

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday 23rd October 2019

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

**Also Present :**                              **Jacqueline Drew Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**  
   **Cllr Joan Coombes; Cllr Jim Flynn;**  
   **Glynis Williamson; ??? Williamson**  
   **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 :** Cllr Laura Murtagh, Rev Jim Todd.

**2. Police Report :** Community PC Pete Dunlop was not present and no report had been received from him. Jon Anslow mentioned that the recently appointed Inspector in charge of Community Policing (Chris Stewart) had emailed and introduced himself.

**3. Previous Minutes :** The AGM minutes were put up for approval because a decision had been taken at the AGM as a result of an action taken by the Convenor. Aileen asked the minutes be approved so this decision could be implemented immediately. Approval were moved as correct by Stephen Sloper and seconded by Murat Dilek. Approval of the general meeting minutes of the same date were moved as correct by James Toal and seconded by Aileen Amos.

It was agreed that the agenda of business of tonight's meeting would be dealt with out of order and those present went straight into discussing the issues surrounding admittance of local children to Airth Nursery. Mrs Williamson and her daughter-in-law were present in order to highlight the problems they had encountered when registering her granddaughter for nursery and discovering there was no space for her. They outlined the background to the issue, i.e. that her brothers were both at Airth Primary, one at nursery and the other at the main school, but there was an expectation by Falkirk Council that she should take up a place offered at Carronshore Primary Nursery. This option was

unworkable, apart from the fact that the family wished her to be beside her brothers and her peers who she would eventually attend school with, it was not possible to get her to Carronshore every day. Jon Anslow asked whether it was known if all pupils at the nursery were resident in Airth, Mrs Williamson replied that some children used grandparents' addresses but she did not wish to use this for any advantage and prefers if her granddaughter can be awarded a space on her own merits. The child has some speech delay and it was felt by the Health Visitor to be a positive step if she was interacting with other nursery children as much as possible. Scottish Government had awarded more nursery hours per child but where resources were not sufficient, i.e. teachers, classroom space, this had not been advantageous. Previously there were separate classes in the morning and the afternoons, now the same children were occupying the spaces for a full day. Cllr Coombes asked them who they had written to and when. They wrote to Falkirk Council setting out the grounds given by the Health Visitor - Falkirk Council had further suggested they could find a child minding place for her in Airth rather than Carronshore Nursery but Mrs Williamson said this was not what the family wanted for her. They want her to be in Airth nursery.

There was discussion on the plans for more houses within the village while the school / nursery would not be able to keep pace with spaces needed. It was the responsibility of the Council to provide the extra space. Robert Smith discussed the problems that the school would have, given there is no obvious extra ground to even site a portakabin. Aileen Amos asked if another classroom was planned, Cllr Flynn didn't know. Meanwhile, the wee girl was 3rd on a waiting list and the family have more or less been told they shouldn't expect a place in this school year.

The community council agreed to press this issue with the Council and would write with comments. Jon Anslow encouraged the family to ask other families in the village to also write as this would add weight to the argument. Stephen Sloper cited the fact that this issue seemed to be prevalent throughout all areas as a result of the increased hours not keeping pace with increased resources.

Glynis and ??? were thanked for coming to highlight this issue and then left the meeting.

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

- Community Council Annual Insurance : Jon Anslow had spoken to Brian Pirie about the onus of paying this insurance resting with the Council. Mr Pirie was not optimistic.
- GDPR : Jon also spoke to Mr Pirie about the concerns cited by the CC. Mr Pirie could come along to a future meeting and discuss this. Another CC Forum is in the offing when this issue could also be aired. It had been suggested that a locked cabinet might be sited within the school rather in Aileen's home.

- Steps at Cemetery : Cllr Flynn thinks that work is due to start soon. Jacqueline Drew believes that another survey was to be undertaken. The steps were in quite good repair but the sides were crumbling and needed attention. Cllr Flynn to pursue.
- Noise coming from Parsonage : This issue had been highlighted in last week's Falkirk Herald when Mr McLeod had been awarded another short-term licence. He has promised to deal with this in order that the residents of Dunmore are not affected every time a function is held at the venue.
- Upgrade works at Crawford Square : Cllr Coombes said it seemed as if things had gone quiet on this project but she has recently been told that additional funding has been sought and agreed after a shortfall had been shown between the budget and the estimated cost for the work. Apparently Falkirk Environmental Trust have awarded the extra money and an officer from Falkirk Council will write shortly to the CC to update.
- Problems with drains near the Parsonage : Robert thinks the water is draining down from the field, Murat wondering if the drains may also be blocked. Robert outlined the path that he thought the water was taking and was unsure whether the problem lay on private land or within the Parsonage grounds. Cllr Flynn also updated on planned work by the Council to fix the flooding at the lay-by beside Burgoynes.
- 20mph speed limit through village : Cllr Coombes again said there were no proposals for this other than the area near the school. She feels that it is difficult to make an argument for Airth as this would not be consistent with roads over the whole of the district. This issue will be discussed later in the meeting.

## **5. Correspondence :**

- latest edition of Falkirk's Local Development Plan (Oct 2019).
- letter from Licensing Board regarding our Small Society Lottery Permit - £20.
- email from Jacqueline Drew to CC regarding state of steps at cemetery.
- email from Robert with the year's meeting dates.
- Democracy Matters - the Local Governance Review, summary.
- Feedback from CC Forum September 2019 and summary of CC workshops
- copy of licence application from Elphinstone Inn
- email to George Russell regarding points raised at last meeting
- timeline of events regarding and following the discussion on the local development plan. Robert had left this with Jon to respond on behalf of the CC as Robert had already responded personally. Jon initially thought he had done but then decided that

on reflection he maybe hadn't. Stephen suggested therefore that the CC had not officially fed back to the Council re the LDP. Jon agreed to clarify.

- email from Stephen Sloper re LDP and George Russell's planning application
- notice of public meeting being held regarding George Russell's planning application (held within Airth Welfare Hall on Tuesday 22nd October).
- response from Brian Pirie re GDPR
- invite from Paul Laidlaw of Scottish Flood Forum for interest in basic first aid training. So far only Aileen and Robert expressed interest.
- copy of Fife Roads Action Plan, provided by James Toal
- invitation to join campaign for more local energy generation
- reply from Transport Scotland re speed limit
- email correspondence trail between Council members regarding speed limits
- invite to BBC Radio 4's Any Questions being held on Friday 8 November at the Falkirk Wheel. Aileen Amos and Cllr Coombes both interested in attending.
- Notice of Proposal to hold a Public Procession - Stirling & District Campsie Club Apprentice Boys of Derry, to take place on Saturday 30th November from 6.45 - 7.45
- notice of granting of planning application for 108 dwellings to south of Airth Cemetery

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

Aileen reported there is £755.55 in the Admin a/c and £3,254.76 in the Xmas Lights a/c. £20 has been paid to licensing board to allow for raffle ticket event. Also an extra £48.19 has been paid to cover for public liability for the Xmas Lights Gathering.

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

### **Airth :**

- Nursery Places : dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- Fly tipping : still a problem. Finding big household items left in all areas. The Council seem reluctant to respond. There is a need to clarify if a reciprocal agreement exists with Stirling Council as one half of Throsk is Stirling and one half is Falkirk.
- Drains clogging up with fallen leaves : drain clearing is apparently not done on a regular basis any more but only when requested.

- Trees in belt between South Green Drive and Kennedy Way : Jon Anslow asked if there was any update. Directed to previous minutes. Factor has to get approval and funds from residents in Kennedy Way - process is ongoing.

**Letham** : nothing to report

**Dunmore**: nothing to report

**South Alloa** : nothing to report

## **8. Planning Issues :**

**(a) Discharge of planning obligation at Silverlink Roadhouse** : previously the Community Council had a meeting with owner (Ewan Campbell) when the site needed to be tidied up. As yet, no change of use has been applied for. Aileen added that this can't progress until discharged.

**(b) Erection of 3 Agricultural Sheds (part retrospective)** : this is on land NW of Fairfields, owned by Gilvear & Son. Aileen had a recollection that "waste" was mentioned but Robert can't see this in application. Robert to phone Falkirk Council for an explanation.

**(c) Banded - proposed collection of energy from processing waste** : open meeting recently was attended by several members. Robert outlined the process, which is similar to several projects in Holland. Apparently the plan is to produce energy and any excess will be used to heat large greenhouses to grow tomatoes. Still in very early stages but some criticism amongst people resident in area. The general feeling amongst members who attended was that the speakers seemed not to be fully informed. A plan is to be submitted within 2 months. It was mentioned that Falkirk Council had apparently been informed of plans but had not passed this onto the Community Council. Jon Anslow added that of the two plants which already exist in Scotland both have problems. Watch this space.

**(d) Public meeting regarding George Russell's planning application** : Jon Anslow said that following the meeting the plan seemed favourable in principle. There were a few concerns, i.e. how far into the project would the visitor centre appear and should the houses sell more quickly then would the centre be built ahead of schedule. Members of the public who attended also had concerns about the road system, the proposed roundabout and effects of more traffic, speeds etc. However these concerns did not seem to adversely affect the enthusiasm for the application. There was a lengthy discussion around the 55 age rule for buyers of the properties and whether this contravened The Equality Act 2010. Falkirk Council have apparently said this Act is not valid in this case but Stephen Sloper in particular was concerned about this and that perhaps Falkirk Council "had got this wrong". Aileen felt that Mr

Russell's application to sell to over 55s was not setting a precedent but Stephen believed that previous cases would have been in connection specifically with sheltered housing etc. where this was obviously aimed at older residents or for applications that pre-dated the Act. There was also concern that because over-55s were the target market this would negate any requirement for monetary contribution towards the schools. Mr Sloper cannot support the application and he personally as a resident and not as a Community Councillor would take the matter to the Scottish Government. Robert agreed that there were still lots of hurdles to overcome before the plan comes to fruition. Jon added that any possible problems with the housing needed to be offset by the very positive addition to the area of a visitor centre and facilities. The owners of the Pineapple will not make comment until the go ahead in principle is given by the Planning Department. Robert agreed to write to Falkirk Council on behalf of the Community Council with comments.

**9. Changes to Speed Limits** : A very full discussion took place on the pros and cons of changing the speed limit within the village to 20mph and 50mph between Airth to Dunmore. Robert outlined the many instances of accidents, speeding and racing on this stretch of road to Dunmore. Jon Anslow did not think that 20mph through the village would work but would instead lengthen the dwell time of traffic and make accidents more likely. Others members present disagreed with this. Measures such as speed bumps or steps may help but Jon thought this may exacerbate vibrations. Cllr Flynn suggested that there is a need to present this issue to officials at a higher level. Unfortunately the Council have no budget for such changes, although Robert suggested that any changes would basically amount to new speed signs. Despite speed monitoring, Jon added that speeding through the village has not been evidenced.

Cllr Coombes, during the meeting, put together an email to be sent to the officer directly above the person who the CC had communicated with previously. She read out the contents of the email to the meeting and it was agreed that she would send it.

**10. Rotary Visit** : Aileen said that the Rotary's Santa and Sledge would be in the village on Friday 13th December between 7 and 9pm. She asked Murat to add this date to CC Facebook account. Aileen, Robert and Joan will help the Rotary when they go round the village.

**11. Xmas Lights Switch On** : It was agreed to ask Cllr Murtagh to organise a choir again this year, after the success last year. Robert and Aileen are meeting next week re plans for the evening. Only 3 more lights are needed to complete the entire village. This will be decided next week. Aileen has ordered the tickets which are due to be delivered on Friday (£75 for 1600 tickets). A bottle of whisky has also been donated.

**13. AOCB :**

- Wreath for Remembrance Sunday - Aileen will order. Aileen & Jon to attend Service.
- Remembrance Evening, 9/11/19 : Murat and his wife will represent CC.
- Problems with non-emptying of bins. Jon Anslow was updated by Cllr. Coombes.

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