

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday 17th April 2019

Members Present : Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)

Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)

Stephen Sloper (Comm Councillor)

Murat Dilek (Comm Councillor)

Also Present :

Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)

Cllr. Joan Coombes; Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Rev. Jim Todd;

Tom McDonald & Danny Callaghan (Meadowbank Car4U);

Alex (Joe) Detlaff; Jane Rae (Minute Taker)

Jon, Convenor, sent his apologies. In his absence Aileen Amos chaired the meeting and 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 : Jon Anslow (Convenor); James Toal; Ronnie Martin; Cllr. Jim Flynn; PC Pete Dunlop.

2. Police Report : Community PC Pete Dunlop sent his apologies. In his absence Robert Smith presented his report covering the period 18th March - 16th April 2019.

The report identified 8 recorded crimes / offences in the area, including extortion, vandalism, drugs, 2 x domestic incidents, 2 assaults and a vehicle hit and run (2 detected / 2 undetected and 4 have positive lines of enquiries).

There were 53 calls to Police from Airth, majority of which related to road traffic matters, domestics and concern calls. No reports of wildlife crime this month. There were 2 calls for anti-social behaviour. There was 1 detection for drugs offences in this period.

Councillor Murtagh updated the meeting that she had met with PC Dunlop today. He had flagged up the ongoing issues of fly tipping at Letham, for which he had received intelligence regarding the offenders. He has vehicle registrations but is looking for any extra intelligence from locals. It seems that those responsible for the fly tipping do not live locally. Cllr Murtagh was supportive of the work PC Dunlop has been involved in locally - he is making himself known and is out and about within the community.

3. Previous Minutes :

Approval of minutes dated 20/3/19 were moved as correct by Robert Smith and seconded by Aileen Amos.

4. Meadowbank Car4U : Aileen introduced and welcomed Tom McDonald and Danny Callaghan to the meeting. They were here tonight to present an overview on an initiative they were involved in, which offers volunteer driver transport for cancer patients attached to Meadowbank Health Centre to appointments at various centres / hospitals.

The initiative started in another area a few years ago and to an extent their group “piggy backed” on the concept of “Driving Force”, taking advantage of their advice and support to start it up and take it forward. Tom spoke about the background of patient transport and how it was originally offered as part of a patient’s treatment programme but which suffered as a result of a policy change. Tom talked the group through the process of bringing the initiative to fruition - from completing a myriad of paperwork; advertising for volunteers; setting up a committee; procuring funding; drawing up a constitution and registering with charity regulator OSCR. He spoke about the various organisations which helped throughout, e.g. CVS Falkirk, Volunteer Scotland, etc. Tom reckoned that it took 6 - 9 months to get organised and were lucky enough to get start up money from the BIG Lottery. PVG checks were needed and other sources of funding had to be identified - they have been lucky as collecting cans in local shops, businesses, race nights, bingo nights, local school etc. have raised major amounts of money.

Tom and Danny both said they would be happy to give any advice and to talk through the process if Airth & District were interested in taking on such an initiative. Robert outlined that because Airth is outlying the residents use many different surgeries / health centres and to cover them all might be difficult. Tom answered a query and verified that there is no requirement for any of the volunteers to be trained in First Aid. Discussion also identified that it would be reasonable to carry out yearly checks on the driver’s insurance, roadworthiness of the cars, update of convictions / points gained over the year (PVG checks would also flag up these last two issues).

Danny gave a perspective on how often drivers can be used in a week and expectations, i.e. take patients to any of 7 different hospitals / centres; wait while they have their treatment or see a doctor and then return them home again. Meadowbank Car4U have 6 - 8 planners who take the laptop on a 2 week rota and match up drivers to patients and share this information as relevant. Tom reckoned that their own group needs approx. £35K per year to function (mostly paid out in mileage to drivers).

Aileen thanked both men for coming along and giving us “food for thought” and wished them all the best for their group. She also congratulated them on all they have achieved.

5. Matters Arising

- **Litter Pick** : Robert said this went ahead and was fairly successful. The weather was definitely against them and only 16 adults / 3 children turned up, not many actually from the village. However they did manage to fill approx. 60 bags of rubbish. From the pick it was identified that a box at the bus shelter in the centre of the village would be helpful for disposing of cigarette ends as so many of them end up at the back of the shelter / on the ground there. Councillor Coombes will look into this. Although the Council had cleaned up on the Cemetery Brae the previous week, Robert and team still collected 5 bags from the banking. Robert said he would take this initiative forward and organise another litter pick but would hope to encourage more locals to take part.
- **Visit / Meeting with Paul Laidlaw (Scottish Flood Forum)** : Robert and Ronnie Martin from Bothkennar met up with Paul. All three went through the local flooding issues and visited the Cemetery Brae to oversee the area. They also walked to the banks to get a feel of the area. Cllr Coombes confirmed that Mr Laidlaw contacted Falkirk Council yesterday. Robert spoke of the delicate banking between the treatment works along to the Pow Burn. On this visit there was not enough time for the three to visit Skinflats / Bothkennar but Mr Laidlaw undertook to visit again.

6. Correspondence :

- details of Flood Warning Workshop which is due to take place on 18th April within Airth school from 6.30 pm onwards. Rebecca DeVivo of SEPA will facilitate.
- details of National Seminar to be held in Edinburgh on 23rd April - "Strengthening Community Councils". Robert, James and Aileen will attend.
- details of Conference & Exhibition "Cold Comfort Scotland 2019" to be held in Inchyra Hotel on 25th April. Unfortunately at a cost of £199 + VAT per delegate.
- copy email from Cllr Coombes regarding the proposal to move a bin from inside the cemetery gates to a suitable spot outside.
- email regarding another Fracking consultation - apparently to look again at information gathered from previous consultation(s).
- email from Falkirk Council asking for updated bank details for CC in relation to annual funding.
- email trail between Robert and Allison Leonard of RSPB. She wishes to attend an upcoming meeting to provide update. Robert will invite her to next meeting on 15th May.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen reported there is £611.54 in the Admin a/c and £3,099.05 in the Xmas Lights a/c. A decision still to be made about being involved in a stall at Airth Games this year.

8. Round the Parish :

Airth : Robert flagged up the need to cut back the bushes which obscure visibility on slip road from Kincardine Bridge to Bowtrees Roundabout.

He also mentioned an issue on Moss Road, which because it is such a fast road looks like an "accident waiting to happen". At the two small bridges at the Moss Works the road is narrow and no-one is sure who has the right of way. Maybe need some signs. Need to identify who would be responsible for doing this.

Local resident Alex (Joe) Detlaff was present in his capacity as a member of the Community Centre Committee. They have some money, however not enough, to purchase a defibrillator to be used by the local residents. He wondered whether anyone was aware of funding possibilities. After discussion, during which Alex was given some possibilities, Cllr. Coombes also agreed to approach the British Heart Foundation and make an enquiry. She added that she would let Alex know how she got on.

Letham : No issues.

Dunmore: Village Association AGM was held recently but Aileen was unable to attend as she was on holiday.

South Alloa : No issues.

9. Planning Issues :

(a) Extension at 35 Castle Drive : no comments.

(b) Application to sub-divide garden at Graham Terrace and erect dwelling-house : this seems to have been resurrected after the applicant's neighbour has now agreed to allow access over the part of the "ransom strip" in his ownership. The conditions required are that the building should now be a bungalow with a roof ridgeline no higher than that of the existing bungalows in North Green Drive / Shierlaw Gardens and that the exterior finish much be similar to the bungalows currently forming the perimeter of this estate. It was agreed to leave this to planners and neighbours.

(c) Linkfield Farm : this issue had been brought up by Stephen previously. There is now a retrospective planning application for erection of agricultural building on this farm. Stephen is of the opinion that the proposal does not accurately reflect the work done and there seems to be no justification why such a big new dryer / shed is required. He has concerns, particularly regarding the size of the new building and

what this may mean for the area, i.e. more heavy machinery, increase in the size of the business conducted, possible noise pollution, possible impact on a conservation village. Stephen agreed to put together a letter to go to Falkirk Council detailing the group's concerns. Robert preferred not to be involved as the farm owner is a personal friend.

10. Data Protection : The members of the CC attended a meeting within Robert's home on 21st March to discuss the repercussions / expectations arising from data protection training undertaken by members on 7th March. The expectation was that Jon and Murat would write to the Council outlining our concerns with this legislation and the feeling that too much responsibility was being passed to the members who, ultimately, were all volunteers. Jon had sent a note to Brian Pirie which was felt by all concerned not to fulfil the brief. It was agreed to ask Jon to put together a more formal, structured response which it was envisaged would also be shared with other Community Councils.

11. Whisky Tasting : This has been organised for 18th May within Dunmore Bowling Club hut. Of 25 allocated tickets only 9 remain. Stephen agreed to bring some of his beer for tasting too.

10. AOCB :

- For information, Robert flagged up previous comments made by the Community Council regarding retrospective planning applications, asking the Council to letter constituents living in a conservation area to be aware of their obligations. Maybe another letter drop is needed.
- Cllr Coombes gave the committee information on a Council initiative - "Participating Budget Panel" - any community can form a group to sit on this panel.
- Meeting of Welfare Hall Committee and Trustees. As trustees, Aileen and Robert were asked if any of our Councillors knew of any funding available to resurface the car park. Although notices have been erected warning of "Uneven Surfaces" the car park still requires resurfacing but funding needs to be identified for this. The hall needs to be promoted as a venue.
- Murat asked what would happen next after the Community Councils information sharing meeting. Stephen said he understood that a follow up "mopping up" session is still to be arranged.

Aileen Amos concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.