

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

Held on Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 7pm in Airth Primary School

Present :- Robert (Bob) Smith Iain Penman Jim Flynn Domini Grant
Aileen Amos Jon Anslow

Also Present :- Pauline Rodger Ann Ramsay Tracie Campbell Craig Martin PC
Maria Crawford PC Jim Archibald

Apologies :- Ginny Sutherland Willie Watson

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

These were approved as a correct record, approved by Robert and seconded by Iain. _

Police Report

Winter Road Safety Campaign has started. There have been 43 offences since 9 November.

30 calls in last month re Airth. 9 for advice, 5 for anti- social behaviour, 14 for other matters. Most generated from one neighbour dispute. Two crime reports – break in at Paul Drive and possession of a Controlled Drugs.

One for Dunmore re injured deer in the road.

Jim raised house at Letham – house lights from bungalow very bright. Can blind you and you think there is a car coming. Maria is aware.

Mr Goldie has notified Bob who is coming to our meetings. Maria, Jim or Donna will attend as appropriate. Lynsey is back in April.

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Bob checked into grants for bank survey and has been advised that applications are not open till next year so he is looking at other avenues for funding.

The broadband letter not yet written. Jim, Jon and Domini to get together in January to take this forward. If we want it quicker than 2017 we need to go into partnership with Council and Craig hasn't got back on that yet. Domini will get Brian Pirie to send letter to all Community Councils to see if they are having same problems. Domini also to respond to James Toal to advise what action we are taking.

Bob hasn't yet contacted Mr David Dick re trees.

Contact to be made with Peter Rae of Link Renewables about proposed partnership in the New Year.

One of the graves that had sunk has been sorted.

Domini attended the Community Council Forum. Council to make £40 million savings. Deputy Chief Finance Officer says that services to be cut over 3 years for likes of street cleaning, grass cutting, school meals and support for learning. New Town Hall is being built because old one is not fit for purpose.

Going to have a complaints procedure for complaints against Community Councils. To be done through Brian Pirie. There might be a panel of conveners from other Councils to deal with the complaints. It is being developed. Domini will report more after next meeting.

Around the Parish Report

Airth PS enjoyed success at Falkirk Council's 'Celebrating Success' Award Ceremony this year. They were awarded the Provosts Award for their work on Citizenship Groups. This is where all children and staff across the school are part of a group to make improvements within the school and community. The groups this year are; Eco, School Grounds, Community, Health, Global Citizenship and Eyes on Airth. The trophy can be viewed in the school foyer.

The school was also invited to attend the Going for Glasgow Awards last month where they received a GOLD Going for Glasgow plaque for all their work and contributions to the Commonwealth Games.

- The children nominated one of their pupils, Emma Wood, who they thought had made an outstanding commitment to sport. Emma was awarded runner up for the entire Council at the Going for Glasgow award ceremony. Emma collected a beautiful personal trophy.
- The choir was in much demand again this year having already performed at the Christmas Fayre, Airth Lights switch on and Airthrey Care home. They also sang at the Howgate Centre and in Asda, Stenhousemuir.
- This year the school presented not one but two school shows. Nursery and Primary 1 presented 'The Noisy Nativity' and Primary 7 presented 'Merry Christmas Tommy.' Both shows showcased the children's wonderful talents and reminded everyone of the joy of Christmas.
- School parking has improved a bit because of nursery times changing. Tracie says still problems at the corner where she stays. There are still however inconsiderate drivers.

In Dunmore - Aileen says the Christmas lights on the existing trees are up and look lovely. There was not a great attendance at the carol concert as it was raining on the night.

Craig says there is problem in South Alloa with communal sewage system. Some people not contributing to the cost. Craig doesn't know who it is. Jon will email Craig.

Domini also went to the CCOF night. They think their campaign has been very successful. AGM voting in new members – really just a re shuffling. There weren't really any

introductions of new attendees etc. Domini not sure what they are getting involved in now. The £70,000 raised by CCOF was spent fighting the planning application by Dart Energy for coal bed methane. No planning application for fracking has been submitted yet. There were approximately 200 people at the recent demonstration at Ineos.

NFU meeting at Airth Castle Hotel. This was attended by INEOS and SEPA. It was felt that it was disappointing that the government representative more or less said just accept that project going ahead anyway. It was felt that farmers were also disappointed by NFU's lack of assistance. Bob says if goes ahead there is talk that it will be 4% to landowners and 2% to community so could be a lot of money. We should find out what sites these licences have been granted for so we can gauge the impact. We should ask INEOS these relevant questions – try to find out facts – how deep they are going etc. If putting tanks at Letham we need to know as that has a direct impact. It seems to be a blanket area that is covered.

Craig will get someone to come to speak to us about the licences. Craig will try to get someone from Ineos to come to speak to us. We can have a meeting and invite Skinflats concerned residents.

Maybe try to get tanks moved to the other side of the motorway.

Still await decision on DART application from Scottish Ministers.

Skinflats are unrepresented now Grangemouth Community Council doesn't exist. Some residents (Ronnie Martin) asking for our assistance. They are very concerned. Bob suggested we get one of them to join as a member. Bob will invite Paul Barratt or Bob Sloan to join us as they live within our boundary.

Correspondence

Maria's sewage sludge letter has been copied to everyone. We are in agreement with the points she raised. Craig pointed out that they are objecting to a planning application for a storage unit that doesn't yet exist.

Aileen got letter from Youth Club thanking us for the £30 for sandwiches.

Email from Mrs Todd thanking us for our flowers and said she enjoyed helping at Christmas light switch on.

Letter back from Council re narrow crossing islands – Islands are to reduce vehicles speed and they do that – they are not ideal for pedestrians but there are alternative routes for walking. Domini wants to respond to it as not happy with this response. Nearby residents actively fought to get wall back up to stop people coming through their estate. If it had been done as originally planned there would be less of a problem. Re splash problem – letter states that roads department unaware of flooding problems – will check and if a problem they will try to fix.

Road is minimum width for a road and path is minimum width for footpath so would only solve it if wall removed and that has already been an issue. Wall will not be getting taken

down. There are however new residents. Domini and Jim will get in touch with Mrs Holt who is head of the Residents Association and attend next meeting.

Craig says A905 in Grangemouth got a part time weight restriction. We should try for the same. Start a petition. It would mean lorries can only go through at night. Or why can't they go the Moss Road? If delivering or picking up – the lorries are allowed but not if just passing through.

Aileen will fill in questionnaire from Visit Scotland.

Church not putting anybody forward to join us as a member.

Airth District Community Planning – Bob contacted Margaret Lees. She has contacted the design people. She will have a draft for us for the beginning of January.

In connection with the landowners' responsibility letter from SNH that Ginny raised at the last meeting - Bob reported that SNH are still saying that there are systems to go through.

The Resilience Plan has not yet been finalised.

Cenotaph Report

Aileen met with Arthur Begg on 10 December. As the grant had been raised under the auspices of Airth Parish Council, Aileen raised that she didn't have any correspondence. Arthur to provide paperwork so our records can be accurate. The grant was increased to £1900 to cover the cost of 2 flag poles, 2 flags and 2 benches. In the end the benches weren't covered. Tracie says that there has been an anonymous donation of £500 for a bench. Aileen concerned that money hasn't come through Community Council Bank. Craig says doesn't have to. Next stage is about doing work around cenotaph. First part was flagpole and possibly benches. Tracie has flags and keys for poles. Church has nothing to do with them. Flags will go up in better weather.

Christmas Lights Event

£1159 in raffle tickets sold. Event went well. Mr and Mrs Morrison who won first prize wanted it to go back to the fund. Took an amount for their girls and handed £60 back.

Treasurer's Report

Christmas Donations £1600
Christmas Raffle £1171
Total £2771

Money in Xmas Lights Account after all expenses paid is £3834.68.

Money received from Falkirk Council

Secretarial Allowance £300
Administration Grant £374
Money in general fund £653.04

Planning Issues

Nothing in planning notices.

Aileen noted that about 120 big houses going up in Larbert. Planning has been passed.

Jim asked about construction in Castle View. Bob says it's a loft conversion – temporary tent to protect roof.

Craig says planning permission for housing in Letham is no longer progressing.

Waterslap is going back to arable.

A.O.C.B.

Domini says we need to get Falkirk Council to amend the website to remove Bob as secretary so correspondence doesn't go to him. Aileen will request the change. Aileen asked Bob for a letter of resignation for file.

Falkirk Council have cancelled the parking fees at the Town Hall.

The free school travel system has been brought into line with other councils and it is now 3 miles to qualify.

Agreed to get janitor a bottle of vodka as a thank you for opening up school for our meetings.

The Youth Club were given a £30 voucher for Asda.

A bouquet was presented to Isabel Smith for going out innumerable nights selling raffle tickets.

Bob says there has been a complaint by a resident about access to the health centre being obscured by hedges. Craig will raise this with the appropriate Roads Department person.

Date of Next Meeting 21 January 2015 at 7pm