

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 21st May 2008.

Councillors Present

J. Tibbles
W. Douglas

B. Elliot
A. Amos

D. Gilmour

Also Present

I. Cameron
D. Stubbs
Lynne McIlroy from Alloa and Hillfoots Wee County News.

J. Maciocia
Councillor Martin

J. Nairn

Apologies

R. Smith

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd April were approved by B. Elliot and seconded by J. Tibbles.

Matters Arising

To date the secretary has had no reply from Scottish Water.

The Douglas Ave. Home Owners Assoc. are not happy with the letter from Falkirk Council regarding the signage and parking on the road up to the Castle. They will write to Falkirk Council with their complaints and send the Community Council a copy.

To date Constable Marshall has not been to speak to G. Paterson regarding the selling of alcohol at the Post Office.

The secretary has written to Falkirk Council regarding the dumping on the road to the Neuk.

The secretary has spoken to the planning dept .regarding the planning application for a Granny Flat and Double Garage at Moraig Cottage in Dunmore. They will contact the applicant Miss Blues regarding the neighbour notification stating a planning application for only a double garage. After consultation with the planning dept., the finish will now be in Stone and not rough casting. If in the future there were plans to make this a separate house a planning application would need to be made.

No Police Report

Correspondence

Letter from Larbert/Stenhousemuir –Community Health Group asking us to complete a questionnaire in relation to the draft Joint Health Improvement Plan, unfortunately they forgot to send it.

The secretary passed round a questionnaire from Falkirk Council Local Housing Strategy 2009-14 consultation, these were made available at the Area Forum Meeting.

Letter from Finlay Brown, Roads and Development Manager, regarding 20mph signs at the road to the Castle, he states there are no proposals to introduce 20m.p.h. zones in residential areas. He recommends road markings are extended into the area owned by Airth Castle.

The secretary distributed a report on the Area Forum meeting; items included Morgan Vinci, Health Clinic, and Affordable Housing.

Minutes of the Area Forum Meeting, the date of the next meeting is Thursday, 28th August 2008.

Notice of May 31st Deadline from Calor Village of the Year Noted

Letter from Margaret Mitchell LLB MSP asking us to lobby our local authority for the “Save Our Phone Boxes”, it was agreed we need more information before we proceed with any action.

Consultation on Draft Model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils and Draft Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, the sub committee will meet to respond to this document.

Scottish Commissioner Noted

The secretary distributed leaflets from Safer Scotland Scottish Government giving details of the key aspects of the new Licensing Act 2005.

Letter from Alasdair McKinlay of Community Engagement Scotland thanking us for taking part in the discussions held between October and November, the secretary attended the meeting in Edinburgh. He has enclosed a letter from Councillor Harry McGuigan COSLA Spokesperson for Community Well-being and Safety and Stewart Maxwell MSP Minister for Communities and Sport. As a result of views expressed an action plan has been formed

- Highlighting examples of community empowerment;
- Providing direct capacity building investments to community groups;
- Investing in an integrated programme to develop skills, learning and networking in relation to community empowerment and engagement;
- Developing support to help communities own assets;
- Investing in improved support for community capacity building;
- Working with Audit Scotland to agree how to access progress on empowerment.

E-Mail from Councillor Martin informing us of a new funding stream for rural communities only, £2.63m has been awarded for Forth Valley.

E-Mail from C. Raine asking if Composite Energy have contributed 100% to the resurfacing of the road to the Neuk, in his professional opinion the road overlay will only last as long as the last surface did –i.e. six months maximum if Composite Energy are allowed to use it at the same rate as they did between December and January.

Copy of E-Mail sent to C. Raine from Councillor Martin stating he will get an update from Council Roads Dept. on the resurfacing.

Letter from Robert Watson, Licensing Co-ordinator Falkirk Council, stating the Board is now obliged by statute to notify the Community Council of all applications made in respect of premises within its area. All applications in future will be advertised on the Boards website rather than in the press. Residents at the back of Airth Castle Hotel are not objecting to the licence but they want to be sure the Castle complies with noise levels; they have also spoken to Stephen McLeod on this matter.

In the Falkirk Council Housing and Social Services Committee Minutes it was noted a proposal from Councillor Meiklejohn that all developments of more than ten properties must have an element of affordable housing. An amendment was passed that the method of delivering affordable housing within private developments sites is by adhering to the proposed policies which have been consulted upon in the Finalised Draft Falkirk Council Local Plan

Home Energy Strategy 2008-2011 Consultative Draft Noted

Letter from Ian Tough, Community Council Liaison Officer informing us he is moving to a new job in East Ayrshire, the secretary will write to him expressing our thanks for all the help he has given to us in the past and wishing him well in his new position.

Finance

To date there is £1,550 in the account.

Planning Issues

Planning permission has been granted to Manor Kingdom restoration of Dunmore Park House to form 15 dwellings, conversion of stables to form 10 dwellings, erection of 45 dwellinghouses, associated landscaping works, amendments to A905 and site access road at Dunmore Park Falkirk FK2 8LP. Agreed that the Committee is Minded to Grant planning permission subject to the following conditions:

- A financial contribution of £112,750 towards educational improvements
- A financial contribution of £175,000 towards the provision of mains gas and drainage in Dunmore Village or towards other appropriate improvements in the Local Area
- The provision of any necessary off site road works
- The provision of footpaths linking the site to the surrounding area
- A restriction on the number of new build residential units to a maximum of 45

- The phasing of the development to ensure the satisfactory restoration of Dunmore Park House and Stables
- Landscape Maintenance

And thereafter, on conclusion of the Section 75 Agreement, to remit to the Director of Development Services to grant planning permission subject to appropriate conditions including those relating to roads, drainage, contamination, archaeological investigations, external materials, phasing of development, protection of bats and badgers, landscaping and boundary treatments.

Tankerton (Granfab) have been asked by the planning dept., to submit a planning application for the whole site and not individual units.

Councillor Martin stated a planning application had been submitted for the site next to M'Dina , this application included a garage, to date the Community Council have not been informed .

The secretary distributed from South Green Drive Community Group a survey for opinions on what should happen at the Play Park Area.

Alteration to Local Plan

The secretary distributed the Proposed Pre-Inquiry Modifications on Falkirk Council Local Plan. “In response to an objection from Councillor Martin, the scale of the development of this site has been adjusted to reflect the introduction of additional sites in Airth” The capacity of the Castle View site (H.AIR7) will be reduced from 140 to 115 houses. This site will have affordable housing in accordance with Policy SC4. “This site will be brought forward as a new allocation rather than a long term development opportunity.”

All monies for Education from Dunmore Park and the Escarpment Build will be ring fenced for Airth Primary and St Mungo's

The site at South Green Drive H.AIR6 is now designated as an Open Space this is in response to objections from Community Council, Councillor Martin and 88 local residents.

Motion to accept Representation No 167/320 (Mr. Sutherland) and allocate a housing opportunity at Letham.

It is proposed to allocate the land at Letham West/East H.LET2 site area 8 hectares, “Is in order to support regeneration and investment in the community it is appropriate to allocate an additional housing opportunity in Letham” “Opportunity for sensitive expansion of Letham Village. Careful design and landscape treatment will be required given the Conservation Area status of the existing village and its setting within the carse landscape. Planning brief will be required to establish capacity and design requirements.” There was a previous application to build on the opposite side of the road from the cottages, this was objected to as it would be outside the conservation area

The Community Council feel the people of Letham have not been consulted and we think they should be able to have a discussion on this, a meeting will be arranged with the villagers.

Additional Housing Proposal at Airth Castle South proposed by Councillor Martin, 2 hectares, capacity 50, developer Private. "This site forms a rounding off the southern boundary of the village." Councillor Martin stated he proposed this additional housing in response to 50 letters he allegedly received from villagers; he also said he had a petition objecting to the proposed build at the escarpment. A planning application was submitted for this site approx 18 months ago, the Community Council strongly objected and the application was refused by the planning dept.

It was agreed we would object to the Castle Development, there were a number of ways we can do this.

- 1 We can lobby every member of the Council and seek a suspension of standing orders to overturn the decision to use the field below the Castle for housing.
- 2 We can appeal at the Public Enquiry which is expected to be held in January 2009
- 3 We can also have a public meeting in the village to discuss this issue and also get a petition of villagers who object to this development and to the extension of the boundary of the village being moved to include this housing development.

Falkirk Council drafted a new Local Plan then finalised it with no consultation with the public, the only way for anybody to object is to appeal at a Public Enquiry, which will then be decided by the Reporter to the Scottish Government

The sub committee will meet to discuss this matter in detail.

There was a discussion on the type of housing there would be by Scotia Homes at the escarpment, but we won't know until the actual planning application is submitted

Roads Issues

Councillor Martin stated the Council will be taking readings between the Castle gates and the Community Centre, and the North end of the village to see if these areas are suitable for the flashing 30m.p.h. signs.

Councillor Martin stated that due to new legislation governing C.P.O.'s the strip of land required for the footpath from Bowtrees to Lightbody's Corner will be delayed.

Garden Competition

This will be held on Friday 25th July, 2008, the prizes will be 1st prize £30, 2nd prize £15 and 3rd prize £5, the winner will be given tickets to the Airth Games where they will be presented with their prize. It s proposed we asked Steven McLeod of Airth Castle Hotel to be the judge, if he is unavailable we will ask the manager from Klondyke Garden Centre.

Airth Clinic

Councillor Martin will contact Allan Rogers and David Paterson to try and resolve the confusion over Insurance. The Community Council's contribution of £75.000 has still not been passed to the Health Board. The play area is still to be installed.

A.O.C.B.

I. Cameron asked about the waiting time patients had to see the Doctor at the surgery, Mrs. Cameron asked this question at the Area Forum and David Paterson of the Health Board said people should make a complaint to the Doctors Surgery. There have been no complaints from villagers to the Community Council.

I. Cameron also complained about the litter at the Keystore, It was noted that this could be designated a litter zone. Once the application for this has cleared Committee it could be cleaned up and the cost charged to the shop owners.

The secretary stated someone intended to use the land as a Car Wash, it was suggested the person would probably require planning permission to operate a car wash.

J. Tibbles asked if there were any plans to allocate land for allotments, Councillor Martin said they were considering Bantaskine Gardens. In the past there was land allocated for allotments in Airth but this has now been allocated for the new cemetery.

A. Amos had a complaint that flower beds were being grassed over, Councillor Martin stated he had also had a complaint from a resident, he contacted the council and there are no plans to change any of the flower beds.

Lynne McIlroy from the Alloa and Hillfoots Wee County, and the Allan Water News introduced herself and stated she would be covering news items relating to the Parish.

J. Maciocia complained of W. Sutherland parking haulage trailers in front of his big sheds, Councillor Martin will determine whether W. Sutherland has a licence for this.

J. Maciocia also complained about vans parked in the lay by at Burgoyne's for 5 weeks, the police have been notified.

Councillor Martin will contact the High Street Group regarding the proposals for the Mercat Cross Enhancement, funding is now available.

There being no other competent business the chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be on 18th June 2008 in Airth Primary School at 7.00p.m.