

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Community Centre on Wednesday 16th May 2018

Members Present : **Jon Anslow (Convenor)**
 Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)
 James Toal (Vice Convenor)
 Stephen Sloper (Community Councillor)
 Murat Dilek (Community Councillor)

Also Present : **Jacqueline Hogg, Co-opted Member(Airth Parish Church)**
 Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr. Gary Bouse; George Russell;
 PC Christopher Morrison (for first part of meeting);
 Jane Rae (Minute Taker)

1. Apologies : Robert Smith, Councillors Joan Coombes and Jim Flynn.

2. Police Report

PC Christopher Morrison presented his latest report and apologised for not attending last meeting.

The period covered in his report was from 16th April to 16th May 2018 and identified 6 reported crimes / offences in the area. These included theft of a motorbike (Letham); vandalism to a car (Letham); 2 domestic incidents; breach of the peace (at Burgoynes); and a racial incident (Airth Castle). There were 42 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, and also to a collision involving a deer at Murray Caravans and a separate one at Pow Burn Bridge, loud music, neighbour disputes and youths smoking cannabis on Cemetery Brae.

During February and March 2018 there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to police involving youths at Cemetery Brae. This is on the Community Policing patrol plan and continues to receive attention on evenings and weekends.

Any intelligence relating to drug misuse in the area should be reported to Police.

Robert Smith had provided information relating to two deer shot in the area but who appeared to have had previous gunshot injuries. PC Morrison to investigate.

The members present spoke about the incidents of fly tipping in the area, in particular the mess which had been left in the Higginsneuk Road and discovered by Robert and his wife. James Toal also mentioned an incident in Dunmore. Apparently identifying paperwork had been found within the pile left at Higginsneuk, which was passed to PC Morrison to help investigate the incident. Cllr Bouse added that the fee charged for contractors to dump rubbish at Roughmote had been reduced from £75 to £40 in an attempt to discourage fly tipping. Several suggestions have also been made at Council Committee level to make it more difficult for contractors to undertake house and garden domestic clearances to be paid by their customers without first legally dumping the rubbish.

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

3. Previous Minutes :

The previous minute of 18/4/18 was accepted as correct and approved by Aileen Amos, seconded by Jon Anslow.

4. Matters Arising

- **Graham Terrace, Airth** : still not been cleared up. The landowner lives in Kilsyth and keeps promising to undertake the clearing up but so far nothing has been done. Cllr Murtagh sought permission to contact the landowner directly and he has again promised this will be done by the end of the month. Environmental Health has also visited the site. Cllr Murtagh is dealing with the situation.

5. Correspondence :

- email from Falkirk Council - providing details of forthcoming 100 Years RAF celebration taking place in Grangemouth on Saturday 26th May. Jon Anslow and his wife Margaret will attend.
- email from James Toal containing information on "Joined Up Dunmore".
- email from Alex Fraser of Polmaise Community Council asking for information on purchasing and maintaining Xmas lights. Aileen provided the relevant information.
- email regarding route for equine (Endurance) event which was held on 13th May.
- email from Maria Montinaro re Planning Bill. 15 Community Councils now involved.
- email from David East, INEOS Community Liaison Group - change of date of next meeting.

- email from Calor regarding their Rural Community Fund. They have launched a national grant scheme for local community projects.
- email trail from James Toal to Cllr Murtagh regarding the state of the sluice gate in Dunmore.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 31/4/18. Currently conducting proactive patrols in the Higginsneuk area for fly tipping. They had also investigated a complaint about horse riding on the football pitch at Letham. Cllr Murtagh feels that the Community Safety Team should be encouraged to patrol the areas later in the day.
- Update report on status of various matters relating to Airth.
- Zurich Insurance - notice of renewal for Airth Parish Community Council. Falkirk Council will now pay for this insurance.
- email trail from Robert Smith to various people regarding fly tipping in the area.
- email from Cllr Coombes regarding various options on bins and costs of collections. There followed a discussion regarding options and the difference in priorities over several Scottish Council areas and question was raised as to why every Council area doesn't adhere to the one policy (possibly as recommended by Zero Waste Scotland).
- email from Maria Montinaro with more information about an appeal that Shieldhill & California Community Council have against Falkirk Council.
- email from Maria Montinaro - info on Tribunal on Fracking Etc. from 14 - 18 May.
- email from Sonia Juillet, UK Marketing Strategist for Babysits - requesting support from Community Council for their organisation. It was agreed by members that the Council could not endorse any private company.

6. Round the Parish :

South Alloa : Jon still working on provision of notice board.

Letham : Update on the flooding situation and the ongoing meetings being held. As mentioned at the last meeting, Cllr Murtagh informed that a Project Manager had been appointed. The adjoining areas of Bothkennar and Skinflats are also being taken into consideration, although they come under the auspices of Grangemouth. There is apparently a breach in the Carron which could impact further down river.

Airth : Robert submitted a report regarding the popularity of the Open Day for the Archaeological Dig at Higginsneuk and added that he had been able to sell some books on the local history. Further down the line when information and findings are collated it is hoped to have a public exhibition, probably within the Community Centre.

Murat Dilek drew attention again to the state of the roads and mentioned that as no work has yet been done to repair the potholes they continue to worsen, particularly drawing attention to a really deep hole at the bus stop. It would appear that the roads are so bad because the previous work done was not finished off properly. Cllr Murtagh agreed when asked by Jon Anslow to attempt to get an estimate of when work will be done.

George Russell updated from a previous meeting regarding the drainage ditch on the access road to the Pineapple. A fencing contractor has been appointed but attempts to contact the Landmark Trust and the National Trust regarding timescales for work on the road have so far been unsuccessful. George has also had correspondence from SGN who want to install a “station” for gas mains pipe on this same road. It therefore makes sense to hold back on erecting the fence until all other works are carried out. George will keep the meeting updated on progress.

The issue regarding fly tipping in the vicinity of the village was briefly mentioned again at this point.

Dunmore : With regard to the bridge in Dunmore, James Toal was allowed to accompany the drainage consultant engineer on his inspection. It is in actual fact a culvert and not a bridge which has had a wall built up on either to hold the earth. The roots of the tree which grows nearby appears to be holding everything together at the moment. It is the engineer’s opinion that there would be no catastrophic collapse but the sides will eventually be pushed down and ultimately disintegrate. It was suggested that Greg Pender of Falkirk Council should be asked to send someone out to have a look, with no cost involved to villagers.

The painting of the well at Dunmore was discussed and the question asked as to who is responsible for this. Aileen Amos said that as the well was “listed” it would be the responsibility of Falkirk Council to maintain it.

7. Treasurer’s Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is £82.80 in the admin account. £2856.24 is in the Christmas Lights account, and still awaiting a further bill.

Information that Falkirk Council will no longer pay for books to be audited. Aileen and Jo Tibbles (previously Treasurer who helps to prepare the books for the auditors) will now audit the accounts jointly. Aileen has made application for funding for new laptop.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) Robert’s letters detailing the CC’s comments and objections in relation to both the Brackenlees Farm development and changes to Elphinstone Inn : Aileen

asked that members read both letters and let Robert have any relevant comments so that they can be sent out. Stephen Sloper pointed out that one of the objections in relation to the Elphinstone Inn was the issue about car parking. He felt that if the Inn was continuing to be a pub then it would no doubt attract a number of cars too, probably more than it would if it became dwellinghouses. He was therefore unsure whether the parking query was a pertinent objection. Cllr Murtagh said that Falkirk Council's planning department had a set criteria for parking and each application is assessed on its particular merits. Jon Anslow felt that it was more important to recognise the loss of a business to the area. Cllr Bouse added that if, as a pub, it is not felt to be viable then unless it is developed into housing it would most likely be allowed to become a ruin.

(b) Planning Application for a new house at Greendyke Farm (between Pine'n'Oak and Powfoulis) :

This has not been used as a farm cottage for over 50 years. Until last year there were a lot of old stone ruined buildings on the site and they, along with all the trees on the site, were removed by the new owner. The original house has been renovated and there are currently two temporary houses on the site. Cllr Murtagh added that the new owner had made a fantastic improvement to the old cottage. Nearby, another farm owner had applied for permission to erect a new house on an unused piece of his field a couple of years ago but was not granted permission. Apart from consideration being given to access roads, Jon Anslow could see no reason for the community council to object. It was agreed to seek any further information that Robert might have and if nothing forthcoming then no objections.

(c) Application for Wooden Sash & Case Windows and Kitchen Extension at

Helenslea, Dunmore : Both Aileen Amos and James Toal said that the owner is passionate about renovating the house, which still needs an enormous amount of work done. It was agreed that the community council had no objections to put forward.

9. Meeting of Executive with Brian Pirie, Falkirk Council : Jon Anslow and Aileen Amos had both attended. Aileen handed out a written note of main points of meeting.

- In future Falkirk Council will pay the insurance for each community council
- £500 grant will be available, on application, for new laptop
- change of age limit from 18 to 16 years to become a councillor
- a scheme to be devised by FC to deal with any community council needing to remove a community councillor for any reason
- local libraries will photocopy for free anything needed by community councils

- training to be provided - including computer training; the role of a community councillor; the essentials of the planning process from beginning to end
- all community councils to be registered with the Data Control Register, the fee of £35 will be paid by Falkirk Council
- it seemed that not all community councils enjoyed the same excellent relationship that Airth & Parish did with their Community Police Officers
- likewise as above but in relation to local Councillors and that at some community council meetings the local Councillors tended to give a political view on issues
- any community council can ask any Council Officer to attend a meeting to give information required, Brian Pirie will be able to provide the names required

Jon Anslow added that most of the questions that arose were in connection with how to chair a meeting. Brian Pirie undertook to issue an information sheet regarding this.

10. Community Resilience : Robert had been handed a £40 voucher in recognition of the organisation and great efforts expended in clearing the snow around Airthrey Care at the height of the bad weather recently. He wishes to put it towards relaunching the Community Resilience Group. Cllr Gary Bouse applauded the efforts by villagers to get everything going again during the snow. A de-briefing exercise has been carried out by FC and all information and stats will be collated and published further down the line, Cllr Murtagh thinks maybe in the autumn. The consensus is that this was not just about the roads but the more important aspect is of the community emergency and how to look after its vulnerable people. There was discussion around the issuing of the red alert, which can only be given by the Government, and what a red alert really means. Cllr Bouse added that Falkirk Council's Roads Department is undertaking their own annual review in the light of the red alert and will ultimately identify a set of priorities for any future incident.

11. AOCB : None.

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