

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 19th Dec. 2007

Councillors Present

W. Douglas
A. Amos

D. Gilmour
G. Kerr

J. Anslow

Also Present

I. Phillips
Councillor Martin

M. Penn
J. Maciocia

D. Stubbs
J. McTaggart

Apologies

R. Smith

J. Tibbles

B. Elliot

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2007 with two amendments, were approved by J. Anslow and seconded by D. Gilmour. The tree at the 30m.p.h. sign was not chopped down, only the branches obscuring the sign were, and the convenor donated £8 of the £10 donated to the Old Folks Bingo.

Convenor

The secretary read out a message from the convenor listing our achievements during the year e.g. the Clinic, the Christmas tree and lamppost Lights, and road improvements. He thanked Cllr Martin for his contribution and assistance offered to the Community Council he made reference to Bob, Karen and Kerry for all the work they do in the community, and for attending our meetings regularly. He also thanked all the Community Councillors for all their hard work during the year.

Matters Arising

Primary Care will offer the premises for between £75 and £120 thousand. Cllr Martin to report his progress

Falkirk Council will not purchase the flat previously used as the clinic unless it is for housing. We should investigate the possibility of raising grants to purchase the property; the secretary will speak to D. Paterson and Councillor Martin will arrange a meeting with I. Mullen, and the building controller. We will need to consult the neighbours on our plans. Falkirk Council has not as yet stated the cost of the property.

SEPA confirms sewage in burn. They have spoken to residents advising them to ensure tanks are cleaned regularly. No apportioning of blame hope to resolve by giving advice. Will maintain a watching brief.

The Falkirk Herald has contacted the Convenor regarding the sewage at Dunmore. The Community Council will write to SEPA asking for an update on their report

The secretary has spoken to the planning dept. regarding the Post Office changes from the original plans, he is awaiting a reply.

The net profit from the Bottle Bingo was approx. £436.00. The secretary will write a letter of thanks to Robert at the Bar 189 for all the help he has given us.

The secretary will write a letter of thanks for the donation to the Christmas Lights Fund from the Douglas Avenue Book Club.

Done

The meeting to discuss the Windfarm, with J. Anslow, W. Douglas, R. Smith and B. Elliot in attendance will be arranged in the New Year.

Plans received for new build.

Councillor Martin stated there have been problems with Mr. Campbell the owner of the fire damaged house in the High Street, the Council are insisting he submit new plans, Mr. Campbell does not think this is necessary. Councillor Martin will contact R. Main at Falkirk Council regarding the state of the building; the Herras Fencing is encroaching on the High Street. It should be remembered this is in the conservation area that is in the enhancement plan for next year.

Work has commenced on the footpath between Dunmore and the Parsonage, it is hoped some safety aspect will be introduced to make crossing the road safer. The workmen's cabin parked at the lay by at Dunmore has offensive graffiti written on it, Councillor Martin will report this.

The switching on of the Christmas Lights on the 3rd Dec. 2007 was very successful; a large number of villagers attended and enjoyed listening to the school choir, and the mulled wine and mince pies. It was agreed this should be an annual event, R. Smith has pledged £50 towards the costs. Blachere switched on the lamppost lights on 2nd Dec. 2007. The total cost of the lights was £6,000 Falkirk Council paid £300 and the Community Council has paid the remaining £5,700.

It was suggested we could increase the number of lights for next year, and we could get the school children to design a light for outside the school. It was agreed we should have either a Tombola at Airth Games or another Bottle Bingo to keep a separate contingency fund for the lights.

Police

Letter written to Superintendent Sampson. No date as yet for meeting.

No officers were present at the meeting. Inspector Samson has replied to our letter campaign, he listed a number of reasons why it is impossible to provide a Community Police Officer for krth, a copy of the letter is available on the web site. We will invite Inspector Samson to a public meeting in the New Year.

Suggest Sub meeting to discuss in detail the way forward.

It was agreed the bye law concerning drinking in public needs to be changed, at present the police have to see the person consuming alcohol, we propose they should be able to prosecute that the person intends to consume alcohol that they are holding. We should ask local stores to impose an age limit of 21 for persons purchasing alcohol. The secretary read out a letter written to Rose Mary Glackin, Acting Director Legal & Administration informing her of our views, we will circulate this letter to all Community Councils, MP,s and MSP.s.

Correspondence

Falkirk Council is giving an extra £200 towards costs for all Community Councils. Falkirk Council announced at a meeting attended by W. Douglas and R. Smith they hope to form an Assoc. of Community Councils, they also stated the SNP are considering increasing their commitment to Community Councils possibly involving them in more decisions and providing them with funding. The suggested level would be £30,000 per 1000 population, therefore Airth Parish Community Council would qualify for £60,000..

The secretary read out a letter he had written to Councillor Alexander concerning the article Councillor Martin had written in the Mercat Crier, and stating our meetings were open to all members of the public and any group who wishes to attend. We received a reply from Councillor Alexander stating that at no time did he complain to Council Officials with regard to Councillor Martin's article in the Mercat Crier. He welcomes our commitment "to ensure that all four Councillors are treated equally which was the purpose of my letter of 16th Nov. 2007 which was in itself a response that I had received from residents of Airth."

Forthsite magazine

Noted.

The convenor received brochures from REKK Community Youth Shelters, the cost was approx £7,000. The secretary will contact BLUETON in Denny, they specialise in street furniture, some shelters have Solar Panels.

Invite to Larbert/Stenhousemuir Community Health group, Tuesday 15th December

Notification of disabled parking 50 Elphinstone Crescent.

Postwatch Scotland invite to take part in a study monitoring our daily mail.

E-Mail from Anne-Michelle Ketteridge, Rural Affairs Executive, Stirling Council thanking us for our nomination to the LEADER Local Action Group, unfortunately our application arrived too late. The new programme will be open for applications from Feb/March 2008.

SEPA view

Noted

Notification of Youth Activities in Larbert Stenhousemuir Area, unfortunately the print is illegible

Invitation to Larbert & Stenhousemuir Area Forum Meeting on Tuesday 19th Feb. 2008 at 7.00p.m., in Larbert Village Primary School. The secretary of Airth Parish Community Council will give a presentation on a Community Plan.

Letter from Mr Raine. And reply to Cllr. Martins letter.

. Copy of letter from Councillor Martin to Rhona Giesler, Director of Development Services, Falkirk Council, asking for an update on the Old Mill Site at Airth and also asking for enforcement action to be taken against the Company. Cllr. Martin has had a reply from the Director she states there are no illegal buildings, we can ask for screening but this is not a condition in the original application of 1983

Renewal of original application granted. Confusion over ownership of land. Falkirk Council conducting investigation to see if there is a breach of planning law.

Letter re- dwelling house West of M'Dina, Dunmore Village Falkirk FK2 8LY, the applicant is Mr. James Mitchell. In the minutes of 18th April and 16th May a planning application was issued for a dwellinghouse and the siting of a caravan on land to the west of M'Dina by Mr. & Mrs. Cooper, in the plans examined at the Community Council meeting Mrs Amos pointed out they did not, as was shown, own the access to the property, Councillor Martin informed the Planning Dept., of this and a land search was being done. Councillor Martin will enquire as to the progress of this, as it is not possible to have 2 different planning applications for the same site.

Roads Issues

Mr McMasters has suggested an informal one way system until money is found to make it official

G. Kerr complained about the traffic at the school, it was suggested a one way system would alleviate the problem, the secretary will write to Falkirk Council, and Councillor Martin will also contact the roads dept. asking for enforcement action to be taken against the company. Councillor Martin has had a reply from the Director she states there are no illegal buildings, we can ask for screening but it was not a condition of their planning application.

Finance

To date there is £1200 in the Bank, the £400 from the Bottle Bingo is still to be deposited, also the extra £200 from Falkirk Council. To be debited for administration is £150.

Planning Issues

Extension to Airthrey Care nursing Home, Paul Drive Airth Grant Detailed Planning Permission

Erection of Dwellinghouse (Renewal of Planning Permission *F/2001/0291*) Land to the West of M'Dina, Dunmore Village Falkirk FK2 8LY, the applicant is Mr. James Mitchell.

It is hoped the Manor Kingdom planning application will be dealt with by the Regularity Committee.

Suggested date
26th January.

Whisky Tour

The date for the whisky tour is still to be arranged.

A.QC.B.

M. Penn asked when the play area at the clinic would be reinstated, Councillor Martin will speak to J. Banks of Falkirk Council.

D. Stubbs asked for an update on the litter bin for lamppost FQU 99, the secretary will write to Falkirk Co The wall which Don reported at a previous meeting has deteriorated; the secretary will endeavour to discover ownership.

The sign at the top of the road directing traffic to the Castle has been blown down; traffic is going in to the estate and reversing on residents drives. A new sign has been erected but unfortunately it is in the wrong position, if it could be placed at one of the lay bys this would be more suitable, the secretary will speak to Steven McLeod.

The secretary invited Mr. McLeod to Councillor Martin's reception tomorrow evening in the Community Centre unfortunately he is unable to come, in reply he also said he would be happy to help the villagers with any projects.

J. Anslow complained about the junction at Murrays Caravan, he states he has received complaints from residents of South Alloa who feel something should be done as it is a dangerous junction. Councillor Martin stated that when Murrays Caravans was given planning permission to extend, a condition was made to tighten up the junction and therefore slow down traffic, and since this has been done there have been no accidents.

A. Amos asked Councillor Martin if the land search had been completed on the strip of land in front of Moraig Cottage, Councillor Martin stated it is still being investigated.

The Bottle bank will be moved in the near future.

The Council Tip is partially opened it will open fully next year.

M. Penn asked for another Lollipop Man at the north end of the village as a child had been followed by an adult, this is not an issue for a Lollipop Man but a Police matter. Councillor Martin stated there are 12 vacancies for Lollipop Men; the position is hard to fill as it only entails 3 hours per day. The secretary pointed out that it was probable that the criteria for a lollipop man at this point could not be met.

There being no other competent business the chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on 16th Jan. 2008 at 7.00pm in Airth Primary School .