

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 21st June 2017

Members Present : **Ginny Sutherland (Asst Convenor)**
 Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)
 Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)

Also Present : **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr. Jim Flynn; Rev Jim Todd;**
 Jane Rae (Minute Taker); Terry Walker;

Local Residents -

Robert Brannigan; Sid Peaty; Anne Peaty
Police Constable Christopher Morrison (part of meeting)

1. Apologies : **Jon Anslow; Cllr. Joan Coombes;**
 William Watson; Morag Carson

2. Police Report

PC Christopher Morrison presented his report.

The period covered was from 18th May to 21st June 2017 and identified 8 reported crimes / offences in the Airth area. These included assault and vandalism at Bowtrees service station, possession of cannabis, a racial incident, road traffic matters, and failure to stop or report a road traffic collision, 4 detected and 4 undetected. There were 74 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, domestic incidents, noisy music and possible bogus workmen.

This coming weekend will see the launch of Bluebird in the Kinnaird estate in Larbert. Additional patrols will be out to tackle youth antisocial behaviour and disorder. If there are any issues within Airth, this should be reported to Police.

PC Morrison left some cards with information relating to a phone app which receives alerts from various organisations, including the Police.

Aileen Amos highlighted a concern reported by Andrew Mitchell in Dunmore of "boy racers". PC Morrison has contacted Mr Mitchell regarding this.

Bob Smith mentioned empty cars parked at Dunmore lay-by at night, people obviously walking into estate. PC Morrison to keep an eye on this.

Sam Peaty of Shierlaw Gardens reported his concern at the speed of the traffic coming through the village, particularly from the Stirling direction. PC Morrison informed the meeting that speed detection is usually carried out from a site at the centre of the village. An alternative site would need to be identified in order to monitor this. Cllr Murtagh mentioned that statistics from past studies show that the incidence of speeding is not high, however anecdotally this is not the impression of villagers.

Bob Smith said that the proposed additional housing at the Escarpment will mean that the 30mph sign will need to be moved further north, to accommodate a longer stretch of road.

Meeting thanked PC Morrison for his report and information provided. PC Morrison left the meeting.

3. Previous Minutes :

An amendment and an addition required to be made to the two previous minutes of April and May. 2017 Aileen passed these to Jane for the changes to be made. Once these have been made both minutes would be accepted.

4. Matters Arising :

- (a) Graham Terrace garden** : Issue ongoing. Robert Brannigan was in attendance as he lives next door to this area and is disappointed that no progress has been made in clearing the mess up, in fact he has witnessed rats, which he has had to deal with on a couple of occasions. It was mentioned that the building foundations on the site were started 9 years ago and it appears that the owner has no plans to develop further. Cllr Murtagh had made enquiries of various departments and has put this issue on the agenda for a meeting in early July of the Corporate Working Group. Hopefully this will start the process to resolve the issue.
- (b) One-Way System, Shore Road** : A letter was received from Greg Pender of Roads Dept, Falkirk Council. There are no proposals to develop a one-way system on Shore Road, which had originally been suggested by the Parent Council. It appears there is no support from residents and it seems doubtful this will happen. This issue may be revisited.
- (c) Public Meeting re Fracking** : This meeting had a reasonable turnout, with some good points raised. It was felt the venue worked well and enabled there to be two separate discussion groups. Although 950+ leaflets had gone out and it had been

well advertised there had only been around 58 people attended. On reflection it was felt that comparative to other local Community Council public meetings this was a good turnout, given the size of Airth. All comments etc. had been brought together (roughly 90% of those attending were against fracking) and these comments were used to form the community response.

5. Correspondence :

- email from Terry Walker intimating that he would attend tonight's meeting.
- copy of letter from Airth Community Council to Falkirk Council Planning Dept regarding temporary permission for marquees at the Parsonage (discussed at meeting in May 2017). It was noted that a further 3 years was granted, with the assurance that a planning application submitted and building work should have commenced by then.
- email from Cllr Murtagh - bin at Dunmore has been reinstated.
- Feedback from Public Meeting re Fracking and acknowledgment email for submission of responses. Also 5 emails of thanks for organising the meeting. Also email seeking permission by UOG Consultation to publish submission - no issues apart from correcting convenor's name to Jon Anslow.
- email from Cllr Murtagh regarding her enquiry of the situation at Graham Terrace (see previous entry above).
- email from Cllr Murtagh regarding One-Way System at Shore Road (see previous entry above).
- email from Stephen Sloper regarding Waterslap and copy of email sent by Jon Anslow in reply to Mr Sloper.
- email regarding SNP submission re Fracking - CC to be sent a copy.
- email from PhD student Gordon Jack - wishing to recruit volunteer focus group participants for his research on public perceptions of youth crime and youth offending .
- email from Andrew Mitchell to Aileen Amos and passed onto PC Morrison regarding boy racers in Dunmore.
- various emails etc. relating to planning application by Stewart Craig of Forthview Golf Range to build 2 houses on the existing car park (see under Planning later in minute).

- Details re Holiday Club Fund available for groups - Falkirk Community Planning Partnership. Aileen Amos pointed out to Rev Todd that one of the criteria for applying is that groups promoting religious or political beliefs would not be considered.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 31/5/17 + email enquiring if the report contains adequate information / asking for suggestions for information that would be more relevant to our meetings. It was agreed to leave this for now.
- email from Cllr Murtagh regarding a request by CC to install another dog bin at Castle Drive. Not approved by Council.
- email regarding a possible judge for forthcoming gardening competition. First two people approached are going to be on holiday. (see later entry in minute)
- Community Charging Network - is online.
- Papers regarding application to Falkirk Council for secretarial grant. Bob & Aileen have completed this.
- email from CVS Falkirk & District regarding possible participation in 2017 Third Sector Impact Measurement Survey. It was agreed to participate.
- email from Ginny Sutherland intimating that she will not seek re-election in September but is happy to continue until then.
- email regarding temporary closure of core path at Westfield Farm for the weekend of 20 - 22nd August for an annual event of harness racing. Noted.

6. Round the Parish :

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

Letham : Nothing to report.

Airth : Bob Smith brought up the state of the road and area around what was previously the Silver Link Roadhouse on Kincardine Road and the impression this gave as the gateway to our parish. It seems this building and land is currently up for sale but is unsightly and overgrown. Wondered if Council could intervene? Cllrs Murtagh and Flynn to pursue.

There are still fly tipping issues, but some appear to be on private land. The rubbish in the river at the Bridge on the Neuk Road is being dealt with. Bob stated he thought there would be no difficulty in the Council getting permission from landowners to pursue a resolution as they currently are having to clean it up anyway.

Dunmore : boy racer issue (see previously).

7. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is £449.56 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 by Bob Smith.

The Community Council insurance has been paid (£79.80).

8. Planning Issues :

(a) The Escarpment : Terry Walker was present at the meeting to update on his company's plans. A site plan was available for those present. Mr Walker acknowledged that up till now the process had been "a difficult journey", coming up against several issues, such as difficulties with the sewage system, water pressure issues, overhead power lines and general infrastructure supports, which in turn have eventually been resolved. However progress has been very slow. A discussion took place on the requirement for affordable housing, the projections for which are constantly changing. The final hurdle to the work starting seems to relate to the re-siting of the speed limit sign at the north end of the village. It has proven extremely difficult for the company to set up an appointment with the Roads Dept to discuss this, which is required for the plan to move on. The Roads Dept appear to want to make an assessment of current needs rather than the forecasted needs.

Mr Walker was asked whether his company could meet the commuted payment request for Education (£702,100) and the potential commuted payment for affordable housing (£516,250), which he agreed they could. The only obstacle to the plan progressing, he said, was the need for the speed limit sign to be moved further out of the village. Answering a prompt made by Aileen Amos that, historically, this had not been the only obstacle, Mr Walker acknowledged that the plans had had to be re-submitted some time ago due to the original application falling short in key areas.

After further discussion it was agreed by the members that Bob Smith should write to the Roads Dept to encourage movement on this discussion and ask for any further clarification. Mr Walker added that he would also prepare a letter, which he agreed he would pass to Aileen Amos so that the Committee could have sight of this also. Mr Walker thanked the members and left the meeting.

(b) Castle View, extension to dwelling house : No issues with this.

(c) Forthview Golf Range: plans to build 2 houses on car park. Community Council has no particular objections but wished to highlight a few concerns. It was agreed that Bob Smith would write to Planning Dept, suggesting -

- because the 2 houses would be outwith the natural village limit, permission should therefore be given without precedent, to prevent further development in that area;
- any profits from the sale of the plots with planning permission should be invested back into the golf academy;
- additional car parking spaces should be created to compensate for the spaces lost where the homes would be built;
- in order not to incur the high expense of a flood risk assessment now, should outline planning permission be granted, an absolute condition of this would be to carry out the flood risk assessment immediately;
- due to the proximity of the redundant Letham mineshaft a full coalfield report should also be obtained.

(d) Snack Van at Silver Link Roadhouse : No concerns. Seen as positive for the area.

9. Gardening Competition : Both of the previously suggested possibilities for judging the competition will be on holiday that week. After discussion it was agreed that Bob will ask (a) (new) Provost Tom Coleman; or (b) Leader of the Council, Cecil Meiklejohn; or (c) a member of a neighbouring Community Council.

10. CC Members Election : An election of members to the Community Council is due in September / October and there was discussion as to how to get the word out and encourage people, particularly young people, to be involved. Bob has posted a notice in the Falkirk Herald. Rev Todd agreed to put a notice in the Church newsletter. Aileen thought it would be a good idea to have a rota of High School pupils, for say a commitment of 3 meetings. It was agreed to put out feelers to all possibilities.

11. Mandate to enable the Executive to act on any emergency issues over the holidays : This was agreed.

12. Any Other Competent Business :

Community Resilience Dry Run : it was agreed that this should go ahead. It has been more than a year since people signed up to this. All relevant services to be pre-warned and included where necessary. An emergency scenario to be decided on

AGM followed by ordinary meeting : to be held on Wednesday 20th September.

Ginny Sutherland concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.