

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the general meeting held on 21st December 2016 in Airth Primary School.

Members present. Jon Anslow, Robert Smith, Aileen Amos, Willie Watson, and Ginny Sutherland.

Also present. Community constable Chris Morrison.

Minute Secretary. As we do not have a minute secretary at this time, Robert Smith agreed to take notes and compile minutes for this meeting. We will continue to try and recruit a minute secretary through the press and notice board.

1. Apologies No apologies for absence had been received.

2. Approval of October and November minutes The October minutes were approved and seconded by Aileen and Ginny and the November minutes were approved and seconded by Aileen and Willie.

3. Police Report.

Chris Morrison delivered a comprehensive report on police activities in the parish over the past month and a full copy is appended.

Briefly, there were 9 crimes reported to the police during the period between 16th November and 21st December. These include vandalism to a motor vehicle, theft of fuel, assault, racially aggravated behaviour and drink driving. Of these, 6 have been detected, 1 is undetected and 2 are ongoing enquiries. There have also been 46 calls to police from Airth parish this month, mainly road traffic matters but also planned pest control shoots, escaped livestock, a fallen tree on the Letham road and concern for persons.

Willie Watson asked Chris about registering a Larsen trap for use in controlling magpies and crows. The use of such traps is covered by a General Licence issued annually by SNH and Chris will check on the requirements for registering a trap and pass the information on to us.

Aileen asked Chris about his role as a wildlife officer and he confirmed that this is in his remit and he is in training for this role under the guidance of Malcolm O`May who is based in Callander. Chris left the meeting after giving his report.

4. Matters arising.

Robert has been unable to contact Mervyn McGregor of S.E.P.A. regarding the source of the raw sewage in the basin at Dunmore. Robert will try to contact him again for an update on progress.

The overgrown garden at Graham Terrace has not yet been tidied up despite the owner saying that he would do so before the winter. Robert agreed to try and contact him again.

5. Correspondence. As listed below.

1. Falkirk council information on temporary road closures in Airth for a public procession on 26th November 2016.
2. Information on Edinburgh airport noise management board.
3. Initial report from Edinburgh airport on the airspace change consultation. It appears that there is a great deal of opposition to this.
4. E mail survey from NHS Scotland. This is an on line survey and members can respond to it individually.
5. Community safety team survey.
6. Falkirk Council consultation on licensing and gambling. Comments to be made by 20th January.
7. E mail to Christina Deans of the army cadets regarding her failure to attend our November meeting.
8. E mail from Craig Valentine complaining about shooting at Eastfield. This was passed to Chris Morrison of Police Scotland.
9. Reply from Chris to the above.
10. E mail from Brian Pirie regarding a review of the planning system. Deadline for responses is 23rd December.
11. E mails from Jon and responses from Stephen Bird regarding road works at South Alloa.
12. Report from the Community Safety team.
13. E mail from Morag Carson regarding our November minutes and a response from Aileen.

6. Round the parish report.

South Alloa. No progress has been made on provision of a notice board .

Letham. Ginny wants the R.O.W. between Letham Cottages and Letham Farm returned to it`s original route as she has lost access to approximately 2 acres of good farming land. This is a matter which will have to be dealt with through Angus Duncan, the countryside access officer. She also said that there is a problem with dog fouling and fly tipping at this area and would like a bin installed.

Airth. Dog fouling continues to be a problem on some footpaths and while some owners are picking up after their dogs, they are just discarding the bags and in some places, there are heaps of bags lying at the side of the paths.

Dunmore. Carol singing with a brass band took place on the green in Dunmore. Ginny wants “Keep dogs on lead” signs put up in Dunmore estate.

7. Treasurers Report.

Aileen Amos informed us that we had £374.78 in our admin. account and £2107.02 in the Christmas Lights account although this does not yet include all the donations and proceeds from the prize draw.

8. Planning issues.

Two recent planning applications for our area have been withdrawn. These are P/16/0225/PPP for 2 houses at the Forthview Golf Range and P/16/0694/FUL for a container converted to a conservatory at M`Dina, Dunmore.

After debate and discussion, it was agreed to amend our response to the escarpment proposals to include our disappointment that the five amenity houses on the site would now be for sale and not given to F.C. as social housing and that a contribution will be made towards the provision of affordable housing elsewhere. We understand that the original proposal was rejected by Falkirk Council. Robert will amend and circulate the letter for approval before sending it.

9. Christmas Lights report.

Robert, Aileen and Jon reported that the “Switch on “ event had been a great success with a very large crowd in attendance. The Falkirk herald had done a feature on it as well as a feature involving Ethan_Ritchie`s family and the light erected in his memory. It was noted that without the help of our sub-committee members and others we would have been unable to hold the event. A last minute hitch was overcome just in time, when Alec Detlaff was able to get the tree lights switched on as the electrician who was scheduled to attend could not come due to a family emergency.

Robert indicated that 1442 prize draw tickets had been sold, mostly by volunteers organised by the sub- committee members and donations to date were £1751.32 in cash and cheques. Of the 26 letters sent out requesting donations, 11 had not replied but 15 had replied and made donations. Smaller cash donations were also received when prize draw tickets were being sold. It was disappointing that one of the largest businesses in the parish had not replied or acknowledged receipt of our letter.

It was suggested that we publicise more what we do in relation to the lights as some people still think that they are provided by Falkirk Council although they

are in fact owned and serviced by the residents of Airth Parish through the community council.

It was agreed that we book the community centre for 1st December 2017 for the lights Switch on event.

10. Public consultation on CBM and fracking.

We discussed the request by Vivian Murchiston of C.C.O.F. asking us to host a public meeting with a presentation from the C.C.O.F. regarding the unconventional exploration for gas in our area ahead of the public consultation process arranged by the Scottish Government in the new year. It was felt that there would be difficulties in arranging a public meeting under the terms she was suggesting. Given the controversial and emotional nature of this issue, Jon will contact Brian Pirie for guidance on this before we make our decision. Aileen will inform Vivian of this.

11. A.O.C.B.

Robert has booked the school for our meetings for next year and will post these on the notice board.

The Welfare hall has been rewired and had new heating installed using grants applied for by the Airth Welfare Hall Committee. The tenant is also modernising and upgrading the toilets. The use of the hall should be more widely promoted as it is owned by the residents of Airth Parish.

12. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 18th January 2017 in Airth Primary School.

The convenor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.