

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 24th October 2018

Members Present : **Jon Anslow (Convenor)**
 Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)
 Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)
 Stephen Sloper (Community Councillor)
 Murat Dilek (Community Councillor)

Also Present : **Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**
 Cllr. Joan Coombes
 Ronnie Martin and Kathleen Martin (from Bothkennar area)
 Adele Deeley & Barry Sheridan (Falkirk Council)
 Jane Rae (Minute Taker)

1. Apologies : **James Toal (Vice Convenor); Councillor Laura Murtagh; PC Chris Morrison.**

2. Police Report :

PC Christopher Morrison was expected but later sent his apologies. He sent his report via email, which Aileen Amos presented.

The period covered was from 19th September to 24th October 2018 and identified 5 reported crimes / offences in the area (2 ongoing, 1 detected and 2 undetected). These included reports of a theft of diesel from a farm, theft of space heaters from the Parsonage, and assault and driving with no insurance. There had been 49 calls to Police from Airth in this period. The majority of these related to road traffic matters and also to theft, horses on the road, concern by persons, and reports about shooting on the foreshore.

PC Morrison is aware of numerous reports of poaching in the area surrounding Airth and dedicated patrols are in place to catch those responsible. This time of year is especially busy for wildlife crimes and residents are urged to contact PC Morrison about any suspicious activity which may be linked to poaching, hare coursing or other wildlife crime.

Robert recounted a story of sighting a possible poacher while out early one morning. He reported this to Police Scotland and has been urged to report anything suspicious in relation to poaching etc. as frequently these crimes can also be covers for or run alongside other crimes relating to burglary, theft etc.

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

3. Previous Minutes :

The previous minute of 19/9/18 was accepted as correct and approved by Aileen Amos, seconded by Jon Anslow. Jon mentioned the data protection regulations now being enforced which has a bearing on the reporting of our minutes too. Basically anyone present not wishing their names to be recorded must make this known at start of meeting.

4. Matters Arising

- **Sea Defence Wall Meeting** : This did not go ahead as too many people couldn't make it (school holiday week). Robert Smith has spoken to Donald Campbell of FC planning department and hopefully another meeting can be arranged soon. Robert noted that he would not be available next week.
- **Flooding at Letham** : Stephen Sloper stated that some work had been started and everything seems to be holding at present, although we have not had the high levels in the Pow Burn yet. James Toal is keeping an eye on things at Dunmore. Jon Anslow stated that it seemed high at South Alloa. Councillor Murtagh had undertaken to keep up-to-date on situation but so far there doesn't appear to be any update from Scottish Water. Councillor Joan Coombes confirmed this, saying she had spoken to Sharon Agnew of Falkirk Council. Discussion followed regarding the various views of who was responsible for what and Stephen Sloper described his view of the situation. Councillor Coombes undertook to ask Sharon Agnew to update Robert Smith directly. Robert went on to describe the layout of this area and what he feels needs clearing out etc. Jon Anslow ended the discussion on this issue and agreed we should wait and see what transpires from Sharon Agnew's email.
- **Boundary Wall at Community Centre** : Robert said the wall needed pointing and stones replaced, wondering who was responsible for doing this. Councillor Coombes fairly sure that a department within Falkirk Council would be responsible and would try to find out which one. Robert worried that this can only worsen and needs to be fixed with some urgency. Murat Dilek said that kids sit and walk on it and this may be dangerous. Councillor Coombes to take this forward.

- **Road Markings** : Robert mentioned the fact that before the new road surface was laid we were not given too much notice, in fact the workers tarred around a car that could not be moved on the Main Street because the owner was on holiday. Robert urged Councillor Coombes to impress on Falkirk Council the need for as much notice as possible. Councillor Coombes to take this forward.
- **Airth Cemetery - no spaces left** : Robert Smith had taken this up with Richard Broadley of Falkirk Council but as yet is awaiting a reply. Aileen Amos to email Councillor Coombes on the community council's understanding and previous dealings of this issue and she will take it forward.

5. Correspondence :

- email acknowledging receipt of letter from Robert regarding tidal flood protection for Airth Parish.
- copy of email from Councillor Coombes to Donald Campbell requesting meeting re tidal flood protection for Airth Parish.
- link to feedback on SFF Community Networking Event Presentations from Paul Laidlaw, Community Resilience Manager of Scottish Flood Forum
- copy of Robert's responses to Stephen's questions at previous CC meeting
- information from Stephen Sloper about coastal flood bunds
- further email from Robert regarding his understanding of the cost of previous works to the bunds - Stephen disputing this as hearsay and any waste material used needed planning permission
- copy of letter to Councillor Murtagh from Greg Pender of Falkirk Council relating to parking in Shore Road
- copy of poster regarding Airth Christmas Lights Switch On (Friday 7/12/18 at 6pm). Robert informed the meeting that he had invited various people and the Provost, Leader of the Council and local MSP have already accepted.
- Scottish Water Newsletter
- Notice of Temporary Prohibition of Waiting on Shore Road from 8am on 17/10/18 until 6pm on 27/10/18 to allow Scottish Power works
- request for salt bin at South Green Drive. Councillor Coombes updated on amendment to winter maintenance policy, there will be more salt bins but couldn't be specific on where these will be placed. It very much depends on the topography of the area. Councillor Coombes will let CC know once a decision has been made.

- email from Robert to Councillor Murtagh regarding the removal of articles which had been fly tipped
- invite to visit Scottish Rural Parliament in Stranraer between 14-16 November
- invitation to “Healthcare Catering Strategy Patient Forum Event” being held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Centre, Clydebank, on 7th November 2018, to hear patients’ views and experiences of hospital food
- data protection advice from Brian Pirie
- invite to George Russell / David Jones to CC meeting to discuss Pre-Application Consultation of Development at Airth Mains. Neither available for this meeting as on holiday but happy to come to November or December meetings. Jon Anslow added that he had received a letter from George Russell and will distribute to members. Consultation is on 1st November and comments to be received by 7th November. Stephen Sloper urging CC to submit comments and he undertook to put together a draft and distribute. Jon Anslow reiterated that CC not saying no but we should include the comments made at last meeting. Robert Smith spoke about original proposal and read out info from the CC minute of meeting at that time.
- Local Diversity Plan - comments to be made before 27/11/18
- request from Adele Deeley, FC Community Planning Worker for Falkirk East, to come along to tonight’s meeting to talk about her role and expectations of work currently being carried out
- invite to complete a budget survey distributed by Falkirk Council. Councillor Coombes stated the importance of doing this as hard financial choices are having to be made. There was common agreement that this may not be reaching enough people and a more concerted effort should be made to get it out to the public.
- copy of thank you letter from Airth & District Senior Citizens on receiving donations amounting to £35 from garden competition winners

6. Treasurer’s Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is now £1025.45 in the admin account. A poppy wreath to be bought at a cost of £41 and we need to renew the license in connection with selling raffle tickets, at a cost of £20. There is £2808.24 in the Xmas Lights account.

7. Introducing Adele Deeley and Barry Sheridan from Falkirk Council - Locality Planning Initiative : Adele and Barry introduced themselves. Adele asked Barry to give

the meeting an overview on his particular area of work. He provided information on the work he is involved in, which will eventually result in a Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Falkirk Council are working alongside community planning partners (Police, Fire, Health, Education, Colleges, and voluntary sector) and the aim is to look at inequalities in comparable areas within Falkirk district and to deliver successful outcomes. Once the results have been analysed and recommendations made/adopted, the Action Plan will be taken back to communities and people's involvement encouraged. A considerable amount of work is to be undertaken to develop a locality plan. One of the areas that work is concentrating on is within Grangemouth which has pockets of deprivation - in fact sections within the town are amongst the lowest 25% of deprived areas in Scotland. Aspects being considered range from civic pride, employment and employability, access to GP surgeries, etc. Barry said he had only been in post for a couple of months and prior to him starting an online feedback asking Falkirk District residents for views on their area and services had not been particularly successful, hence the need for Barry and Adele to take the initiative to existing community groups and encourage involvement and feedback. Feedback forms were handed out and people urged to complete them. Questions asked centred around 6 main topics:- public transport, recreational facilities, employment & training, housing, feeling safe, and getting your voice heard. Issues coming up time and again were poor public transport impacting on people's employment opportunities; roads and infrastructure not keeping pace with house building, etc.

There followed discussion around the questionnaire and how the improvement of some areas would have positive knock-on effects on others. Adele and several attendees swapped email addresses and it was agreed that everyone would do what they could to make more people aware of this initiative and the importance of feeding back views.

Adele and Barry were thanked for their contributions tonight and subsequently left the meeting.

8. Planning Issues :

- (a) Application for windows at rear of house at 10 Shore Road** : this has been refused.
- (b) Update on plan for Escarpment** : report is due to go in next 1 - 2 weeks, although Roads Department seem to keep coming up with further comments, i.e. roundabouts etc. but it would appear that it's almost there.
- (c) Update on plan for Brackenlees Farm** : Robert had already submitted comments on behalf of the community council on the perceived over-development of this site. It would appear that planners are asking for a more comprehensive sewage system.

9. Update on Situation at Bothkennar : Bothkennar resident, Ronnie Martin, said that according to two neighbouring residents the work under the Marine (Scotland) licence recently granted to RSPB had not been carried out according to request. Pipes that were to be removed appear not to have been. An RSPB employee they had spoken to had said that removing the pipes may make the embankment unstable. Because his neighbours could not be present tonight it was agreed that discussion of this issue should be carried forward to the next meeting.

Ronnie had previously spoken to Councillor Coombes about the sea defence breach on River Carron. He was informed that flood risk management officers were working to the 2009 Act and Councillor Coombes suggested that they were working within limited resources. Previously Falkirk Council had said that Scottish National Heritage had informed them of rare plant life being found in the area, however SNH are refuting this. Ronnie, along with other local residents were hopefully meeting with Sharon Agnew of Falkirk Council this coming Friday. Ronnie undertook to update on the situation after Friday if the meeting goes ahead.

10. Around The Parish :

Airth : Robert previously mentioned the Headless Cross to Adele Deeley as an initiative that the locality plan could include in their action plan. It is apparently much in need of renovation and the addition of a script describing what it is and why it's there would be advantageous. Robert suggested that he would contact local historians to gain information.

Robert mentioned bad flooding at Abbeytown Bridge. He also suggested that in case of flooding at the Letham Terrace entrance, in an emergency situation, it may be possible to access the 5 homes served by the private road by the use of a 4 x 4 vehicle coming down the old drive from Airth Castle. However Stephen Sloper said there is no through access, overgrowth and a lot of work would need to be done in order for this to be viable.

Letham : Stephen Sloper asked the meeting if anyone had any information on the new shed and industrial tower sited at Linkfield Farm. Stephen could not find any mentioned on the FC planning website and says this replacement tower is so much bigger than what was there before. Concerns regarding the reason for rebuilding a tower that is so much bigger. Robert stated that it was a replacement for a grain dryer which was destroyed in a fire last year. Aileen will make enquiries about this.

Dunmore : Aileen mentioned that residents had been asking for a "dog bin" to be sited at layby where bus stops. Many people walk dogs locally and "poo bags" are abandoned in the area.

Aileen showed a photograph and expressed concern that vandals had spray painted a tree within Dunmore.

Aileen also added, with regard to the recent repainting of Dunmore Well, only the wooden bit was painted, as apparently the pump wasn't included in the contract. A painting firm from Alloa had been sub-contracted to do the work. Dunmore residents have been told that if money becomes available the work may get done next year.

South Alloa : Murat Dilek said that there were still a few potholes around the drains on the road between South Alloa and Murrays Caravan Park which were dangerous for cyclists.

11. Christmas Lights : It has been agreed to buy another 3 lights at a cost of £630 which will take them just short of Airth Castle Gates. Aileen spoke about Switching On ceremony and it will be a child from Airth School who will do this. Unfortunately she has found out that the school does not have a choir this year and asked those present for any suggestions. It has also been agreed not to have fireworks this year. Raffle tickets have now been printed and arrangements will soon need to be made to start selling these. It was agreed that another meeting will be needed to finalise the organisation of the event.

12. AOCB :

- Aileen to email people regarding a meeting on Local Development Plan
- Jon Anslow mentioned that the opening of the new roundabout from Kinnaird onto the Moss Road had resulted in much more traffic coming out at Murrays Caravans. It was agreed that this stretch of road has become very busy and seems to encourage fast driving - concerns re possible increase in accidents.
- Robert informed everyone that Elphinstone Inn hoping to re-open by sometime in November and hoped that everyone would use it in order to keep it viable.

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