

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING HELD IN AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2013

ELECTED COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESENT.

.R.SMITH, , A.. AMOS, A.RAMSAY, WILLIE WATSON, GINNY SUTHERLAND

ALSO PRESENT.

SHONA BARTON, L.WATSON (D.V.A.) MARIA CRAWFORD (POLICE), IAN
PENMAN, PAULINE RODGER, DOMINI GRANT.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jon Anslow, Cllr.s. Stephen Bird and Craig Martin.

As this was the first meeting since the election of a new community council, Shona Barton of Falkirk Council was present to start the process, give advice and information and oversee the appointment of office bearers.

At the start of the meeting, Ann Ramsay indicated that she wished to resign her position as an elected member. It was noted that she would still be eligible to stand as a nominated member from another local group if she wished.

This resignation left us one member short to form the community council but under the rules governing community councils, we are allowed to co-opt a member to make up the shortfall. It was noted that Domini Grant had stood for election but her nomination was disallowed because of an error on her nomination form by one of her assentors. R Smith proposed that we co-opt her on as a full member and this was unanimously accepted.

Jon Anslow had previously indicated that he would agree to the co-option of a member to make up the shortfall if it occurred.

As we now had the full complement of elected members, Shona said that we should now nominate four office bearers, Convenor, Vice Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer from the 6 elected members. When a Convenor was appointed, Shona indicated that she would hand control of the meeting to that person while remaining to supervise and give advice.

She then called for proposals for the position of Convenor.

Aileen Amos proposed Jon Anslow in his absence. Shona called for a seconder for this proposal but none was received.

Robert Smith proposed Domini Grant and this proposal was seconded by Willie Watson. Shona duly appointed Domini Grant as the Convenor and handed control of the meeting to her. Domini thanked the other members for their confidence in her and pledged to serve the community council to the best of her ability.

The Convenor then called for proposals for the position of Vice Convenor.

Robert Smith proposed Jon Anslow in his absence and confirmed that Jon had told him previously that he would be happy to accept this position. This was seconded by Willie Watson. There were no other nominations for this post so Jon Anslow was appointed vice convenor.

The Convenor called for proposals for the position of Secretary.

Willie Watson proposed Robert Smith and this was seconded by Ginny Sutherland.. Robert Smith was duly appointed as secretary.

The Convenor called for proposals for Treasurer.

Robert Smith proposed Aileen Amos. and this was seconded by Domini Grant. There were no other nominations and Aileen Amos was appointed as Treasurer. It was noted that both Aileen Amos and Robert Smith are already co-signatories on the Community Council bank account so we should still be able to access our account while we arrange for the details to be changed.

As the four office bearers had been appointed under the supervision of Shona Barton of Falkirk Council, the meeting progressed to the remaining items on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION.

Shona informed us that we are required to adopt a constitution and referred us to the model community council constitution. Some members indicated that they did not have a copy of this document so R. Smith agreed to forward this on to all members to examine and make any comments or changes to the model for discussion at our next meeting. Shona made it clear that all community councils must have their AGM during September each year, all meetings must be open to the public and minutes taken apart from informal organisational meetings for specific purposes which may be held in private,

NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION FROM OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS.

We are allowed to co-opt 3 members on to the community council from people nominated from other community groups operating in the Parish. To do this, we will write to such groups, advertise in the Falkirk Herald and post a notice on the Community council notice board. Nominees must be resident in the parish, 18 years or over, registered on the voters roll and had not been a nominated community councillor during the past session. Nominations must be in for the 18th December for consideration and co-option in January.

.MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of our meeting on 9th October 2013 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings. Proposed by Ian Penman and seconded by Aileen Amos.

POLICE REPORT.

The convenor welcomed Maria Crawford back as our Community Police Officer after her absence on maternity leave, Maria told us that Lynsey Scott would be taking maternity leave soon and is currently undertaking administration duties.

Maria delivered a detailed report, a copy of which is appended.

Ian Penman enquired about an accident which had occurred at the junction of the Letham

Road and the Bellsdyke road and Maria said that as that area came under Carronshore, it would not appear on the report for Airth Parish.

Following the consultation on public counter provision at police stations in the Falkirk Command area, Maria confirmed that the Larbert Police office would be open to the public during the hours of 09.00 and 17.00.

Following a discussion on complaints about speeding at Letham Cottages, Airth Castle Drive and Castle View it was agreed that we should write to Falkirk Council to ask for 20 MPH signs at those locations. It was also suggested we write to Airth Castle Hotel to ask them to instruct vehicles delivering goods and services to observe the statutory speed limit, We have a series of e mails from a concerned resident, the police and Cllr. Martin referring to the complaint at Castle Drive and Castle View. Maria confirmed that the issue had been investigated by the police. Ian Penman requested that leaflets regarding speeding in Letham are produced for distribution in the village.

MATTERS ARISING.

We are unsure if Jon has responded to the consultations on the provision of traffic wardens and the Marine environment. Aileen suggested that we contact Jon to remind him to respond,

The memorial event in Letham on Sunday 10th November was well attended and the permanent memorial to Letham residents who lost their lives in the 2 world wars and those who were killed while working in the Letham coal mine will last for many years. No names have yet been put on the memorial, but these will be added when sufficient information is obtained. Aileen indicated that she was disappointed that the community council had not laid a wreath at this ceremony but it was pointed out that the invitation was for us to attend the ceremony, not lay a wreath.

Aileen confirmed that she and Jon had attended the Remembrance Service in Airth and laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Community Council..

The Letham residents association held an event on Sunday 17th November to unveil the murals depicting the mining heritage of Letham as part of the centenary celebrations. This was also well attended and Provost Pat Reid performed the unveiling ceremony. A BBQ was held afterwards

CORRESPONDENCE

See the list of correspondence appended.

Pauline Rodger handed over a letter which she had received from RPS Planning and Development Consultants regarding a pre application notice of a planning application by Dart Energy to drill an exploratory well to assess the viability of gas in an area to the east of Skinflats. This is not in our parish but comes under Grangemouth Community Council area and we have been informed since Grangemouth has no community council at the moment. As this is a planning issue, we will endeavour to find out the reactions of residents in this area to this proposal.

PLANNING ISSUES

There is a planning application lodged for an extension to 7A High Street, Airth which is one of the new houses recently constructed there. R.Smith will look into this via. on line planning and inform members of the details.

E mail from Terry Walker with an update on the situation regarding his proposals for developing the escarpment above Cemetery Brae. He expects to start the public participation process early next year after the new Local Development plan has been put to committee. A further e mail from Terry Walker regarding his recent meeting with Falkirk Council on the protocol for progressing his application to develop the escarpment. He also referred to the rumours about proposals for another development at Airth Mains farm and I referred him to the minutes of our October meeting with George Russell and our submission to the Local development plan consultation in June.

FUND RAISING FOR THE PARISH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

R. Smith confirmed that letters asking for donations had been sent out as normal along with an invitation to join us for the “switch on “ It was agreed that we should start fundraising activities early next year.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SWITCH ON

A planning meeting to finalise the arrangements for the switch on will be held on 27th November at 100 South Green Drive. at 7pm.

INVITATIONS TO THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT

The invitations were included with letters asking for donations and additional invitations will be sent out to The Provost of Falkirk, our four councillors, the church and the school and notices will be posted on community notice boards and shops in the area. An announcement will also be published in the Falkirk Herald.

TREASURERS REPORT

As Aileen had just been appointed as treasurer, she did not have any information available but will contact Jo Tibbles to arrange the transfer of our books and accounts.

A.O.C.B.

R.Smith will contact Falkirk Council to arrange the lets for our community council meetings in Airth Primary School next year.

Ginny Sutherland informed us that Jim Braes, the farmer who is cultivating the fields in front of Airth Castle has complained that his access into the fields is regularly blocked by inconsiderate dog walkers who park their vehicles in front of it while walking the Airth to Letham path and confrontations between walkers and farm workers have already occurred.

As this is on a busy access route to Airth Castle and the housing developments, a dangerous situation occurs when tractors and machinery cannot pull off the road into the field. He has asked for help in rectifying this situation. R.Smith will contact Lesley Sweeney F.C. countryside ranger to request that appropriate signs are put up at this location.

Ian Penman informed us that Isobel Cameron from Letham was in Larbert Hospital again and we agreed to send her a get well card.

Lillian Watson informed us that the church was holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 29th November and a 'Scotch evening' on Saturday 30th November. Entertainment for this will be provided by the very talented Todd family. This event is free and refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Lillian also informed us that a brass band will be playing Christmas Carols on the Village Green in Dunmore on Saturday 7th December.

Domini Grant informed us that the School was holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 23rd November.

Lillian Watson asked for clarification of the recording of private meetings of Community Councillors. The Convenor confirmed that while notes would be taken at meetings arranged to organise events, official minutes would not. If however an important issue was brought up at these meetings it would be deferred to a normal public meeting unless it was an important issue requiring urgent attention when a special official meeting would be called.

Domini also suggested that we look at engaging the services of an unelected minute secretary to take minutes of our meetings and distribute them to members. This would allow all members to concentrate on the meeting while notes are being taken by an independent person. Shona Barton indicated that this approach was allowable under the terms of creation of community councils and additional funding to cover the cost of this is available. The remuneration for this is normally in the form of an honorarium of £300 per annum paid to the minute secretary which is £30 per each of our 10 main meetings. This avenue will be explored and discussed at our next meeting.

There being no further business, the convenor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The date of our next General meeting is Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 7pm in Airth Primary School.

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

List of correspondence from 10/10/2013 to 20/11/2013

10/10/2013 Letter from Falkirk Council regarding the community council elections. 6 valid nominations received for 6 places for Airth Parish therefore no election required.

15/10/2013 Letter from Falkirk Council enclosing a list of persons elected to the community council.

18/10/2013 E mail from A.Amos regarding amendments to the minutes and a notice from the local branch of the No to independence campaign.

19/10/2013 E mail from A.Amos with a quote for the Christmas lights as requested at the October meeting.

22/10/2013 Letter from the Royal British Legion inviting us to send up to 3 people to the festival of remembrance. (this was circulated to all members by the secretary)

24/10/2013 Letter from Airth Parish Church informing us of the service at the war memorial on 10th November.

24/10/2013 E mail from Cllr. Bird with a link to funding sources.

25/10/2013 E mail from I.F.L.I. regarding an event in the MacRobert centre on Tuesday 26th November.

25/10/2013 E mail from Shona Barton regarding attending our meeting on 20th November.

27/10/2013 Letter sent to Mrs E. Dick inviting her to switch on the Christmas tree lights.

4/11/2013 Letter from Mrs Dick accepting our invite.

28/10/2013 E mail from Pauline to Aileen with information on the Christmas Lights donation letters and responses. Also her opinion on additional Lights.

31/10/2013 Series of e mails from Pauline, Jim Flynn, Lynsey Scott and Cllr. Martin regarding speeding at Castle View and the access road to Airth castle

31/10/2013 E mail between A. Amos and Cllr. Martin relating to a request by a resident to put a notice on the Dunmore notice board.

4/11/2013 E mail from Ian Penman inviting us to attend the wreath laying ceremony at the new memorial in Letham on Sunday 10th November.

4/11/2013 E mail from Terry Walker with an update on the proposals for a housing development on the escarpment above Airth.

4/11/2013 E mail to Terry Walker regarding the new community council.

4/11/2013 E mail to Shona Barton regarding the Community Council briefing which was attended by Ann, Aileen, Ginny and Robert.

4/11/2013 E mail from Jon Anslow confirming that he and his wife would attend the Festival of Remembrance in Falkirk on 9th November.

5/11/2013 E mail from Terry Walker regarding his meeting with Falkirk Council Planners and referring to rumours about another development.

6/11/2013 E mail from R.Smith to terry Walker referring him to the minutes of our September meeting and our response to the Local development Plan consultation which was submitted to Falkirk Council.

6/11/2013 E mail from Aileen with a quote from Lightways for the supply and installation of 2 new lights.

7/11/2013 E mail from Andrew Cassells of Falkirk Council in answer to a query on the composition of our community council.

7/11/2013 E mail from Lee Williamson of The Royal British Legion regarding the tickets for Jon and Margaret Anslow for the Festival of Remembrance.

7/11/2013 Weekly planning list. 2 minor applications relating to Airth.

9/11/2013 E mail from Lynsey Scott regarding the traffic speed survey carried out near the driving range and a copy of a flyer relating to speeding.

15/11/2013 E mail from Aileen regarding the October minutes.

18/11/2013 E mail from Andrew Cassells of Falkirk Council relating to our meeting on the 20th November.

19/11/2013 E mail from Shona Barton regarding our inaugural meeting.

Airth Community Council Meeting – Police Report – November 2013

16th October – 20th November 2013

Dunmore

No crime reports

South Alloa

No crime reports

Letham

No crime reports

Airth

4 crime reports including

*Graffiti sprayed on door at Forrester Place – lines of enquiry completed, no other linked incident.

*Power tools and generator stolen from a vehicle parked in Kennedy Way. A lock was forced open to gain entry. No other similar reports – lines of enquiry completed

* Sexual assault, 28 year old male from Stenhousemuir appeared from court on 04.11 and was granted bail with specific conditions not to enter Airth.

3 Road Traffic Act offences including a driver not wearing a seatbelt and 2 minor lighting offences. It is of note that the penalty for failing to wear a seatbelt has risen from £60.00 to £100.00.

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

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

Other Matters:

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 and Maria.Crawford@scotland.pnn.police.uk

The Police Service of Scotland website is www.scotland.police.uk

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