM  
AT LETHAM MOSS.**

**PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY PETER RAE OF LINK RENEWABLES.**

**C.C. MEMBERS PRESENT.**

**P.Rodger, R.Smith, I. Penman, A. Amos, A.Ramsay Jon Anslow,  
Jo Tibbles.**

Peter Rae, gave the following update in the project.

Originally the project was a three way partnership between Link Renewable, Scottish and Southern Energy and Scotts the owners of Letham Moss.

Subsequently, Scottish and Southern left the partnership and a new a new partnership was formed involving Community Energy Scotland who are a national charity. However this partnership has also dissolved and Link Renewable are progressing the project on their own with support from Scotts.

Link have a legal agreement with Scotts who are keen to work only with Link on this project.

At the moment they are still examining the potential for a wind farm at Letham Moss and the early indications are that wind speed over the site is sufficient. An 80 metre high mast has been erected in the moss to monitor wind speed and undertake bat surveys and collect other data. There is an infra red light on top of the mast as a warning to military aircraft.

An in depth feasibility study involving all environmental and practical issues is being undertaken at the moment. The mast is clearly visible from the area surrounding the moss. All access to the sites will be taken from the existing road at the Peat Moss works on the Moss Road.

Link are looking at either 3 x 2.5 Megawatt or 3 x 3.0 Megawatt turbines on the site and Peter left a map showing the locations which are all within the existing

peat moss. Ian Penman enquired about benefit to the community from the project and Peter indicated that "royalties" of £6000 per megawatt per annum could be paid to Airth parish via. A community based development trust, a potential of around £40 to £50k per year. The wider community of Falkirk district would also benefit in that Link would use its profits to build more social housing in the area. They have invested a great deal of money in the project so far in obtaining technical support and information so are hopeful of a satisfactory result. Falkirk Council planners have indicated that they are not too keen on the idea as they consider it outwith their zone of wind generation.

If the project goes ahead, after the construction period, there will be little permanent employment.

Link hope to submit a planning application in February or March 2014 and they will have to reapply to Scottish Power to have their grid connection approved as this permission has expired.

Peter is seeking advice from the Community Council on who to consult with, where to hold the consultations and how to approach them. We agreed to assist in making contact with different community groups and communities in the area affected.

A comment was made that many of the people in the surrounding areas who have objected to the Dart Energy proposals for methane gas extraction were supportive of renewable energy initiatives.

The convenor thanked Peter for his update and he agreed to keep us up to date with progress on the project.