

## AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the general meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Airth Primary School.**

**Members present.** Robert Smith, Aileen Amos, Willie Watson.

**Also present.** Cllrs. Stephen Bird and Craig Martin, Rev. J. Todd, A. Mitchell Morag Carson and one other from the school council.

**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.

As neither the Convenor nor vice Convenor were present, Aileen chaired the meeting.

**1. Apologies** Apologies for absence had been received from Jon Anslow, Ginny Sutherland and community constable Chris Morrison.

**2. Approval of October minutes** The minutes were not available but will be mailed to members.

#### **3. Police Report.**

There was no Police presence but their full e mailed report is attached.

Briefly, there were 5 crimes reported to the police during the period between 19<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> November. These include vandalism, theft of fuel, assault and domestic incidents. 3 have been detected, 1 is undetected and 1 is an ongoing enquiry.

There have also been 43 calls to police from Airth parish this month, mainly road traffic matters but also planned pest control shoots, anti social behaviour and concern for persons.

Robert Smith said that a resident had complained to a land owner about people shooting in his fields and shining lights into her home. Robert had permission from the landowner and explained that he had been setting up to shoot geese in the morning and his vehicle had been in the field about 500 or 600 metres from the person`s house and was unaware of causing a problem. Only 4 shots were fired that morning, the first at 07.00 then 3 at 08.30.

Willie Watson informed us about fly tipping near Rosehill which is off the Moss road. This area lies within Stirling District and is not in our jurisdiction.

#### **4. Matters arising.**

Willie Watson informed us that the basin at Dunmore is needing cleaned out to allow the water out into the river. The trash screen is continually catching debris which is building up.

S.E.P.A. have still not investigated the source of the raw sewage. Robert will contact Mr McGregor again for an update on progress.

Cllr. Martin said he would speak to Falkirk Environmental Trust regarding repairs to the outlet. An engineer has inspected the culvert and deemed it to be safe

#### **5. Correspondence.** As listed below.

E mail from Jim Flynn regarding the proposed development at the escarpment. He has concerns about the capacity of Airth school to cope with this.

Police report for October/November from P.C. Morrison.

E. Mail from Vivien Murchison of C.C.O.F. asking us to consider holding a public meeting as part of the Scottish government's forthcoming consultation on unconventional gas exploration. She sets out in detail the format for a meeting which we would host but which would be independently facilitated. She asks that we treat the proposal as confidential as Ineos would not be invited and may insist they attend in the interests of fairness.

Confirmation from Christina Davidson of the army cadets that she would attend our November meeting.

E mail from Shona Collins of F.C. roads regarding the access strip to the trash screen at Dunmore. To improve the grass, ground reinforcement grids will be laid. This should help improve the drainage at this area.

Christmas lights sub committee minutes.

Invitation from Airth parish church to attend the remembrance service.

Copy of our application to F.C. for our licence to sell prize draw tickets.

Copy of our letter to F.C. with payment of £739.22 for Christmas lights work carried out last year. We were not invoiced for this at the time due to a mistake by Lightways.

Receipt for our payment for our licence fee.

E mail from Greg Pender informing us that F.C. intend to take over the enforcement of on street parking restrictions.

Report from the Community Safety team.

E mail from John Kellet of Police Scotland informing us that he is moving to a new role in Response Policing.

E mail advising us that public access defibrillators have been made more affordable.

Invitation to attend meetings on caring for veterans and their families and

support for people with dementia. Further information on this and meeting dates can be obtained from Lorraine McAulay on 01786 467342. Meetings will be held from October 2016 until May 2017.

Invitation to attend a presentation on the Falkirk Council budget on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Aileen and Robert attended this.

E mail from Aileen to John Milne asking for an extension in time to allow us to formulate our response to the escarpment planning application.

E mail from Crawford Sibbald of F.C. environmental health in response to a complaint about noise from the Parsonage on 11<sup>th</sup> November. They have been in contact with the Dunmore resident who made the complaint and confirmed that there are no more events scheduled until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

## **6. Round the parish report.**

South Alloa. Nothing to report.

Letham. Nothing to report.

Airth. We will discuss the e mail from Vivian Murchiston of C.C.O.F. relating to a public meeting regarding unconventional gas exploration at our next meeting.

Dunmore. An event was held at the Parsonage on 11<sup>th</sup> November and there was a complaint from a Dunmore resident about noise levels. The police were called and investigated and found that noise was within acceptable levels and sound limiters were working. They will normally make a report to the licencing authority.

## **7. School Report.**

Morag Carson delivered a very detailed report from Airth Primary school. She reported that the school is fully staffed with 1 teacher per class and also has 2 support for learning teachers as well as 2 janitors.

The boundary wall had been inspected by engineers and the necessary repairs have been carried out. The janitors will continue to monitor this.

New carpets have been fitted and the hall redecorated. There is money available from previous planning gain and this is to be spent by the summer of 2017. This will be used to make the playground a more secure environment or possibly replacement furniture which is currently being priced.

The publication of assessment data will be in Parentzone in December.

The feedback from parents on meet the teacher and parents` night was overwhelmingly positive.

A.P.S. has been asked to participate in quality improvement officer induction, there will be a team of 4 with classroom observations and meetings with staff and pupil focus groups. All will be overseen by H.M.I.E.

Aileen Amos asked Mrs Carson if, in view of the current budget cuts by Falkirk Council, should we, the Community council put forward the case for special needs provision in Airth. Mrs Carson replied that Airth was not affected by this.

### **8. Treasurer`s Report.**

Aileen Amos informed us that we had £425.38 in the admin. account and £2918.66 in the Christmas Lights account.

### **9. Army cadets.**

No representative from the army cadets attended the meeting.

### **10. Planning Issues.**

The planning application by Lochay Homes to develop the escarpment above the Cemetery Brae and the Church has been submitted and it is for 118 homes. It was noted that the proposal to give 5 x 2 bedroom bungalows to Falkirk Council in lieu of affordable homes has been deleted. These will now be for sale. The contribution towards affordable homes may be used elsewhere in the district. Willie Watson expressed his disappointment that the social housing had been dropped from the plans.

Morag Carson had spoken to the planners on the possible effect on Airth Primary School and was confident that the school could absorb by gradual intake up to 30 children of various ages in the school. £300k from the education contribution would be earmarked for Airth Primary school. While the Community Council support the application there are some comments we wish to make mainly relating to road safety.

These comments are as follows:-

The access on to the A905 must be designed to ensure good visibility for traffic leaving the development.

The 30mph signs should be moved to the north of the station Road end and the "countdown signs " put up on the straight road along from the Parsonage. The footpaths on the A905 at the north end of Airth should be upgraded.

Adequate footpaths ensuring a safe route to school should be in place throughout the estate.

Traffic from the estate will not be allowed to use the High Street for access.

Who will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the community woodland aspect of the development?

### **11. Christmas Lights.**

The plans are in place for the Christmas lights "Switch on" on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This will be carried out by a pupil from the school selected at random and the

school choir will sing 8 carols. New lights have been ordered including one to be dedicated to the memory of Ethan Ritchie. The team of helpers have started selling raffle tickets and requests for donations have been sent.

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

J.Todd informed us that the Church Christmas Fayre would be held in the church on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Andrew Mitchell informed us that he has submitted a planning application to build a conservatory at the rear of his house using a steel container. We have not yet been notified about this from F.C. Andrew explained that the container will be clad in timber. When we receive the notification from Falkirk Council, we can view the application details.

Aileen thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Our next meeting will be on the 21st December 2016.