

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday  
19th June 2019

**Members Present :**                    **Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)**  
   **Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)**  
   **James Toal (Assistant Convenor) - chaired the meeting**  
   **Murat Dilek (Comm Councillor)**  
   **Stephen Sloper (Comm Councillor)**

**Also Present :**                    **Jacqueline Hogg, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**  
   **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Cllr Joan Coombes; Cllr Jim Flynn;**  
   **PC Pete Dunlop; Jean Tait; Jim Tait; Margaret Anderson;**  
   **Alice Penman; Joyce Begg; Jeanette Hammell; Walter Hendry;**  
   **John McTaggart; Jane Rae (Minute Taker)**

The Secretary 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), Rev Jim Todd, Cllr Gary Bouse.**

**2. Police Report / Issues on A905 :** Community PC Pete Dunlop was in attendance and gave a verbal report for the last month. He had been attending a training course and had not been in the position to present a written report. He reported that nothing overly significant had occurred in the past month.

The situation on the Moss Road was discussed. The two bridges had been closed and this was proving very difficult for drivers. PC Dunlop added that he had received several calls from residents in the new housing estate at Kinnaird end, worried about safety. There followed a discussion again regarding the benefits of carrying out a traffic survey to record both volume and speed. Cllr Murtagh agreed that this would be carried out. Regarding police being able to monitor / record speed, PC Dunlop said the ability to do this was limited due to resources but attempts are made to be as involved as possible. One of the residents living on the Main Street passed around photos he had taken of illegal overtaking at the island outside shop and also customers parking illegally. He also mentioned the speeds and the number of heavy vehicles using the main road.

Cllr Murtagh believed that the vast majority of drivers do adhere to the speed limits, however agreed that not everyone did. After more examples of dangerous driving were shared with the group by James Toal and a local resident, Cllr Murtagh updated everyone on the responses she had received after writing to local haulage companies

who use the main road. The main haulier using the road through the village has undertaken to put a 20mph speed limit on their lorries, apparently this can be tracked by equipment onboard, and would limit using the road during peak school hours. Stephen Sloper added however that this was an unenforceable zone and what is really needed is a change to the legal speed limit through the village. Falkirk Council do not seem keen to do this, despite several instances in neighbouring council areas, i.e. Stirling and Clackmannan, where these changes have been made. Stephen suggested we write to the Green Party; after discussion however it was agreed that instead we should write to the Scottish Government and leaders of all parties, as well as copying in Falkirk Council. Robert Smith agreed to write a letter on behalf of the community council. It was agreed that budgets for road improvements was too low and in the 10 years that this issue has been live nothing has been achieved. Cllr Coombes pointed out that as there seems to be a consensus cross party there is no reason that the policy can't be changed.

One local resident asked if it was possible to have speed cameras in the village?

Robert brought the meeting up-to-date with the build up to the meeting and interview with Falkirk Herald recently on the speeding issue. The need to let the public know and raise awareness of the issue was paramount in the decision to go ahead with this, which was rushed and very last minute.

Before PC Dunlop left he mentioned that the street football complaint in South Green Drive had been robustly dealt with. The Community Safety Team had also been involved in dealing with this issue.

James Toal thanked PC Dunlop for attending and PC Dunlop then left the meeting.

**3. Previous Minutes** : Approval of minutes dated 15/5/19 were moved as correct by Aileen Amos and seconded by Robert Smith.

#### **4. Matters Arising :**

- Community Litter Meeting : Robert, along with Ronnie Martin (Bothkennar) had attended this meeting on 30th May at Municipal Buildings. Permanent equipment was offered to the CC for future litter picks but Robert felt that we had nowhere to store this and would borrow what we needed as and when. The meeting went into detail regarding bin uplifts and the impending burgundy bin roll out. All councillors spoke about the importance of the community signing up to using all bins provided, to prevent adding to landfill. Discussed space for so many bins in a domestic situation and whether it was possible to opt out - apparently householders cannot refuse to take the bin. There was also a discussion about a group of CC members visiting the recycling centre - Cllr Coombes was encouraging of this suggestion.

- Tall trees between South Green Drive & Kennedy Way : Several residents from South Green Drive whose gardens back onto this area of trees were in attendance tonight. Robert described the area as a screening belt of trees between SGD and Kennedy Way which were inappropriate for such an area - too tall, too fast growing and too close to houses. One resident spoke about how frightening it was to live so near, given the height of them. Another resident described how one massive branch had come down into their neighbour's garden - fortunately no-one was hurt. The trees were dangerous, blocked light, caused moss and algae to build up where no light can get through, roots grew under slabs etc. in residents' back gardens, and above all the fear for the health and safety of residents living nearby. It was also suspected that vermin was present and at times residents have had problems with the telephone service. Falkirk Council are unable to do anything as the trees grow on private land. The factors responsible for Kennedy Way are apparently responsible for the trees but seem reluctant to act upon any requests by residents to make the area safer. The issue has been ongoing for many years. It could be argued that the Council should ultimately have responsibility for Council tenants living nearby - they have made a risk assessment previously however but came back saying that from a health and safety viewpoint they had no issues. Robert wondered whether the CC could write directly to the factors asking for a formal reassessment on health and safety of residents, and send a copy to Falkirk Council at the same time. This was agreed. Before the residents left the meeting, one of them left a file of correspondence between them and the factors (Hacking & Paterson) dating back to 2004 so that Robert could appraise himself of all information before putting together the letter.
- Steps at Cemetery : Jacqueline spoke about the need for remedial work to be done on the second set of steps at the back of the church up to the cemetery. The first set seem okay, apart from crumbling at some of the edges. Falkirk Council will be assessing the situation.
- Wanderings & Windings consultation : Facilitated by Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. Aileen had attended and reported that it was interesting and more meetings are being organised. £87K is to be spend on creating walks in the area. Aileen suggesting that Robert might be the best person to attend next time.
- Gardens in the village in a poor state : Cllr Murtagh reported that as a new Housing Officer has been appointed this might be an opportunity to have a walk around the village and bring this to their attention. Nothing can be done about privately owned gardens. The issue of Graham Terrace was brought up again and the owner has again given a date to do it - a promise that has been made many times before.
- Signs obscured by branches and hedges / potholes between Burgoynes & Letham Road : The potholes to be repaired within the next 4 weeks. The factors will cut down the hedges / branches at South Green Drive / Kennedy Way.

- Fly tipping at the Parsonage lay-by : Robert had reported seeing a fridge/freezer dumped in this lay-by, which appears now to be have removed.

## **5. Correspondence :**

- email from Aileen Amos to CC members regarding data protection disclaimers, particularly those which appear at the bottom of all correspondence from local councillors. The difficulties with these would appear that because of this, any emails from local councillors to the CC cannot be shared amongst members. Aileen asking for permission from all local councillors to be able to share and if anything they expressly did not wish to be shared then “Confidential” should be added to the subject line of the email. All present agreed.
- email regarding the success of Robert’s whisky tasting evening and as a result the very welcome amount of £275 has been added to the Xmas lights fund raising.
- email from Cycling UK regarding a project named Big Bike Revival, a fund for organisations to put on events that encourage their community to cycle.
- email from Police Scotland regarding community councils and Neighbourhoodwatch Scotland. Aileen asking if anyone interested.
- notice of revocation of disabled parking space outside 6 Letham Cottages. Noted.
- email from Maria Montinaro regarding “On Yer Bike” campaign against Bo’ness Road closure. Also email between CC members with their views on promoting this event.
- email from INEOS regarding flaring in week beginning 3rd June over 24/48 hours.
- email from Robert to Community Safety alerting to CC’s intention of creating poo bag stations within the village. Robert added that he has noticed a difference in areas.
- email regarding flooding at South Green Drive. Dealt with. Drain has been cleared.
- email from Russell Steedman, Development Services, Falkirk Council, regarding road narrowing at culverts in Moss Road. Stirling Council are undertaking resurfacing.
- email from Cllr Murtagh to CC - update on issues in relation to Moss Road and other matters. Murat added that work on road between Dunmore & S Alloa still not done.
- several emails from Cllr Murtagh complaining of an article in the Falkirk Herald regarding the roads.
- email from Maria Montinaro asking for suitable dates for meeting of CCS reps with Head of Energy Industries Division prior to submitting representation before 25/6/19.
- email from Cllr Murtagh regarding spray injection repairs to road between Dunmore & South Alloa.

- copy of letter from Scottish Water to MP John McNally re flooding at Letham Terrace.
- email from Angus Duncan, FC, asking everyone to vote for Falkirk who have reached the last 10 in Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award 2019.
- email from IFLI with more dates for further meetings of Wanderings & Windings consultation.
- email from Avonbridge & Standburn CC asking for support against amendments proposed regarding banning classic cars from cities and some towns in Scotland due to environmental pollution,
- email from Scottish Health Council - Scottish Ambulance Service are arranging 2 events in Falkirk Ambulance Station to gather feedback on new vehicles the service may purchase.
- notice of temporary prohibition of traffic on Halls of Airth (N) road from 8am on 23/5/19 until 6pm on 22/6/19 to allow BT works to be carried out.
- copy of letter sent by Robert on behalf of CC to Flooding Officer, FC, regarding Airth Flood Protection study.
- copy of Report by Scottish Flood Forum "Tackling Flooding Together" events.
- Community Safety Team report for 1/5 to 31/5/19. They continue to patrol areas locally in relation to dog fouling.
- invite to Falkirk Council Area Bus Stakeholder Group on 18th June. Robert attended this. Stakeholders attending were Falkirk Council, CC members, FirstBus, Ombudsman, Howgate Centre. Falkirk area are one of the highest users of concessionary fares. If not for holders of bus passes in the area the buses would be fairly empty. Various issues were brought up and noted, i.e. the possibility of subsidies for young people who work in the town and who have to pay a substantial portion of their wages per day to travel; also the possibility of pensioners paying a nominal amount to travel. This second possibility was previously rejected by Scottish Government. There will be a follow up meeting in 3 months' time - we will gather any issues of concern between now and then and represent them at the meeting.
- email from Falkirk Community Trust regarding and Heritage Lottery funded programme covering FC area called "The Great Place Project - Landscape Industry and Work". Now reaching out to local communities - will come to a meeting. Noted.

## **6. Treasurer's Report :**

Aileen reported there is £856.54 in the Admin a/c and £3,354.05 in the Xmas Lights a/c. Insurance policy due for renewal - seems we need to extend coverage to include Xmas

lights event as the policy we currently have only covers for a gathering of up to 100 people. Various ways of doing this - will be discussed again nearer the time. Meanwhile renew policy for now - £79.80. It was suggested that Jon Anslow should write to FC and copy in all 4 councillors revisiting the promise made some time ago that the Council would meet the cost of the insurance.

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

**Airth** : Robert spoke about giant hogweed growing near the sewage treatment works, and also some just off Moss Road. Needs to be addressed. Also spotted Japanese Knotweed growing in verges / patches at Dunmore Sawmill. Needs to be reported.

Robert updated on all the work that had been done variously by volunteers in the community and the primary school to plant out all the flower beds in the village - this is to be commended and all are looking great. Next year will be an issue however as Council have stopped this work as from this year and it would cost the community a lot of money to keep this up. Suggestions that village residents could donate cuttings from shrubs and perennials to fill the beds up.

Stephen pointed out that repairs had been attempted on the pavement between the Church and the bus stop which had not been successful. Not programmed to be carried out now until next financial year.

**Letham** : Still no sign of an official statement by Environmental Health regarding issues in relation to any potential flooding at Letham. This had been promised but so far nothing has materialised. Do we need to formally request for this? Should this be brought to the attention of the media? Cllr Murtagh will investigate and push it on.

**Dunmore**: James updated on the planting of the beds at Dunmore. Also extended a welcome to everyone to "Tea on the Green" being held on 4th August in Dunmore.

**South Alloa** : No issues.

## **8. Planning Issues :**

**(a) Extension to dwelling house at 12 Elphinstone Crescent** : planning permission has been granted.

**(b) Extension to dwelling house at 9 Banks Views** : planning permission has been granted.

**(c) Sub-division of garden and erection of dwelling house at 28 Graham Terrace** : application withdrawn.

**9. Annual Garden Competition** : Torwood Garden Centre are happy to judge the competition. This should happen in week beginning 21/7/19.

**10. Data Protection** : Aileen had spoken to Brian Pirie about this again. He suggested that this cannot be ignored - it is a legal requirement. Regarding the safekeeping of confidential information he had suggested that Aileen should attach a lock to her bedroom door - Aileen has refused to do this. Jon is apparently still talking to Brian regarding data protection and his email to Brian remains unanswered. Progressing very slowly.

**11. Mandate to operate CC during holidays** : This was agreed by all present. Perhaps if anything regarding the plans for Dunmore Woods happens during the holidays there will be a need to reconvene to deal with this issue.

Next meeting will now be on 18th September when the AGM will be held at 7pm, followed by ordinary meeting at 7.15pm.

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that Airth and Community are extremely fortunate that they have such a committed Community Council who have served the area for a number of years.

**13. AOCB** :

- Robert gave the dates of next high tides - 3 to 6 August.

**James Toal concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.**