

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday 15th January 2020

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

**Also Present :**                              **Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**  
   **Cllr Laura Murtagh; Cllr Joan Coombes; Rev. Jim Todd**  
   **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 Jim Flynn and PC Pete Dunlop.**

**2. Approval of Previous Minutes :** Due to an admin oversight the minutes of 23rd October 2019 had not been recorded as approved. They were therefore approved by Aileen Amos and seconded by Stephen Sloper. The minutes of December 2019 were approved as correct by Aileen Amos and seconded by Jon Anslow.

**3. Police Report :** In PC Dunlop's absence, Aileen read through his report which covered the period from 17th December 2019 to 15th January 2020.

7 crimes / offences were recorded in this period, including air weapon offences, vandalism, road traffic offences, violence and thefts of fuel. 4 of these were detected and the rest are being investigated.

There were 61 calls to the Police from Airth in this period. These related to road traffic matters, fires, floods, concern for person and noise calls. During December and January there were 4 calls for antisocial behaviour.

**4. Matters Arising :**

- **Nursery Places :** Robert reported that he had received a reply to the letter only today. Falkirk Council reiterated that there were 44 nursery places within Airth Primary with no scope for expansion. They added that it was not unusual to be over-subscribed and would continue with a waiting list. They however also added that they could not

get involved in discussion regarding any particular family. Stephen suggested that a copy of the reply could be given to the Williamson family, which lets them know we have been working on their behalf. We will ask them to come back to us if their situation improves. There was a short discussion on what else could be done. Cllr Murtagh said that the new model was still being rolled out and any family can be offered 2 of 3 choices:- school nursery; private nursery; or childminder place (a family can take up a combination of up to 2 of these choices for their child). Stephen, whose wife works within a nursery setting, said that the experience is the same wherever in the nursery is. The meeting also discussed the impact on the village nursery if more houses are built. When the plans for more housing were first discussed, the headteacher then thought that there was room within the school to absorb more pupils but no expansion is possible within the nursery. Keep an eye on the situation.

- Problems with drains near the Parsonage : Cllr Murtagh updated the meeting on discussions she had over the weekend with a person involved with the Parsonage, which had become a bit heated and for which she has since received an apology for. Cllr Coombes added there seemed to be some doubt about a letter which had been sent from Falkirk Council to Stephen McLeod which he said he had not received. It is still uncertain where the water is coming from - Stephen Sloper suggested that yes it may be coming from the Parsonage's land but it could equally be coming from elsewhere. It is not dirty water, therefore probably clean run off, maybe from an underground spring. Will keep an eye on the progress of this situation.
- Data Protection : Jon Anslow has spoken to Brian Pirie but the situation has not progressed. Aileen has no more room within her home to keep the information required. There is definitely a need for a space for a filing cabinet, possibly within the school. Jon to arrange to meet himself with Brian Pirie.
- email from Ginny Sutherland re complaint by Airth Parish CC : Aileen asked James Toal to reply to her, which James is happy to do. To clarify, Mrs Sutherland owns the bulk of the road to Beech Cottage.
- Dunmore Wood : Robert was to write to Mr Hardie and invite him to tonight's meeting. Robert had been very busy and had asked Aileen to help with this. However, Aileen has misinterpreted the request and once this had been discovered time was against us for tonight's meeting. It was suggested that a public meeting could be held within Dunmore Bowling Club. Stephen queried why a public consultation had not been arranged in relation to this planning application but it was clarified that the application was split into at least 9 phases and 1 phase at a time is being dealt with. Robert had queried this with a FC officer, who had agreed this was the reason. There was an urgent need to have a meeting with the applicant as this phase appears to be a part of a major development. Robert would also speak to planners within the Council. There

was the added worry that the development could affect the core path system, it seems that a new path is planned.

## **5. Correspondence :**

- copy of letter that Robert sent on behalf of CC to Strategic Services FC, regarding the possibility of speed limit reductions on the A905 in Airth Parish. Everyone happy with the content of the letter.
- copy of email from officer of FC regarding being in touch after meeting with Mr Hardie.
- First Aid training - details from Paul Laidlaw of Scottish Flood Forum. Possibility of course in May 2020.
- Consultation regarding the closure of Post Office in Airth. Aileen had attempted to contact the Post Office and get information but found the whole process extremely difficult. Robert suggesting the CC should write to the PO saying there is overwhelming support to retain a post office within the village. Cllr Murtagh added that she had a conversation with the previous owner who confirmed that a new leaseholder will take over the premises and apply to become postmaster - timescale is not known. The consensus of the meeting was that everyone should write to the PO as a resident of the area adding their support to the absolute need for there being one within the village.
- email from Robert regarding possibility of flooding and the dates, times and heights of high tides.
- email from Aileen regarding the training she attended in the use of the defibrillator which has been sited at Airth Community Hall. The training was given by Martin Stewart, she added that it was very tiring and had required quite a bit of effort. There had been an enquiry via Dunmore asking whether the old phonebox within the village could be used to house a defibrillator. Unfortunately there needs to be an electricity supply to it, which would cost quite a bit of money. On the subject of the old phonebox, James informed the meeting that he has been told that Falkirk Council will be adopting the old phonebox (under the auspices of "Falkirk Made Friends"). James has a worry that if the phonebox was used to house a library or a defibrillator it could be the target of vandalism - wondering if the box could be moved. Overwhelming feeling by those present that this would not be an option.
- Consultation regarding review of local fire and rescue plan in Falkirk - closing date 18th March 2020
- email from Brian Pirie regarding general CC accounts - the need to have formal accounts drawn up in order to release annual funding was no longer required but it has come to his notice that in order for CCs to apply for grants from other funding

bodies formal accounts have to be submitted. Sent this round robin in order to get any suggestions on where formal accounts could be acquired as cheaply as possible.

- copy of 1st bill from Lightways - £1588.01 (incl VAT).

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

Aileen reported there is £642.66 in the Admin a/c and £5,300.58 in the Xmas Lights a/c, although money still to come off.

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

### **Airth :**

- Robert said that fly tipping in the area is still rife, only today a number of old batteries had appeared in Cemetery Brae. Cllr Murtagh has some information on what they might be and where they may have come from. Rubbish is still also being dumped within Dunmore Estate. A pile of old windows had been dumped in the Moss Road, part of this road is the responsibility of Stirling Council. Cllr Coombes suggested that signs relating to fly tipping cameras might be of benefit. It appears to be a major issue over the whole area. Robert said that he continues to replace and refill poo bag containers, to his surprise some have been removed / torn down. Not sure who is responsible for this. They have helped the situation a bit but fouling still continues to happen. Aileen suggesting if this is happening regularly that the local CS team could be alerted and attempt to id the culprits.
- Trees in belt between South Green Drive and Kennedy Way : a meeting has been arranged between residents and Hacking & Paterson on 23 January. Cllr Murtagh to report back on progress.
- Rev. Todd was asked if he knew what the activity was on the road from lodge entrance to Pineapple. As far as he knew this was a squad maintaining the road.

**Letham** : Stephen reported that flooding had occurred at Letham at the weekend again. The Falkirk Herald apparently ran an article on 19/12 re this problem. Cllr Murtagh updated on the position of Scottish Water and of a meeting with FC due to be held next week. It appears there is a conflict of understanding between Scottish Water and Falkirk Council on the proposed plan. Environmental Health are also on alert. Cllr Murtagh had asked whether some sort of temporary structure could be put in place to alleviate the problem. Stephen again asked why Falkirk Council were not using the Road Traffic Act - if it can be applied to the situation at the Parsonage then why not at Letham? Jon Anslow said there definitely needs to be a quick solution, even if it is temporary, and then work done on a long-term permanent fix. This may need to go through the courts at the end of the day but would be better if not needed. Cllr Murtagh continues to push on

the environmental health perspective. Murat Dilek pointed out how long this has been going on. The meeting wondering if anyone within Scottish Government could take this forward. Cllr Coombes suggested we write again to Angus McDonald MSP for advice on who we should contact. Stephen asking if we can at least be reassured by a reply from Environmental Health at FC. If all else fails Stephen suggested that as a private resident he would take the problem to the newspapers.

**Dunmore:** James Toal said that dog fouling was also a problem within Dunmore - he had even seen a filled bag hanging in a tree. He feels that there are increasing numbers of incidents being witnessed within the village.

He mentioned flooding at one of houses owned by the Mitchell family. Previously a drain had been dug up and repaired but it was felt that the wrong repair had been made. Falkirk Council had set up two water pumps when this latest flooding had occurred.

James mentioned the progress of the Connected Dunmore project and said that one of the consultants, Sarah Bronsden, may contact the CC.

**South Alloa :** roads and paths around Kersie Terrace need renovation and repair.

## **8. Planning Issues :**

**(a) Dunmore Wood :** as previously discussed.

**(b) Extension at Old Mill, Airth :** Aileen was surprised that no documents accompanied this application. She phoned an officer at FC but had had to leave a message. Stephen mentioned that an office had been planned and may already have been approved. Clarification required for this.

**9. Roads Issues :** Robert told an amusing personal tale of precaution, a warning to all of paying heed to speed limit signs.

## **13. AOCB :**

- Robert updated the meeting on high tides : 10 - 13 February.
- On an evening filled with amusing stories, James told one of a visit to the crypt within Dunmore Estate and Cllr Murtagh added one of her own regarding an amusing recent community police patrol, again within the estate,

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