

# Airth Parish Community Council

---

Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday 20th February 2019

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

**Also Present :** Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)  
Cllr. Joan Coombes; Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Ronnie Martin;  
Rev. Jim Todd; Jane Rae (Minute Taker)

Convenor informed everyone that in relation to the Data Protection rules anyone who does not wish their name to appear in the minutes please let the minute secretary know.

**1. Apologies :** James Toal; Murat Dilek; PC Dunlop.

**2. Police Report :** In the absence of Community Police Constable Pete Dunlop, Aileen Amos shared his report with those present.

PC Dunlop's report covered the period from 15th January to 19th February 2019. The report identified 5 reported crimes / offences in the area (2 detected and the rest have positive lines of enquiries). These included theft of a motor vehicle, 2 domestic incidents and a drugs offence. Numerous road traffic offences were also committed.

There had been 43 calls to Police from Airth, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, suspect persons and concern calls. There have been no reports of wildlife crime this month. There was 1 call for minor anti-social behaviour. PC Dunlop has been made aware of issues with youth anti-social behaviour to the rear of Airth Primary and that these are still continuing. This will continue to be targeted by PC Dunlop on his back shift as this is when the behaviour is occurring.

**3. Previous Minutes :**

Approval of minutes dated 19/12/18 and 16/1/19 were both moved as correct by Jon Anslow and seconded by Jacqueline Drew.

**4. Matters Arising**

- **Meeting re Flooding held in Perth :** Robert Smith and Ronnie Martin both attended. A group called FloodRe were main speakers. This is a private enterprise, not funded

by the government but by levies made on insurance companies. Their aim is to ensure that those at risk can get affordable insurance (max excess of £50). There were also a number of presentations by groups who had set up as a result of their areas being flooded. They discussed the organisation and operation of their resilience groups, touching on the implications of the Data Protection Act. On hearing Robert and Ronnie's experience in our area, Paul Laidlaw of Scottish Flood Forum will undertake a visit to Bothkennar and Airth.

- **Sewage at Letham** : No response as yet to Robert's letter on behalf of CC. Cllr Coombes undertook to make enquiries.
- **Letter from CC to Scottish Government re local budget** : Robert has received an acknowledgement.
- **Handrail at Cenotaph in Airth** : Cllr Coombes is still pursuing an outcome for this.
- **Visit to Larbert Rotary** : Robert and Aileen attended and received a cheque on behalf of the Rotary Xmas collections. £250 will be added to Xmas Lights a/c. Aileen gave information on the existence of emergency boxes which contained everything a household may require to survive when caught in a disaster situation. A representative of Grangemouth Rotary had a sample box which Aileen said was very interesting.
- **Support for Submission by Sir Crispen Agnew to Scottish Government** : Aileen received everyone's agreement and conveyed this to Maria and Vivien, both of whom have sent acknowledgements. No further feedback as yet.

## **5. Correspondence :**

- Notice regarding extension for submission to the Scottish Government's Public Consultation on unconventional oil and gas, which was extended to 28/1/19.
- Copy of final invoice from Lightways for £915.62, which Aileen has paid.
- email from Planning Democracy with update on Planning Bill.
- email from Brian Pirie regarding New Statement of Licensing Policy
- Community Safety Team report of 1 - 31/12/18 : continuing to monitor re dog fouling, especially at the Wilderness, Airth. Also monitoring for instances of fly tipping.
- email regarding government grant for notice boards. Appears to relate to England.
- New email address for Denny Community Council
- Acknowledgement from Dunmore Village Assoc. re notice of temporary road order.
- Copy of email Aileen sent to Maria Montinaro regarding Airth Parish CC being signatories to the joint legal representation.

- emails of thanks from both Maria and Vivien on receiving the above.
- email from Scottish Flood Forum re SEPA workshop. Robert has answered this.
- Reminder of Scottish Fire & Rescue event on Monday 22nd April at 11am being held at their National Training Centre, Cambuslang. Contact Paul Laidlaw for a place.
- email from Robert with confirmation of our meeting dates until June.
- Notice of Airth Premier Village Store's application for off sales license. Objections to Licensing Board by Thursday 21st February.
- Notice of cycling event being held on 22nd February, 5- 7pm, at Falkirk Trinity Church.
- Copy of Robert's letter of behalf of CC to MSP Derek Mackay, Scottish Government, regarding budget proposals for local authorities.
- Notice of Planning Democracy meeting being held in Edinburgh on Monday 25th February, 7-9pm.
- email with link to online survey regarding Community Resilience. Robert to complete on behalf of CC.
- email with link to online consultation being carried out by Scottish Government regarding Fireworks.
- copy of acknowledgement received by CC regarding Robert's letter on local government funding.
- copy of Robert's letter on behalf of CC to Falkirk Council's Environmental Health Dept. regarding flooding and sewage spillage at Letham Terrace.
- email from Robert regarding update on culverts in the area after the recent heavy rain. Jon also mentions the power going out in South Alloa.
- email from Dennis Power, intimating the cessation of Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council as from 11/2/19. After several resignations over the Xmas period there were insufficient number of members to make the Council quorate.
- Notice of NHS Forth Valley Annual Review Ministerial Public Session being held on 13/3/19 from 11.30am to 1pm. Reply by 1/3/19.
- email from Falkirk Council regarding Review of Polling Stations. No change to Airth. Comments by Friday 15/3/19.
- email notice from Brian Pirie, FC, inviting up to 3 members from CC to attend Local Review into Community Councils, to be held on Wednesday 27th February at 6pm. Aileen and Stephen agreed to attend and suggested perhaps Murat would also be interested.

- Info regarding two volunteer groups in the area - “Driving Force” (covering Bonnybridge & Denny Health Centres) and Meadowbank’s “Car-4-U” - which offer free volunteer transport for cancer patients. Both operate on a charity basis and patients are referred by the practices. Recognising the need for this type of group in other areas, they offer to attend CC meetings to explain how they operate and give help to prospective groups. It was agreed that they should be invited to a future meeting.
- Information regarding Dig In, Falkirk Council’s Draft Food Growing Strategy. From 11th February public can have a say on community growing in the FC area.
- Info via email from Charlie Hastie regarding questions and paperwork which CC will need to adopt in relation to Data Protection Act. There is a requirement that as a group we need to attend a training session at Park Street, Falkirk. Duration of training should be 1.5 - 2 hours. After discussion it was agreed that Thursday 7th March from 6.30pm would suit most people. Aileen to contact Charlie Hastie and organise.
- email from Robert to SEPA regarding the wish of CC and Community Resilience Group becoming involved in proposed workshops relating to flood warning service.
- email from Robert warning of expected high tides.
- Community Safety Team report of 1/1 - 31/1/19. Monitoring football car park at Letham for anti-social behaviour. Continue to monitor for fly tipping and a number of areas in relation to dog fouling.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report :**

Aileen reported that there is £714.54 in the Admin a/c and a balance of £2,824.05 in the Xmas Lights a/c after paying the final bill of £915.62.

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

**Airth** : Robert reported that a stretch of the Moss Road has been closed for preliminary works in relation to water pipes. This is not progressing very quickly as the area comes under the jurisdiction of both Falkirk and Stirling Councils and there appears to be a hold up in gaining permission from the various landowners in the area. Cllr Murtagh had suggested that instead of mixed information coming from both Councils it should be down to Falkirk Council, after liaising with Stirling, to give official updates.

One of the bins within the cemetery needs to be moved to where the cars park. Cllr Coombes to pursue. Also slabs at seating area still required.

Robert said that he had had several complaints from residents in Linn Place complaining about the young children playing football on the common ground there. Apparently the “No Ball Games” sign has been knocked down. The kids are not able to play football

within the small swing park either, due to there being a sign there too. In Robert's opinion, mainly youngsters who live nearby whom their parents wish to keep within sight.

Robert had also had comments from residents in High Street complaining of some householders keeping their bins at front of houses, also having a lot of rubbish in their front gardens. This had been brought up before but once the councillors pass this onto neighbourhood office it becomes a private matter between that office and the residents. There may be an opportunity to raise awareness of situation with residents again.

Unsure of what is happening with Elphinstone Inn, doesn't look like the plans for pub and restaurant will come to fruition.

**Letham** : Stephen raised the question regarding Linksfield Farm, which he had asked at a previous meeting. Aileen had so far received no response and will contact the planners again.

**Dunmore**: No issues.

**South Alloa** : Jon spoke again about the frequency of power cuts in the area. He also mentioned that during the recent ice and frosts, Stirling Council had gritted the road up to S Alloa but Falkirk Council had failed to grit from S Alloa to Falkirk. He also said that the South Alloa signpost had been run over and knocked down and requires replacing.

Stephen reminded the meeting that Murat mentioned the road condition between Murray Caravans and South Alloa, which at the time was reported as having been done. This was apparently not the case as at least 2 of the drains are completely sunken. Cllr Murtagh of the opinion that this would be major works and the whole stretch of road will likely have to be re-surfaced. Cllr Coombes updated on a new policy for prioritising road works. Risk will be assessed, work will be done but priority will be weighted differently.

Stephen also mentioned how busy the corner from Moss Road at the Caravan Park has become. This has been compounded by added traffic from The Inches as well as the roadworks at Plean. Cars are driven at great speed down this road.

There followed a discussion regarding the traffic speeds through Airth and historically what the CC had discussed in relation to this. There had been discussion previously on a 20mph limit through the whole of Airth and then a suggestion had been made that a shop to shop limit of 20mph to include the area of the school may have been achievable. No changes to date have been made and the speed limit remains at 30mph.

**Bothkennar** : As Ronnie Martin was present he an update on his area, in particular with regard to the breach and realignment of the foreshore. Differing views on how long the bank would be effective against flooding.

Ronnie also asked if any progress had been made on the planning application for Brackenlees Farm. Robert said that the last time he enquired there had been problems with drainage and the access road and the application has not gone forward as yet.

## **8. Planning Issues :**

**(a) Crawford Square - replacement railings, street lighting and seating** : plans were handed round with outline of proposed landscape layout. There appears to be an enclosed seated area, accessed by gates on either side. It was agreed that Robert would ask Falkirk Council if there would be anti-pet measures taken to keep pets off the grassed area.

**(b) Installation of Velux-type roof window at 4 Moss Cottage, Dunmore** : this work has already been done and the owner is applying for retrospective permission. The owner has removed a small skylight and replaced it with a large window. As this is a listed building the Community Council agreed to write to Falkirk Council and comment on the inappropriateness of this.

**(c) Extension to dwelling house at Bruce Gate, Airth** : this has been granted.

**9. Foreshore Litter Pick** : Robert is keen to organise this again this year. Suitable date tide-wise is Saturday 6/4/19. He is also keen to organise a clean up within the village, particularly at Cemetery Brae. It was agreed that Robert would take it forward.

## **10. AOCB :**

- Robert had taken photos of trees in Dunmore Estate having been sprayed with graffiti. Others present had seen these trees too.
- Robert wished to organise a fundraising Whisky Tasting, proceeds to go to Xmas Light Fund. Robert to very kindly donate the whisky. Plan is to sell possibly 25 tickets @ £10 each. However we need to identify a suitable venue.
- Robert mentioned that the official goose shooting season has now finished but a high number of geese remained in the area. Robert has been given temporary permission to shoot on various farms in the area to reduce the numbers.

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