

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 17th May 2017

(Those present were informed that the meeting was being recorded)

Members Present : **Jon Anslow (Convenor)**
 Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)
 Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)

Also Present : **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Jane Rae (Minute Taker);**
 Police Constable James Millar (part of meeting)

1. Apologies : **Ginny Sutherland; Cllr. Joan Coombes;**
 PC Christopher Morrison; Cllr. Gary Bouse;
 Rev. Jim Todd; William Watson; Morag Carson

2. Police Report

PC James Millar, colleague of PC Christopher Morrison, presented a report in his absence.

The report covered the period from 17th April to 16th May 2017 and identified 5 reported crimes / offences in the Airth area. These included assault, communications offences and drugs possession. There were also 13 undetected crimes occurred and reported, which included vandalism, theft, assault, breach of the peace and a dog bite.

PC Millar mentioned vandalism to a car in Letham Cottages - no more lines of enquiry left and crime will remain undetected.

The weekend policing plan is still in place and Dunmore Estate has now been included in this patrol, as per the discussion at the previous meeting in April.

At the conclusion of his report PC Millar answered a question from Councillor Murtagh with regard to an incident which had taken place in Airth within the last few days and involved pupils from Airth Primary School. Councillor Murtagh expressed concern at the alarm this has caused amongst parents in the village but was assured by PC Millar that

an investigation process was ongoing and that she would be contacted by Police Scotland and given an update. There was reassurance that this was being dealt with.

Jon Anslow thanked PC Millar for his report and information provided. PC Millar left the meeting.

3. Previous Minutes :

Jon Anslow informed the meeting that he had yet to read the minutes of the previous meeting.

At this point, on behalf of the Community Council, Jon Anslow congratulated Councillor Murtagh on her recent success in the local council elections and expressed a hope that she would continue to be closely involved in the work of the Community Council. She assured the meeting that she looked forward to it. Four Councillors have been elected to cover the area.

4. Matters Arising :

(a) Sewage at Dunmore : Issue ongoing.

(b) Graham Terrace garden : Issue ongoing. Councillor Murtagh to take this up.

(c) LDP : Robert Smith drafted a letter and this has now been sent.

(d) Edinburgh Airport : Robert Smith replied to this consultation on the standard form provided, based on the issues previously discussed.

(e) Spring Clean : Councillor Murtagh spoke to school, who were happy to be involved. It was felt however that due to the tight timescale now that this might not be achievable. It was decided to leave it for this year, perhaps doing something under our own initiative if possible, and await an invite in 2018.

(f) Secretarial Money : Councillor Murtagh had enquired about this and Brian Pirie of Falkirk Council will provide a form that should be completed. Councillor Murtagh will follow this up.

5. Correspondence :

- Copy of letter which Robert Smith wrote and sent to Falkirk Council Development Services on behalf of the Community Council regarding the LDP Response.

- email from PC Morrison informing that the new Police Inspector covering the Larbert area and working out of the Larbert Police Office will be Inspector Martin Rutland.
- 2 x Community Safety Team reports covering 1 - 31/3/17 and 1 - 30/4/17.
- Notice re Temporary Prohibition of Traffic on A905 from 7am on 26/4/17 until 7am on 28/4/17 to allow Scottish Power to install new electricity cables to upgrade network.
- emails from Aileen Amos to Laura Murtagh, Vivien Murchison, Jim Flynn and Fiona Williams requesting help to deliver leaflets advertising forthcoming meeting regarding Fracking. All but Jim Flynn able to help.
- email to Community Council from Mark Ruskell, MSP, asking for responses regarding a consultation for a 20mph Members' Bill proposing to reduce default speed limit on restricted roads from 30 to 20mph. After a discussion, where majority of members wished to support this, it was agreed that Robert Smith would look to formulating a response. Closing date is 7/7/14.
- email from Maria Montinaro inviting Community Councillors to a showing of "The Bentley Effect Trailer" being held at Falkirk Trinity Church on 16/5/17.
- email from Marie Gardner, Bridge of Allan Community Council, inviting Airth Community Council to share views regarding Fracking to pull together a joint response to the consultation. Also inviting Council to meeting on 16th May regarding same issues. It was agreed between those present that Airth would wish to put their own views forward but to reply to Marie and thank her for the opportunity. Also to invite her to Airth's forthcoming meeting.
- email from Kelly Fitzpatrick of Scottish Health Council - invitation to Forth Valley Communities for Conservation (FVC4C) Launch Event on 20th May 2017 at Falkirk Trinity Church.
- Notice re Temporary Prohibition of Traffic through various streets in Airth from 16.00 to 17.00 hours on 20/5/17 in order to allow a public procession.
- email from Kelly Fitzpatrick of Scottish Health Council - including a poster advertising a parent and carer engagement event for parents and carers of children and adolescents who have used CAMHS in Forth Valley - 30/5/17 @ 6pm at Stirling Community Hospital.
- letter to Robert Smith from retiring Councillor Craig Martin thanking him for his service to Community Council.

6. Round the Parish :

South Alloa : No progress has been made on provision of noticeboard.

Letham : Houses being internally insulated. Work is ongoing.

Airth : Further to problem with untidy garden etc. at Graham Terrace, Robert Smith stated that he had received a couple of complaints regarding messy and untidy gardens elsewhere within the village. However, as these houses were not Council-owned there would be little recourse unless they could be presented as a health hazard. Councillor Murtagh to make enquiries.

Dunmore : There was discussion regarding the permanent removal of the rubbish bin from the lay-by outside Dunmore and how this has encouraged fly tipping. Councillor Murtagh to take this up.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there was no change from a month ago. She is aware that a statement is due. There is £641.41 in the admin account and £1953.44 in the Christmas Lights account. The operating costs for Ethan's Light is still to be taken into account. It was agreed that a 'light touch' letter will be sent in June.

The Community Council insurance is due on 2/6/17 and Aileen Amos has a quote from Zurich for £79.80, which she will accept and arrange payment for.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) The Escarpment : No more information at present. Councillor Murtagh would seek to update at next meeting.

(b) 2-storey extension in South Green Drive : this is planned for rear of house so there would be no issues generally. Next door neighbours have asked Robert Smith to take a look at the plans, although they have no objections to this going ahead.

(c) Kersie Mains Farm - plans for 6 dwelling houses : plans to build 6 houses within the Steading of the farm, which currently is a listed building. Jon Anslow had seen plans published on architect's website which seemed to include more than the Steading but this does not seem to be on the planning application. With regard to planning application, the Community Council would have no objections.

(d) The Parsonage Marquees : there was discussion regarding the length of time these have been temporary buildings (over 3 years) and it was agreed that the owner should be encouraged to provide a planning application for a permanent building within 6 months of being granted a further temporary application. Robert Smith to send letter. Recognition was given to the employment and boost to the local economy that this business attracts.

9. Fracking :

A public meeting for the residents of Airth Parish has been organised with regard to Fracking and the issues arising from it. The meeting will be held within the Welfare Hall, Main Street, Airth, on Monday 22nd May 2017 from 7 - 9pm. It was agreed that Aileen Amos had done a fantastic job of organising this at such short notice and it will hopefully make a big difference to the response we can make to the consultation.

Leaflets have been printed and some have already been delivered. Councillor Murtagh was happy to cover South Green Drive and knew someone who could deliver to the houses and estate beside the Castle. She also agreed to publish the information within the councillors' website and Robert had asked for it to be published in this week's edition of the Falkirk Herald.

Aileen had liaised with the Scottish Office and managed to procure the services of a totally independent group who will be able to deliver an unbiased view on the issues. Once information has been collated it will be passed back to the Community Council and this will inform our response.

10. Any Other Competent Business :

Garden competition : it was agreed to go ahead and organise this as in previous years. There was a need to identify a judge. Both Robert Smith and Aileen Amos suggested the outgoing Provost of Falkirk Council, Pat Reid, who has been an excellent advocate and supporter of Airth Parish. It was agreed that everyone would think about anyone else who might fit the bill.

Christmas Lights fund : it was suggested that Aileen Amos could contact Tesco to ask whether they would be willing to make a donation from their 'plastic bag fund'.

Jon Anslow concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.