

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 20th September 2017

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

Also Present : **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr Gary Bouse; Cllr. Jim Flynn;**
 Jane Rae (Minute Taker);
 Margaret Penn, local resident
 Police Constable Christopher Morrison (for following
 meeting)

1. Apologies : **Rev Jim Todd; William Watson**

2. Police Report

PC Christopher Morrison presented his report.

The period covered was from 20th June to 20th September 2017 and identified 25 reported crimes / offences in the Airth area. These included road traffic matters, offences of disorder, communications offences, theft of machinery, theft from motor vehicle and theft of equipment from the Parsonage. There were 92 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, but also suspect persons, found dogs, animals loose on the road and neighbour disputes.

The Community Policing Team based in Larbert were involved in policing Airth Highland Games, which was a successful day despite the weather.

PC Morrison reported that at this time of year hare coursing is a regular complaint. Police Scotland wish to encourage members of the public to report any behaviour which would raise suspicions that this activity was occurring, particularly as the farm land around Airth and Skinflats has wide open flat fields but is relatively secluded. Descriptions of people / cars involved or vehicle registration numbers would be helpful but on no account should individuals be approached.

Mrs Margaret Penn brought up the incidence of heavy traffic, sometimes speeding through the village, and suggested that speed bumps may be helpful or moving the speed limit signs further to the edges of the village. PC Morrison advised that speed bumps would be a decision by Falkirk Council and not the Police. Mrs Penn also complained about the state of the road, which exacerbated the vibration and noise of traffic. Cllr Murtagh mentioned that the buses being sent to pick up schoolchildren were not fit for purpose, i.e. too big for the route taken, and discussions are ongoing regarding this problem. Robert Smith mentioned the speed limit signs was an issue that the community council had sought to resolve and his communications to both Falkirk Council and Transport Scotland had received replies.

As a result of complaints from the community and discussions with Cllr Murtagh, the community policing team have taken a zero tolerance approach to parking offences in the village, with emphasis on the double yellow lines on the junction of Elphinstone Crescent and Millar Place, parking in the bus stops and double yellow lines outside the shops etc. on the main street. Community officers have also carried out hand held radar on Main Street, resulting in drivers being warned about their speed and tickets being issued when necessary.

Robert Smith informed PC Morrison of statistics he had regarding road traffic accidents involving deer (7 since 1/4/17). PC Morrison thanked Robert for flagging this up and took a note of them.

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

3. Previous Minutes :

Previous minute of 21/6/17 accepted as correct and approved by Aileen Amos and seconded by Robert Smith.

4. Matters Arising :

(a) Graham Terrace garden : Issue ongoing. No progress made by Falkirk Council since last meeting. Cllr Murtagh reiterated that the issue was with the Corporate Enforcement Group and is being investigated. Robert Smith reported that he had contacted owner, Calum McCann, who had promised to clean up but so far nothing has been done.

(b) 20mph speed limit consultation: Community Council unfortunately did not complete feedback document.

(c) Silver Link Roadhouse, state of abandonment : Councillors unsure whether Falkirk Council can do anything about this as it is privately owned. Application for a snack bar in the vicinity has been agreed. There is a need to pursue.

5. Correspondence :

- email from Jon Anslow to Stephen Sloper regarding reinstatement of Waterslap.
- copy of letter from Robert Smith on behalf of Airth Community Council to FC Planning Dept regarding plan for 122 houses south of Cemetery Brae along with two acknowledgements of receipt from Planning Dept but no further information.
- email from Ginny Sutherland regarding her intended resignation from Community Council at time of impending election of new members and Jon Anslow's reply to her.
- email from Robert Smith to Kincardine Community Council inviting them to judge the Parish's Gardening Competition on 19th July 2017.
- email from Robert to various regarding the winners of the Gardening Competition and thanking Lesley Gavin, Margaret Melville and Donald Campbell from Kincardine for giving up their free time to judge the gardens.
- copy of letter from Community Council to Planning Dept regarding planning application for 2 houses at Forthview Golf Academy, Airth.
- email correspondence from Cllr Bouse to Community Council regarding scheduling of repairs to potholes in road from High Street to Cemetery Brae and trimming of the verge along with weed spraying.
- trail of emails from Robert Smith to Community Safety Team, members, Police, councillors etc. regarding fly tipping of carpets in the Black Avenue area of Airth. Robert met with Community Warden but could not identify the culprit. Robert and his wife Isobel cleaned this up themselves.
- copy of letter from Licensing Board regarding application for variation of the Premises Licence (Off Sales) by BP Spar at Haughs of Airth
- email regarding interest by Jacqueline Drew of becoming a co-opted member of the Community Council via Airth Church. As Jacqueline lives in Stenhousemuir there was discussion as to how involved she could be. This application will be re-visited once the rules have been interrogated.
- correspondence regarding Edinburgh Airport Consultation. Application submitted to Civil Aviation Authority on 3rd August 2017, Edinburgh Airport awaiting feedback. Apparently less than 1% of Falkirk area residents submitted comments.

- email from Falkirk Council intimating the launch by The Scottish Government of a £25M Rural Housing Fund to help with unique housing issues in rural locations. Fund is available for 3 years from April 2016.
- Schedule of Location of Disabled Parking Space at 13 Shore Road, Airth.
- copy of correspondence from local resident Janet McColl regarding what she considers the unsafe drop off points for schoolchildren by school bus at Letham. Local councillors to investigate with School Transport Team.
- email from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory informing that brochures will now only be available online as they have become too expensive to produce.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 31/8/17.
- email from Ginny Sutherland regarding contamination by dog fouling of grass in a field to the front of Airth Castle which is used as cattle feed and therefore would go into food chain - very serious issue. Robert to bring this up at next week's Access Forum meeting. Cllr Flynn discussed strategies to avoid this happening.
- Request from Alan Boyne, President of Larbert Rotary Club, for date in December of our intended Christmas Lights switch on as apparently this clashed with the Rotary Club's Santa Sleigh visit last year.
- copy of letter from John Milne, FC Development Services regarding agreement to planning application for demolition of outbuilding, conversion and extension to byre to form dwelling house at Letham Farm.
- email correspondence from David East, Ineos, to Community Liaison Group members regarding planning application appeal by Ineos for road closure at Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth.

6. Round the Parish :

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

Letham : Robert Smith mentioned that it was heartening to see the completion of grassing over of ground at Waterslap, after more than 20 years. He also mentioned that there appears to be a smell of sewage when driving past The Hub at Letham. Querying whether it may be coming from a septic tank there? He also reported that overhanging branches etc. seem to have been cleared on the Airth to Letham footpath. Cllr Flynn reported that grass had been cut as well.

Cllr Flynn also mentioned that he was taken aback to notice two boys climbing almost to the top of the old church ruins at the Castle. Querying the efficacy of the security fence surrounding it as this is a very dangerous thing to do.

Airth : There are still fly tipping issues, but some appear to be on private land. It is possible for the community council to deal with some of this but not all of it. The Access Forum is coming to Airth next week and Robert would be engaging with this.

Dunmore : Cllr Murtagh had been invited to a meeting of Dunmore Village Association regarding various issues. Was concerned that this may duplicate work for her as Dunmore is already included within the Airth Parish Community Council remit and felt that possibly there could be engagement by the DVA with the Community Council.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is £279.76 in the admin account and £1953.44 in the Christmas Lights account.

Application had been made for the secretarial allowance but this had been refused by letter on 13th July. The CC have been granted this for the last 3 years and it was originally Falkirk Council who had encouraged them to apply. Not sure why there seems to be a problem this time. Aileen Amos had put together a detailed breakdown of expenditure that the CC incurred over a year and even with no frills this amounted to more than the annual grant from Falkirk Council, without taking into account the secretarial monies. It was regarded as very important that we have access to this, otherwise there does not seem to be any way that community council meetings can be minuted in the future.

The application for secretarial monies would be pursued as a matter of urgency.

It was agreed that Aileen would order a poppy wreath as she has done in previous years.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) The Escarpment : Aileen Amos has been in contact with John Milne regarding this. She has been informed that the developer has re-submitted with a change of access and the Roads Department is now considering this.

(b) Forthview Golf Range: the developer is not keen to carry out a risk survey due to the cost unless he has knowledge that the plan is likely to be agreed. Those present felt that the risk assessment was something that had to be done before the process could go forward.

(c) Old Mill, change of use from industrial to office space : No more details of this to hand.

(d) Primary School outdoor classroom : Progressing. Robert is involved. No need for planning permission because of size, only needs a Building Warrant. Likelihood this will be agreed, money needs to be used by November 2017.

9. Gardening Competition : Members of Kincardine Community Council judged the competition. Winners were 1) David Spowart; 2) Margaret Rennie; and 3) Jean McCudden. All winners donated their prizes to Airth & District Old Folks Association.

10. CC Members Election : This has already been discussed at the AGM.

11. Flood Meeting : Due to take place in Airth Welfare Hall on Tuesday 3rd October. This will be a public drop in and run from 1.45 to 6.45pm. This will be a good opportunity to discuss the hoped for Community Resilience Group and hopefully sign up some volunteers. The CRG theoretically will support the community in the event of flooding etc. SEPA have put together a map of the parish, identifying areas at risk of tidal flooding and letters will be sent to every household shortly.

12. Any Other Competent Business :

RSPB - proposal of application notice : Open meeting to be held on 26/10/17 between 2.30 and 9pm in Kincardine Community Hall. This is with regard to RSPB Skinflats Managed Realignment Project, which will involve creating a small breach in the old sea wall to allow water to flow into a 10 hectare site at high tide. The initial tidal exchange unfortunately failed and follow up remedial work also didn't work.

Edinburgh Airport : see previous entry under "Correspondence"

Overgrown paths / cycle path at Bowtrees and footpath to Skinflats, pavement narrowed because of overgrowth of plants etc.

Dealing with Japanese Knotweed between Manse and Dunmore Estate.

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