

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19 November 2014 at 7pm in Airth Primary School

Present :- Robert (Bob) Smith Iain Penman Ginny Sutherland Jim Flynn
Domini Grant

Also Present :- Pauline Rodger Ann Ramsay PC Maria Crawford
Mr and Mrs A. Curry Elliot Roy (Falkirk Council – Democratic Services) John and
Tracie Campbell

Apologies :- Craig Martin Willie Watson Aileen Amos Jon Anslow

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

These were approved as a correct record, moved by Jim and seconded by Iain .

Police Report

Maria apologised for not being able to attend previous meetings. This is due to the new working arrangements as all one police force now. Community policing is not a priority now.

There have been 18 calls but only 2 crime reports generated. There was graffiti on house at Crawford Square and road accident knocking telephone post down and wires stolen.

3 calls re anti- social behaviour.

Maria apologised for not having done anything re speeding at Airth Castle. They have not had any time to dedicate to it and are call responsive only.

We should therefore call in if anything concerns us. Keep on their backs and then the sergeant can see they are needed to work on community projects.

Bob mentioned that there have been some youths in the woods having drinking sessions. One group left it tidy but other didn't. There is a concern about fire.

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Bob hasn't been able to contact Davie Dick re the trees yet.

Aileen attended the Community Council Forum meeting.

There was a good attendance at the Memorial Services. The flag poles have now been put up at The Cenotaph. There is now not enough grant for benches.

Tracie showed pictures of benches - £535 plus VAT each. If we can get them through Council then no VAT. They need to be cemented in. Tracie was asking for funding for benches. Bob suggested a sub group meeting to discuss it.

Around the Parish Report

Ginny mentioned she had received a letter from Scottish National Heritage re flooding. See later.

Jim said the school had a good literacy week but there is still a problem with dog fouling at the gate. There was an incident this week.

The school Christmas Fayre is this Saturday. All welcome.

School had report from young mum – twice in one week lorries soaked her and on one of the occasions the lorry driver aimed for her specifically. She has reported it to the Company involved. This is a big safety concern. The two islands in the middle of the road are quite narrow especially with a buggy. We need a plan for slowing down traffic and dealing with the inadequate islands. A pelican crossing might be the answer or an alternative measure to slow drivers down. We previously tried to get a weight restriction on the lorries like Skinflats but there is no alternative route.

Bob suggested that we **write to Robert McMaster to press for a pelican crossing.**

Iain says that Letham is getting a pole installed to flash up speeds.

Adoption of Constitution

Bob says that has been a bit of confusion. The new one has been drafted but not passed through Council yet. We'll adopt our new one based on the old constitution. It has been circulated and amended so we'll adopt it now and send it into Elliot then when new one is ratified we can adopt it.

Results of Request for Nominated Members

Letters went out to Senior Citizens Group, the Church and the Community Centre but only the Church has got back to say having a meeting this week and will get back to us.

Correspondence

Letter from Craig Martin re new feature in Falkirk Herald – "Talking Points" which might be useful to us.

Letter from Craig re new Council offices and headquarters.

Bob went to meeting re Strategy on Public Open Spaces. There is talk that some surplus areas might be getting sold off. Nothing in our area though. Bob made some contacts inc David Galloway from Forestry Commission.

Letter from IGAS Energy Community Fund advising that they have a fund that communities can apply to. If fracking does go ahead we should benefit from the fund and could apply but it was agreed that we should wait to see what happens first.

Letter from Peter Rae at Link Renewables advising that they could still work in partnership with us. They are offering to attend a meeting if we want them to.

Clean Up Scotland newsletter was forwarded to everyone.

Planning Issues

Nothing new for the Parish.

Mr and Mrs Curry were asking about the development at the North end of the village. They had been to a meeting at Bar 189 about it. They were interested in buying a bungalow. Ginny advised that the curling pond field has problems and the builders couldn't buy the plant hire site as it cost too much. There's not even a planning application in yet only a pre application notice. We advised that it would probably be 2 years before anything would be built. It is still at early stages.

Fracking – all back to Scottish Government. Ginny advised that problems in America were now coming to the fore.

Cenotaph Maintenance and Improvements

See previously. We can maybe look at this in the Spring. Bob advised that we will fix up a meeting. It was agreed that **Aileen will apply to the Council for another grant**. We might get part of it. Once we know how much we can get then can ask for balance from local businesses.

Christmas Lights Event

It will take place on 5 December. All organised. Lots of good raffle prizes. We are to meet up at 5pm/5.30pm. It was suggested that a **further meeting be held to finalise things and this was set up for Tuesday 25th November**.

Treasurer's Report

Aileen is on holiday. No report.

Community Renewables Project

They are saying that the wind resource is not as good as they thought. There is also a problem with the geese. Council don't seem minded to approve wind turbines now.

Flood Defences

Ginny has letter from Scottish National Heritage on banks reiterating that it is a Site of Scientific Interest and must be protected. There is a bad map attached. They said these are sea walls and are not flood defences. There seems to be too many agencies involved. People's homes and livelihood will be affected if there is any more flooding. It can't be a good idea to flood the banks for any more salt marshes. They are overlooking that this is a food producing area. Leslie Dick did work that needed done to avert a problem. Possibly cost him about £80,000 to do and other smaller farmers couldn't have done it. We should press ahead with trying to get **the grant for a survey/engineer's report** that we have previously talked about. Any part of the bank could go. There needs to be a shorter pathway to get to the right people. This is the landowners' grievance. SNH seem to be backing away from what they said at the previous meetings. We need to get involved again and will start with applying for the grant. **Aileen to arrange with assistance.**

A.O.C.B.

Bob got a copy of the latest draft of the Community Charter. It seems to have been widened and is not only about coal bed methane any more. It is stated that our eco system is to be maintained. Bob suggested that what we wanted to do re the banks probably goes against the Charter. We haven't signed up to the Charter.

Domini will attend a meeting of Concerned Communities of Falkirk in Falkirk and is also going to the Community Council Forum.

John Campbell raised a concern that one of the graves in the cemetery is sliding/sinking down. It is thought it is John Strathearn's grave. A lot of them are quite unstable and they are laying them down to avoid accidents. **We will look at getting in touch with someone about sliding grave.**

Date of Next Meeting 17 December 2014