

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the general meeting held on 15th February 2017 in Airth Primary School.

Members present. Jon Anslow, (Convenor) Robert Smith, (Assistant Secretary) Aileen Amos, (Secretary/Treasurer) Willie Watson.

Also present. Rev. Jim Todd, Margaret Penn, P.C. Chris Morrison and Laura Murtaugh.

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 Apologies for absence received from Ginny Sutherland (Vice Convenor). She may also miss our next meeting.

2. Police Report

Chris apologised for missing the January meeting and delivered written reports to the 18th of January and the 15th February. Copies of these are available. In brief, between 21st December and 18th January there were 5 crimes/offences recorded and 4 road traffic offences reported as well as numerous road traffic tickets being issued. The offences include assault, sexual offences, threatening or abusive text messages and vandalism. Also there were 35 calls to Police Scotland from the Airth area, the majority being related to road traffic matters, concerns for persons, planned pest control shoots and antisocial behaviour.

Between 18th January and 15th February 6 crimes/offences were recorded. The offences include assault, domestic incidents, stalking and 2 housebreakings in South Alloa. 2 of these cases are detected, and 4 are on going enquiries. The housebreakings in South Alloa occurred during the late afternoon or early evening on Saturday 11th February. Cash, various items and vehicle keys were taken from 2 properties and 3 vehicles were stolen. These are a white mini, a white Renault Megane and a black Audi Q7. Any person having information regarding this incident should contact DC 541 Allana Lees at Larbert by calling 101. Also, there were 43 calls to Police Scotland from the parish during the past month mostly relating to road traffic matters, antisocial behaviour, domestic incidents and housebreaking.

Constable Morrison urged residents to be extra vigilant and watch for strange vehicles and vans patrolling streets checking for empty houses. If suspicious behaviour is observed, call Police Scotland on 101 with details. He also reminds

residents that the new air weapon licensing legislation is now in force and it is an offence for anyone to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon without the necessary licence. Any person who currently has a shotgun or firearm certificate will still be able to possess and use an air weapon until their certificate expires when they will also need to obtain an air weapon licence. The situation regarding inappropriate car parking at Larbert Village school was discussed and Chris confirmed that tickets had been issued to offenders, mostly parents of children at the school. Laura Murtaugh highlighted the similar situation at Airth Primary School and although the voluntary one way system seemed to be working, there were near misses every week. Chris confirmed that he could be in attendance some mornings and that offenders could receive tickets.

Robert Smith pointed out that some groups of young teenagers were meeting up the cemetery brae at the weekends and using this as a drinking area. He also pointed out the problem of fly tipping at the Neuk Road and Pow burn Bridge area. Chris took note of these and said he would patrol these areas when in Airth and then left the meeting as he was still on duty.

3. Approval of January minutes.

The January minutes were approved by Aileen and Jon.

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. Unfortunately voice mails left for Mervyn seem to be unanswered.

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 but had lost the contact details from his computer.

5. Correspondence. As listed below.

1. E. mail from the Inner Forth landscaping initiative regarding a seminar on habitat improvements and creation. J. Todd said his son may be interested in attending this event and took the details.
2. E mail from Aileen regarding the public transport consultation which ended on 13th January. The C.C. was not notified about this directly.
3. E mail from Cllr. Bird regarding the date of the public consultation on unconventional oil and gas. He did not know the start date.
4. E mail regarding confirmation of payment to Lightways for our Christmas lights.

5. E mail from Cllr. Bird regarding the forthcoming Local Development Plan consultation which is due to run from 10th February until 5th May.
6. E mail from F.C. planning regarding the Local development Plan Main issues report.
7. Various e mails regarding the provision of affordable housing at the escarpment development.
8. E mail from LetsgoFurther regarding the second consultation on flightpath alterations at Edinburgh airport.
9. E mail from the noise management board at Edinburgh Airport.
10. Various E mails regarding the posting of our minutes on our website and the Falkirk Council website. Although we are sending them to Brian Pirie, it appears that they are not always posted on the Council website.
11. E mail from the Community Safety Team with their report for January. It was noted that they had called at houses in Castle Drive following complaints about children playing with balls in the street and close to cars. Laura pointed out that this was a serious issue and highlighted the tragic death of a child in his own street last year.
12. E mails between the Community safety Team and Robert regarding fly tipping and dog fouling.
13. E mail from Cllr. Martin regarding possible funding from the aspiring communities fund.
14. E mail from Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland regarding a fundraising walk round Loch Leven on 19th March. We will put posters up regarding this event.
15. E mail regarding the NHS24 Strategic Planning Consultation. This ends on 24th February.
16. E mails from Aileen to Jane Murie and Brian Pirie regarding our grant for minute secretary expenses.
17. E mail from Alexandra Lewis about the seminars relating to the LDP2 Main Issues Report. These are on 15th and 20th March. Aileen and Robert will attend one of these.
18. LDP2 update leaflet. The roadshow will be in Airth Community Hall on Tuesday 11th April from 4 to 7pm.
19. Letter from F.C. planners regarding the LDP2 consultation and enclosing a copy of the Main Issues report. Aileen asked to keep this to read and she will pass it on to other members in turn. Responses to this are required by 5th May.
20. Annual report from Angus MacDonald MSP.
21. Copy of our letters to the planners regarding the proposed developments at the Crown Hotel and Letham farm sites.
22. Letter from Edinburgh airport regarding the second consultation. This letter

was sent to every household in the parish. We will request hard copies of the document.

6. Round the parish report.

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

Letham. Nothing reported.

Airth. Fly tipping and dog fouling at areas near and within Airth have been brought to the attention of the Community Safety Team and we are awaiting their response. Margaret Penn reported that the main road opposite her house and at the head of the School Road had several potholes and a sunken drain which were causing vibrations in her property when heavy vehicles passed. She also stated that large vehicles like buses had difficulty turning into the school road because of cars parked near the junction with the main street.

Dunmore. It was noted that a construction lorry heading for Dunmore Home Farm had tried to access the farm via Dunmore Village despite there being a no through road sign. Contractors have been told that this route is closed to lorries. It was suggested that a sign stating “No Access To Dunmore Home Farm” would prevent this happening again. Willie Watson stated that despite representations to Scottish Gas, their vehicles continue to access the gas pumping station via the private road which comes from Dunmore village. Their access should be from the Home Farm access road.

7. Treasurers Report.

Aileen Amos informed us that we had £308.90 in our admin. account and £3125.43 in the Christmas Lights account. A payment of £1171.99 is still to come off and this will leave a balance of £1953.44 in the account.

8. Planning issues.

The recent planning applications by Site Sealants at Airth Mill and Gean Developments at the Crown Hotel site have been withdrawn.

The status of the Lochay homes application was discussed at length and it was agreed that we write to the planners to make them aware of our need for affordable housing in Airth. We may hold a meeting to discuss this issue at the end of March.

9. Public consultation on CBM and Fracking.

The public consultation by the Scottish Government is now live and will run until the 31st May. Robert had downloaded a copy of the 60 page document

and found it contained a great deal of information gathered by the Government from all sides with an interest. The subject of a public meeting to lead to a response to the consultation was discussed at length and eventually Robert Smith proposed holding some sort of public meeting to inform our residents about the consultation and unbiased information which is available. However mindful of the hostility expressed to the C.C. at a previous meeting in 2012, Jon Anslow was against this and a vote was held. There was 1 vote to hold a public meeting, 2 votes against a public meeting and 1 abstention therefore the proposal was defeated. However, it was agreed that we publicise the consultation on notices and in the press to encourage individual residents to study the evidence and respond to the consultation. Jim Todd had major concerns about the drilling of wells through the myriad of old coal workings in our area and was looking for guarantees that this would not have adverse effects on our communities. This sentiment was echoed by others and we agreed to contact the Coal and mines authorities for their opinions on this scenario.

10. Edinburgh Airport Public consultation 2

Aileen will contact Edinburgh airport for copies of the consultation.

11. A.O.C.B.

There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 15th March 2017 in Airth Primary School. The convenor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.