

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held in Robert Smith's home on Wednesday 18th October 2017

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

**Also Present :**                **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr Joan Coombes;**  
   **Jane Rae (Minute Taker);**  
   **Rev. Jim Todd**  
   **Police Constable Christopher Morrison**

**1. Apologies :**                **Cllrs Gary Bouse and Jim Flynn**

## **2. Police Report**

PC Christopher Morrison presented his report.

The period covered was from 20th September to 18th October 2017 and identified 6 reported crimes / offences in the Airth area. These included 2 road traffic matters, and the remainder were breach of the peace, sexual offences, theft of fuel and credit card fraud. There were 63 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, but also to noise complaints and abandoned vehicles.

PC Morrison reported that during the month of October the Police had received a number of complaints with regards to wild fowling on the foreshore at Airth. It was confirmed through enquiry to landowners that shooting in the area was by persons with relevant licenses, permissions and within the correct shooting season.

Aileen Amos mentioned a complaint from a householder in Dunmore of a person shooting from the foreshore towards the village and she asked PC Morrison if this was legal. Shots landing near the property were against the law, although cartridges from shotguns usually had a range / fallout of 300 yards. Aileen gave PC Morrison details of vehicle involved and he undertook to investigate.

PC Morrison informed the meeting that illegal parking continues at the school, despite the zero tolerance and issuing of parking fines. Situation is ongoing.

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

### **3. Previous Minutes :**

Previous minute of 20/9/17 accepted as correct and approved by Jon Anslow and seconded by Aileen Amos.

### **4. Matters Arising :** nothing of note to report.

### **5. Correspondence :**

- email from PC Morrison answering question raised at September's meeting regarding reporting of deer being involved in road traffic accidents. PC Morrison confirmed 3 incidents reported in the past year.
- copy of letter from David East, Ineos, inviting Aileen Amos to Community Liaison Group meeting on 6/11/17.
- email from Yvonne Boles of RSPB regarding open meeting on Thursday 26th October between 2.30 and 9pm at Kincardine Community Centre regarding proposed realignment project at Skinflats Reserve.
- printout from Falkirk Council regarding budget available to community councils from 2017-18. £1,133 allocated, £7,690 unallocated. This follows on from refusal by FC to provide monies for minuting secretary. Situation is ongoing.
- copy of letter from Royal British Legion Scotland inviting up to 3 representatives from Airth Parish CC to attend Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 11/11/17. Jon Anslow agreed that he and his wife would attend.
- information regarding flood warning scheme. Following on from Community Resilience meeting held last month, 3 people have expressed an interest in becoming members of the group. Possibility that they could become co-ordinators for different areas within the parish.
- copy of letter from Falkirk Council Licensing Board indicating that the annual fee payment of £20 for a raffle tickets licence is now due.
- information regarding CAA's temporary halt on Edinburgh airport route changes.
- Development Plan update.

- copy of letter from Angus MacDonald, MSP, intimating decision by Scottish Government that there will no “fracking” in Scotland.
- email from Aileen Amos to CC members regarding discussion she had with Brian Pirie of Falkirk Council about various issues pertaining to community council, i.e. elections, co-opted member, secretarial allowance. Meeting set up with Brian, Aileen and Robert on 26/10 to discuss. With regard to person the Church put forward as a possible co-opted member, it was agreed to invite Jacqueline along to next meeting but not to invite her to become a co-opted member until after the election of new CC members.
- email from Aileen Amos to CC members regarding discussion she had with Alan Boyne of Larbert Rotary. He wishes to meet with members to discuss date for Santa sleigh visiting the village and the possibility of some of the money (half) being donated to a village charity. Aileen had suggested the Xmas Lights.
- details of order of poppy wreath on behalf of community council. Same price as last year - £41.20.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 31/9/17.
- copy of letter from French Duncan, Chartered Accountants, regarding Airth Parish Community Council accounts for year to 31 March 2017. To be signed, returned and thereafter will be available for collection.

## **6. Round the Parish :**

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

Letham : Robert Smith again mentioned the smell of sewage when driving past The Hub at Letham. Not sure if any steps have been taken to sort this but it seems to have subsided a bit in the meantime. This issue is ongoing.

Cllr Murtagh mentioned the situation with the school bus route and where the children were being dropped off on the wrong side of the road, posing a danger to the children. The bus company said that any previous arrangement had been unofficial and it was the parents’ responsibility to be there to collect the children. Further discussions were held between the Education Transport section, councillors and the bus company and it was agreed that the buses would be re-routed to drop the children off on the side of the road which was safest for them. It was felt that this was a good outcome.

Airth : Robert Smith reported that there continues to be ongoing issues in relation to holes in the roads, particularly in Elphinstone Crescent and the High Street. However these are programmed to be dealt with when time allows.

Recently there was a visit by Access Forum members to the parish. Robert took them on a visit to the foreshore between Airth and Dunmore and everyone was very impressed by the banking and path created. The financial responsibility for this work has been met by local landowners Leslie Dick and Archie McLaren. Robert suggested that a sign should be erected from the Airth end of the shore facing into Dunmore to alert people to the access, although there is a householder in Dunmore unhappy for people to gain right of way via their property. Sign will be organised and hopefully this will avoid any confrontation with the owner. Apparently one other householder refused to let the banking be completed along their property boundary and this area could now be open to flooding.

Dunmore : Cllr Murtagh reiterated that she continues to encourage active engagement by the Dunmore Village Association with the Community Council. Jon Anslow stated we could not co-opt a member from Dunmore Village Association to the Community Council as it is more of a “private organisation” than an organisation which represents the village.

#### **7. Treasurer’s Report :**

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is £159.81 in the admin account and £1953.44 in the Christmas Lights account. It was agreed that the £20 for the raffle ticket licence would come from the Christmas Lights account as the raffle tickets were sold to raise funds for this project. It was also agreed that the secretarial allowance would continue to be taken from the admin account until such time as this can be resolved.

#### **8. Planning Issues :**

**(a) RSPB plan for Skinflats Reserve** : As mentioned above, meeting being held in relation to this on 26/10 in Kincardine.

**(b) Greendyke Cottage, Powfoulis**: site has been completely cleared and a temporary application for a caravan to be placed on site has been made.

**9. Remembrance Sunday** : Jon Anslow and Aileen Amos will attend on 12/11/17 to lay wreath. Councillors will be in attendance also.

**10. Community Resilience Group** : A meeting regarding this group and information on the SEPA floodline alerts took place on 3rd October. in Airth. 110 residential properties and less than 10 non-residential properties received letters informing of their status as being at risk of flooding. There was a poor attendance, in all only 11 households were represented. There is an urgent need for this situation to be taken seriously and we

need to be prepared to help ourselves in such an event, particularly in the more vulnerable areas of the village which houses some older and less mobile residents. Larger communities and industries nearby would have priority so there is a definite need for Airth and Parish to formulate an emergency plan and identify people who could be called upon to put this plan into play. There was discussion about how people would communicate in such an emergency but it was concluded that this would be taken care of. SEPA has details of those people interested in being members of the Community Resilience Group. Cllr Coombes said it was vital that public awareness is encouraged and the issue should be kept in the public eye. It is important that a mock exercise should still be undertaken.

**11. Community Council Elections** : The process will be “going live” on 23rd October. Anyone interested must apply online. A meeting has been organised between Brian Pirie (Democratic Services Manager, FC), Aileen Amos, Robert Smith and hopefully Jon Anslow and will be held on Thursday 26th October within the Municipal Buildings at 6pm to discuss timetable and process. There was a discussion as to how to encourage interest in gaining new members but it was felt that there was no easy answer.

**12. Christmas Lights** : Robert Smith needs the tickets to be organised for the prize draw as soon as possible. A meeting would be held with Aileen, Robert, Jon, Katrina and Fiona as early as next week to work out a timetable. Some of the lights sustained minimal damage last year and Aileen agreed to contact Lightways for an assessment. Aileen suggested that in line with last year a school pupil could be chosen to switch on the lights. Name would be picked from a hat. This was felt to be appropriate. Councillors present were asked whether the Council would provide a Christmas tree and lights, as in previous years. They agreed to ask. 1st December is the likely date for the “switch on” and Aileen listed several other approaches that would have to be made, i.e. to the school re the choir; the sound system guy; and the print works, in order for the night to be a success.

**Any Other Competent Business :**

**Date of next meeting should be 15th November but Aileen would let people know if this will go ahead, given that it would clash with the election of new members to the Council.**

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