

Airth Parish Community Council

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

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

Also Present : **Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**
 Cllr. Joan Coombes; Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr Gary Bouse;
 PC Pete Dunlop; 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 : Ronnie Martin.

2. Police Report : Community PC Pete Dunlop, presented his report covering the period 19th February to 18th March 2019.

The report identified several crimes / offences in the area, including 2 thefts from the Parsonage, domestic incidents, road traffic offences, Police assaults, sexual offences, drugs possessions and an extortion (5 detected / the rest have positive lines of enquiries).

There had been 52 calls to Police from Airth, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, suspect persons, domestics and concern calls. There have been no reports of wildlife crime this month. There were no calls for 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.

There were 2 separate detections of drugs offences in this period.

PC Dunlop is awaiting training on a new speed gun, which will be sophisticated enough to provide current insurance information etc. He is also continuing to be alert to youths smoking cannabis at the Pineapple as well as the continuing incidents of spray-painting / tagging of trees within the Estate. Robert added that with the lighter nights and the Easter holidays coming up the incidents will likely increase.

3. Previous Minutes :

Approval of minutes dated 20/2/19 were moved as correct by Aileen Amos and seconded by Jon Anslow.

4. Matters Arising

- **Flooding at Letham** : Robert had received a reply to his letter about this issue which informed him that a meeting of all groups involved would be held. Cllr Gary Bouse had attended this meeting and updated all present on the outcome. Scottish Water, SEPA and FC's Environmental Health Dept. were represented. The timescale to carry out the work was as follows:- desk planning and papers to be pulled together by December 2019, with a second phase taking up until June 2020; contractors to be appointed and plans in place by 2020/21, with a completion date of c.August 2021. Those present were taken aback by the proposed timescale as it was understood that when the works were discussed and proposed last year it was hoped that all work would have been completed by the end of the tax year 2018/19. The consensus at the meeting was that if sewage seeped into the floodwater then this would become a potentially dangerous health hazard. Cllr Bouse has previous experience with flooding and dealing with flooded properties and in his opinion this would be a certainty rather than a maybe. SEPA said no when they were asked whether there was anything they might be able to do to hurry Scottish Water proposals on. FC's Environmental Health said unfortunately there would need to be another flood before they could do anything differently. The Council however are looking at how they could enforce Scottish Water to shorten the timescale. Scottish Water have allocated monies for the works but it is quite far down their financial programme now. After discussing the timescale and implications and coming to a conclusion that this situation has been active for at least 10+ years, as opposed to the 5+ that Cllr Bouse had been quoted, it was agreed that all involved would need to review the proposals. Cllr Bouse pointed out that after a relatively dry winter the area has been less affected than it otherwise might have been. Environmental Health are taking this into consideration and will put together a report, which all 4 local councillors will receive. There is no doubt that everyone concerned needs to look at a way to speed things up. Stephen Sloper expressed surprise that SEPA could not take more action, it may be that an Enforcement Order would be needed to push it on. Environmental Health may be able to do this. Cllr Coombes pointed out that as Scottish Water were state-owned could they not be influenced by, for instance, the Environment Secretary? Cllr Bouse agreed with the sentiment but felt we should wait for the report and see what the recommendations are. There followed a discussion on the length of time that has already elapsed, particularly as a Project Manager is already in post, Murat Dilek asked what has been

done in this time? Cllr Murtagh pointed out that we should remember that the work that had been done has been very effective and was to be welcomed. Jon Anslow reiterated what Cllr Bouse said that we should await the report. Robert Smith added that he felt that Stephen Sloper's suggestion to take it down the route of environmental health had quickened the response.

- **Letter from CC to Scottish Government re local budget** : Robert had received a reply which seemed to be ambiguous / open to interpretation. A discussion followed on the differing personal perspectives of what constituted budget cuts as against balancing the books.
- **Handrail at Cenotaph in Airth** : Cllr Coombes was successful in getting these organised. They have already been installed and are a very positive addition.
- **Data Protection training** :- following on from this session a sub-group meeting has been organised for tomorrow night (21st), 6.30pm at Robert's home.
- **Briefing Notes from Review of CCs forum** :- Aileen, Murat and Stephen had all attended this. They have read the briefing notes and feel that all discussions that had occurred within their groups had been recorded in the briefing notes.

5. Correspondence :

- email from Home Energy Scotland offering free impartial energy advice to residents.
- full list of community council signatories to submissions to Scottish Government.
- copy of Robert's letter on behalf of CC to FC Development Services with comments on retrospective planning applications to install window at 4 Moss Cottages, Dunmore.
- copy of Robert's letter on behalf of CC to FC Development Services with comments on planning application for upgrade of Crawford Square, Airth.
- copy of Robert's email on behalf of CC to Paul Laidlaw of Scottish Flood Forum asking for a site meeting / flood walk. Date still to be agreed.
- copy of email from Paul Laidlaw of Scottish Flood Forum acknowledging Airth's interest in a Scottish Flood Forecast Group.
- copy of email correspondence between Robert and Laura Paterson of SEPA re workshop on a new Scottish Flood Forecast.
- email information from Brian Pirie re Funders Fayre held in Bowhouse Community Centre on 5th March.
- email information re Calor Rural Community Fund - as there is no calor gas in Airth, Aileen had passed this information to Colin Crabbe of Dunmore Village Association.

- email from Brian Pirie asking for nominations for 7 members of the community to attend the Royal Garden Party on 3/7/19. Missed the closing date. ([Recount of story available to anyone interested](#)).
- write up of discussions from Community Council Workshops which were attended by Aileen, Murat and Stephen.
- email from Falkirk Council re “Consultation on Supplementary Guidance : Education and New Housing Development”.
- copy of Robert’s letter to Airth Community Hall requesting hall booking for annual Christmas Lights Switch On to be held on Friday 6th December 2019.
- email from representative of Driving Force to come along to the next meeting of CC to be held on 17th April.
- acknowledgement from CLD Worker Falkirk Council thanking the CC team for their input at Data Protection Training. All relevant paperwork needed was also included. For info - CC paperwork needs to be kept by Secretary for 5 years. Short discussion ensued regarding the possibility of having paperwork scanned and securely retained digitally by Falkirk Council. A discussion with FC would need to be had.
- email information re FC Revised Core Paths Plan (Draft) Formal Consultation. Existing right of way along foreshore will be upgraded and become a core path. Landowners will need to be informed of this.
- Community Safety Team report of 1 - 28/2/19 : continuing to monitor re dog fouling. Also monitoring for fly tipping, particularly at Higginsneuk and Mains of Powfoulis.

6. Treasurer’s Report :

Aileen reported there is £684.54 in the Admin a/c and £2,824.05 in the Xmas Lights a/c.

7. Round the Parish :

Airth : Robert informed the meeting that the tenants of Airth Welfare Hall were looking for community help to re-surface the car park. The car park is currently used by the community as well as the tenants. Those present wondered whether any grants might be available. Robert added that the tenants were not a registered charity. Further investigation was required as to how this could be taken forward, ie fundraising/grants.

Some activity noticed at the Elphinstone Inn this week but no-one present had any information on what is happening or what the plans now are.

Cllr Murtagh said that the bridge at Higginsneuk had been hit by a car and damage had been caused. She wondered who owned it?

Letham : Cllr Murtagh said that she had been approached re the possibility of adding lighting at the back of the housing at Letham Terraces.

Dunmore: Robert informed the meeting that an area at Dunmore Woods has been sold. The buyer wants to erect holiday homes. Robert was asked to attend a site meeting both as a rep of the Community Council, who the buyer wishes to keep updated at each stage, and because of Robert's in-depth knowledge of the area. Planners and the architect were also in attendance. Robert expressed his doubts about plans discussed for various reasons, including the possibility of an access off the Moss Road which would be situated on a bad corner and would need many of the existing trees cut back. The proposed site for the homes was on the lowest lying area, which would be too marshy. It was Robert's opinion that although the idea was a good one and would be a positive for the area, major changes would be needed to get these plans off the ground.

James Toal spoke of the difficulty of accessing a £10,000 grant which would have covered costs incurred by commissioning a feasibility study for the "Joined Up Dunmore" project. This was a "chicken and egg" situation and it eventually proved too difficult to take up. Another avenue had arisen as a possibility and this will be investigated.

James asked about the installation of the dog bin at the lay-by in Dunmore, which he had previously enquired about. This had already been done but unfortunately had to be installed on the opposite side of the road as the Council did not own the ground around the lay-by.

South Alloa : Jon had taken a "straw poll" and it was his opinion that a notice board was not wanted in South Alloa.

Bothkennar : Ronnie Martin had sent his apologies for tonight, therefore no update.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) Crawford Square - replacement railings, street lighting and seating : Robert's letter with the CC's comments had apparently arrived too late to be taken in account. Permission was granted.

(b) Installation of Velux-type roof window at 4 Moss Cottage, Dunmore : Robert's letter with comments on behalf of the CC had been sent. Retrospective permission has however been granted.

(c) Extension to dwelling house at 26 Castle View : this is permitted development.

(d) Linkfield Farm : this issue had been brought up by Stephen previously. Aileen had contacted an employee of FC Planning Dept and was told that so far no planning application had been received.

9. Litter Pick : Robert has organised this for Sat 6th April, meeting at 9.30am @ Shore Rd. He has registered it with Falkirk Council and Keep Scotland Beautiful. Up to 25 adults and 15 kids can be involved. He wishes to concentrate on the area from the High Street up to Cemetery Brae and also the foreshore, although as this was well cleared last year there would not be so much work involved here this time. Robert to check whether Greggs the Bakers will be involved.

10. Community Resilience : SEPA have offered to organise a meeting to discuss flood awareness / warnings. The CC members need to decide on a date - a Thursday night suited most people. Robert to take this forward.

10. AOCB :

- Robert's fundraising Whisky Tasting - still need to identify a venue for this event, which could possibly take place in May.
- James Toal gave information about a talk about Higginsneuk being given by a professor from St Andrews to be held at Stirling University.
- Murat asked whether the CC should consider having a fund-raising stall at Airth Highland Games. Need to come up with some ideas, take forward to next meeting.
- Robert spoke about cutting of trees on hill behind the community centre which was witnessed by residents a few weekends back. He had made enquiries and apparently this had been carried out by the owner of house at the top of the hill.
- Cllr Murtagh spoke of the plant nursery at Kinneil, which had previously been used by FC Parks Dept, but no longer. This is being transferred for community empowerment, each area of community can have a dedicated space in order to plant and grow for use in their own communities. Need to try and gauge interest for this and then put a marker down so that we don't lose out.
- Data Protection - Aileen wondered whose responsibility it was to let every group in the community know about this and the need for adherence to this law. It was agreed that all groups would be informed eventually.

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