

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 15th November 2017

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

**Also Present :**                **Cllr. Laura Murtagh (for part);**  
   **Jane Rae (Minute Taker);**  
   **Police Constable Christopher Morrison (for part)**  
   **Police Sergeant Blair Rennie (for part)**

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

## **2. Police Report**

PC Christopher Morrison presented his report.

The period covered was from 18th October to 15th November 2017 and identified 3 reported crimes / offences in the Airth area. These included one road traffic matter, vandalism and sexual offences. There were 50 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, but also to noise complaints, concern for persons, abandoned vehicles and a fire at the Pineapple. Robert Smith mentioned that in connection to the fire at the Pineapple a gate had been lifted off the hinges (presumably for access by fire service). This has now been reinstated.

PC Morrison reported that during the month the Police have been made aware of speeding issues in South Alloa, which continue to be addressed.

PC Morrison reported that the vehicle mentioned by Aileen Amos at the previous meeting has not been sighted. Jon Anslow reported what he believed to be an abandoned vehicle in the lay-by at Dunmore. PC Morrison undertook to check this out.

PC Morrison continues to monitor the illegal parking at the school and adherence to the speed limit. Aileen asked whether action is having any impact on the situation, PC Morrison not sure as issues continue.

PC Morrison then introduced Sergeant Blair Rennie to the meeting. Sergeant Rennie has recently moved into post in charge of the Community Police Unit in Stenhousemuir. Sergeant Rennie shared with the meeting a brief background of living and growing up locally, his Police career to date and his obvious enthusiasm for working within this particular sector. He believes there is still room for the old fashioned approach of direct communication within the community but he is taking time to understand the importance nowadays that social media also plays. To this end a Twitter account has been set up by the Unit and is updated regularly. He has been heartened by the support from local councillors and organisations such as the community council and recognises the close working practice that PC Morrison has also built up over time. He assured the meeting that he and his unit are always at the end of a phone and encouraged active involvement and understanding by all present to ensure partnership working remains the key to success. He mentioned also the intention in the near future that the Unit can commence street surgeries within the area by way of a Police caravan parking up locally.

Robert Smith mentioned two issues which the Community Council had been pursuing and which he hoped the Police could offer support to. Firstly was the 30mph limit sign potentially being moved further out on the north side of the village. The developers of the escarpment plan are keen for this to happen and the Planning department supportive too. However it seems to have stalled with the Roads department. The second issue was regarding road safety in connection with stray deer, which, after the death of another deer this week, appears to require more signage to extend coverage of relevant roads. Sergeant Rennie assured the meeting that the Police, where relevant, would support any action that would make our roads safer.

Meeting thanked PC Morrison for his report and information provided and for Sergeant Rennie for coming along tonight and introducing himself. Both left the meeting.

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

The previous minute of 18/10/17 was accepted as correct and approved by Aileen Amos, seconded by Jon Anslow.

### **4. Matters Arising :**

- Remembrance Service & Laying of Wreath on 12/11/17 : Jon and Aileen laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council. Robert also attended and reported a good turnout. The local councillors also laid wreaths at Airth, Letham and South Alloa.
- Royal British Legion of Scotland Festival of Remembrance, Falkirk Town Hall, 11/11/17 : Jon and his wife attended this as representatives of the Community Council.

## **5. Correspondence :**

- Letter of invite from Airth Parish Church to attend Remembrance Service.
- email invite to meeting within Municipal Buildings on 26/10/17 regarding Community Council Elections. Robert and Aileen both attended. It was intimated that 3 elected councillors may not be representative of Airth Parish CC but to await outcome. Closing date for applications was 13/11/17.
- email from Jacqueline Drew, Airth Parish Church member who is interested in becoming a co-opted member of the CC. Jacqueline was seeking clarification on the difference between being a member or a co-opted member, which Aileen answered. Jacqueline is still keen to be considered but could not attend the meeting on 26/10 at Municipal Building due to work commitments.
- email from David East at Ineos with invite and agenda to next Community Liaison meeting on 6/11/17. Aileen attended.
- email from Andy Lippock (Resolis Associates / Connecting Scotland) who recently took part in the Open Forum held in Airth regarding fracking in the area. They are seeking help in putting together a short video / montage of people they have worked with to support them in a tendering bid. Unfortunately the turnaround time was only 1 week and due to this tight timescale and the little knowledge members have of the technology involved it was agreed that members would not be able to help.
- email from John Kerr / Jacqueline McArthur, Falkirk Council, informing us that a Christmas tree with lights will be erected in Airth as per previous years.
- email from David Anderson, RSPB, asking if a representative could attend a future CC meeting to discuss the Skinflats Managed Realignment project. Due to Xmas break and CC Elections it could well be February before this could be arranged. Everyone interested has already attended the meeting, Robert has spoken to planners and there seems no rush for this to be submitted. Robert to answer this email.
- email from Greig Shankland, Sight & Sound PA, regarding Xmas Lights Switch On. This date suits him and he agreed to provide the service for the usual £50.
- email regarding arrangements for Xmas Lights Switch On and the school let for our meetings. It was agreed that December's meeting should be cancelled due to CC Elections. Local councillors Gary Bouse, Cecil Meiklejohn and Pat Reid have confirmed their attendance on 1/12/17. Aileen has been to the school regarding the choir for the night - seems that there is quite a big choir and they have enough material to sing for 20-25 minutes.

- leaflets and posters regarding SPIRE Scotland which is an initiative to use information from GP patient records to create a database for Healthier Scotland (Scottish Government). Robert to pin up posters at bus stop, community hall, etc.
- email from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service regarding Consultation on Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Falkirk 2017. Reply due by 22/11/17.
- receipt for payment of £20, annual fee for Gambling Act Licence.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 31/10/17.
- email from John McNally, MP, confirming his attendance at Xmas Lights Switch On and he will also generously supply a bottle of House of Commons whisky for raffle.
- email from “Concerned Communities of Falkirk” asking for knowledge of any relevant developments in the area since the Dart application was made in 2012 . Aileen Amos to reply - nothing new ongoing, therefore no change.

**6. Community Council Election** : A timetable was provided by Falkirk Council. If ballot required this would take place by Monday 11th December.

## **7. Round the Parish :**

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

Letham : nothing to report.

Airth : There was discussion around the change of speed limit from 30 to 20mph through the village. Reviews and pilots regarding this are ongoing but Cllr Murtagh advised that currently the evidence available does not support this change.

There was a short discussion regarding a local history group and how this would benefit the area. This is something that Robert Smith would be keen to encourage.

Dunmore : nothing to report.

## **7. Treasurer's Report :**

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is £83.01 in the admin account and £1953.44 in the Christmas Lights account. Aileen added that Ginny Sutherland has kindly offered to pay for the poppy wreath - Robert will thank her by email and let her know the price.

## **8. Planning Issues :**

- (a) RSPB plan for Skinflats Reserve** : Meeting was held in relation to this on 26/10 in Kincardine and Aileen and Robert both attended
- (b) Escarpment**: the speed limit sign was discussed while the Police were present earlier in the meeting. Aileen Amos was unsure whether Community Council should make representations to Roads Dept as we could be seen to be supporting a planning application. Jon Anslow and Robert Smith however thought it appropriate that Robert communicate with Roads regarding this issue and Aileen, after consideration, agreed. Robert had previously communicated in June but apart from an acknowledgement had heard nothing more. He agreed to contact them again.
- (c) Golf Range** : the applicant must do a flood risk assessment before this application can proceed. Robert reiterated the list of conditions contained in the letter sent previously on behalf of the Community Council.
- (d) Old Mill** : the change of use from workshop to office has already been granted.

**9. Christmas Lights Switch On, 1/12/17** : A meeting will be held by members tomorrow (16/11) to discuss whether the purchase of any further lights can be agreed this year. Aileen ran through a checklist of everything so far organised, i.e. tree and lights; sound system; letters asking for donations; Xmas pies and mulled wine; and gift for Santa. Aileen to buy prizes for raffle and street to street sale of tickets still to take place. Aileen also informed meeting of annual cost of storing, maintaining and erecting the lights, which equates to £53 per light, totalling c£1800 per year. Public liability insurance discussed and Aileen will check this out.

**10. Whisky Tasting Night** : Everyone present was generously invited to a whisky tasting night being held in Jon's house on Saturday 25th November.

**11. AOCB** : Official date for disbandment of Community Council is 11th December.

Robert informed of a letter received from Digby Brown Solicitors regarding an incident at Airth Welfare Hall where an Airth resident fell and sustained an injury and is now looking to sue. Discussion about who owned this piece of ground and Robert undertook to gain more information regarding this.

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