

AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 21st Nov. 2007.

Councillors Present

W. Douglas
J. Tibbles
R. Smith
D. Gilmour

J. Anslow
B. Elliot
A. Amos

Also Present

J. Maciocia
C. Raine
W. Forsyth
D. Stubbs
Constable Marshall
Chief Insp. R. Beaton
J. Simmons & C. Stewart of Scott Wilson

R. Johnson
I. Phillips
I. Cameron
M. Penn
Constable McLaren
Councillor Martin

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th Oct. 2007 were approved by B. Elliot and seconded by J. Anslow. The chair informed the meeting that it was being recorded.

At the meeting J. Anslow stated G. Paterson had already built his extension, this is not the case; he is waiting on planning permission.

Matters Arising

Letters of thanks for the work they have done on the Community Council were written to I. Cameron and G. Paterson.

A letter was written to the P.T.A. asking for a nomination for the Community Council.

I. Penman will possibly be forwarding a nomination for the Community Council from Letham.

It is anticipated we will have a 50% return on our form letters to the police.

October minutes will be the first to be available on our web site at Falkirk Online.

The secretary has spoken to Fiona Campbell of Falkirk Council regarding the old clinic, she will try to assist us in our efforts to turn this into a One Stop Shop, Library and a meeting place for the Community Council.

W. Douglas attended the meeting in Edinburgh for “New Powers for Community Councils”; he stated there did not seem to be any new information.

Falkirk Council will not buy the Clinic unless for housing. Suggest Comm Council purchase it themselves

£10 was donated to the Senior Citizens for their Bottle Bingo.

The secretary wrote a thank you letter to Morgan Vinci for their donation of £250 to the Christmas Lights Fund.

The tree blocking the 30m.p.h. at the entrance to the village has been chopped down by Scottish Power.

Councillor Martin and A. Amos laid wreaths at the cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

Mrs Crossan agrees timing and for Comm Council to organise.

The F. P. night celebrating the centenary of Airth School which the Community Council is organising will be held at the end of March 2008, this will be a cheese and wine night.

We received a complaint regarding our form letter to Gordon Samson; the chair personally apologised, and also gave the complainant a written apology. The secretary explained that the Community Council were not breaking the rules if the names were taken off the computer when the project was completed, this has been done.

Police

Since the last meeting there has been 25 calls this includes; 5 damage to cars, 5 throwing eggs at cars, 1 vandalism, 1 break in to a vehicle, 1 break in to a shed, and 9 road traffic offences.

Nobody attended the surgery held on 8th Nov this was possibly because it was not well advertised, the next surgery will be held on 6th Dec, 2007.

D. Gilmour reported large vehicles could not use the High Street since traffic wardens warned residents not to park on the pavement.

Mrs Penn has had a number of queries from young people about the lack of facilities Councillor Martin will contact Gail Johnson or Mike Watson (Community Youth Workers) the Community Council will attend any meeting called to address this matter. At present the youths are congregating at the ball park. J. Maciocia stated if the young people are continually asking M. Penn what is happening in the village for them, she should tell them to either contact Councillor Martin or come to the next Community Council meeting. Councillor Martin has written to Mike Watson, Community Services, asking for urgent action from Community Services to help resolve the problem of youth disorder in the Parish. Leanne Dowie Community Warden has also agreed to monitor the area and engage with the young people.

Two sofas were set alight at the bottom of the park; the secretary reported this to the fire brigade.

There was a complaint of speeding traffic through Airth; Insp. Beaton stated since 1st April 2007, in the Parish there has been 273 traffic offences the majority of those have been speeding and most have been on the Kincardine bridge road (A876).

Inspector Beaton disputed the facts in our form letter to Gordon Samson seeking a return of a full time Community police Officer. He stated he had received no reports of incidents regarding the broken windows at the clinic, vandalism at the Community Centre, and threats and abuse. He quoted that since 1985 there has been an increase of 61% of police officers, this is an increase from 514 to 830, along with this there has also been an increase in specialised police depts. e.g. Fraud, E-Mail Crime Unit. Support staff has increased by 157%, and crime detection has gone up from 37% in 1985 to 60% in 2006.

Superintendent Samson has replied to our letter. This will be discussed under Police agenda item

In Airth since 1st April 2007 there have been 347 crimes, of those 273 have been road traffic offences, the other 74 mean on average there is 1 crime committed every 19 days. In the future civilians will be doing non police work freeing up more police officers to put on the streets. A new "Compulsory Test Purchasing" will allow officers to use underage youths to try and purchase cigarettes and alcohol. Inspector Beaton stated when he goes to Community meetings most people are not complaining of murders and stabbings, most people are complaining of dog fouling, youth disorder, drugs, parking, and drinking in public.

The secretary stated that the purpose of the campaign was to ensure that Airth continued to be free of major incidents; the emphasis should be on crime prevention and pro-active policing. He felt the Community Council was justified in circulating form letters and given the percentage return of letters the majority of residents in Airth parish agreed. It was hoped that a public meeting could be held with Superintendent Samson.

Enhancement Plan

Jon Simmons and Catriona Stewart gave an update on the progress of the enhancement plan at the High Street. Funding has proved to be difficult, e.g. Historic Scotland will only fund buildings; Falkirk Council has agreed to partially fund the High Street enhancement, we will also be applying for grants. In the near future Falkirk Council will be doing a topographic and services study of the area. Once the detailed surveys are completed Scott Wilson will again consult residents and shop owners.

The roads dept. will also be consulted about materials being used. Hopefully the contract will go out to tender in April, and once this section of the enhancement plan is complete work will start on the next phase. A public meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

Cllr Alexander has replied to our letter. He denies any involvement in the withdrawal of Cllr Martin's article.

Correspondence

Letter from Councillor Alexander, SNP Group Leader regarding the article in the Mercat Crier "from your Councillor" he states that with the multi wards we now have four Councillors,

Following discussions with officers Cllr Martin's article to the Winter Crier has been withdrawn (under protest). The secretary will write to Councillor Alexander with an invite for all Councillors to attend our meetings and ask them if they want to submit an article for the Mercat Crier.

Invite from Falkirk Community Health Partnership to attend a meeting on 27th Nov. 2007.

E-Mail from I. Philips regarding the behaviour of M. Penn towards his nephew whilst he was waiting to see Councillor Martin.

Construction of Dunmore path under way

Letter from Councillor Martin regarding the new footpath between Dunmore and the Parsonage which is approx 700metres long, this is on the opposite side of the road to the existing path. The investment is close to £75,000; the work will commence in the next four weeks and should take up to 10 weeks to complete.

The Bowtrees to Light body's corner path is now the subject of a C.P.O. and will be constructed as soon as this is resolved.

Findlay Brown has written to Councillor Martin regarding his enquiry into an increase in heavy duty vehicles and weight restrictions in the village. The increase in heavy goods vehicles may be attributed to construction works at the new Upper Forth Crossing and the new Forth Valley Acute Hospital.

There are no plans to introduce weight restrictions on the A905 through Airth, this is an A class road with no suitable alternative routes available. Recent speed counts taken 200metres north of the entrance to Airth Castle indicate an average speed of 30.3mph. He suggests we should contact individual hauliers and ask them to use an alternative route where possible, he would be willing to provide technical input if necessary.

Secretary will report. Council to give all Comm Councils an additional £200-00

Invite to a meeting of Community Councils from I. Tough at the Municipal Buildings on 6th December 2007.

Scottish Commissioner Noted

Application for Lottery Funding Meeting, 29th Nov. 2007, at Camelon Education Centre.

Secretary to make a presentation on Community planning to the Feb. meeting

Larbert & Stenhousemuir Area Forum invitation to meeting on 15th Nov. 2007-12-13

Copy of E-Mail from Councillor Martin to Brian McMillan regarding the waste and broken glass at North Greens, in reply Brian states that the litter problem is caused by the football teams using the park. A condition of letting the park is to clear it up afterwards; Community Services are in discussions to identify how they can ensure that teams comply with this condition.

The secretary distributed copies of a Draft of Councils Policy on Licensing Laws

Invitation from Community Health Group to a meeting on 6th Nov. 2007 in the Tryst Community Centre.

Morgan Vinci Newsletter Noted

Copy of E-Mail from Pete Reid to Councillor Martin regarding the Christmas Lights Public Liability Insurance, Blachere will cover the PLI for the lampposts lights and the Council will cover the Christmas tree

E-Mail from Paul Nash cuyahogen@hotmail.co.uk agreeing to become a co-opted member of the Community Council representing the PTA.

Falkirk Herald have contacted the Convener seeking details.

E-Mail from R. Smith regarding raw sewage behind the houses in the ditch at Dunmore, SEPA has been contacted and he is waiting for their report.

Xmas lights paid
£5,700-00

Finance

At the 28th Oct 2007 the bank balance was £6990.88

Planning Application

Installation of New Shopfront (Retrospective) Airth Village Store, 47 Main Street Airth.

Planning Permission.

Extension to Dwellinghouse John Fraser, 54 Kennedy Way
Airth. Grant Detailed

Extension to Dwellinghouse Mr. & Mrs. Holloway, 2 Banks

View Airth

Spoken to planners awaiting a reply.

The secretary will contact the planning dept. regarding the Post Office there doesn't appear to be wheelchair access, or a fire exit. The frontage of the shop appears to be changed from the original plans.

The original plans for the Old Mill have been withdrawn, the secretary has contacted Falkirk Council and asked for the Enforcement Officer to attend, as it was originally agreed there would be screening, there are now 26 units operating. Councillor Martin will also contact the Director.

Manor Kingdom has been delayed for another month. There is a possibility that the two main objectors, Landscape Trust and Natural Trust, could ask the Scottish Executive to call the development in. The council are ensuring all financial details are correct.

Murdo Smith has conducted a survey of residents to gain views in the possibility of building approx 26 homes opposite Letham Cottages. To date no planning application has been submitted, when an application is submitted the Community Council will call a meeting with the residents of Letham.

Licensing laws

The secretary distributed copies of a draft of the new licensing laws, everyone should read the draft and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights will be switched on the 3rd December 2007 at 6.00p.m. by one of the school children, the choir will sing 6 carols, mince pies, mulled wine, juice and crisps, will be served by the Committee. The lights on the lampposts will be switched on 2nd December 2007.

A total of £700 + was achieved. With a total outlay of approx 300. giving a profit on the night of approx. £400-00

Bottle Bingo

The bottle bingo will be held on the 29th Nov. at 7.30p.m. In the Bar 189. We have received many donations; one of the donations was a table for 10 at Glenberrie House on 2nd December 2007, as this leaves little time for anyone to organise, it was agreed that the seat should be offered for sale.

Windfarm

There have been political changes and finding funding is now a problem. A meeting will be arranged before Christmas with J. Anslow, W. Douglas, B. Elliot and R. Smith to discuss the way forward.

Powfoulis Hotel

The annual dinner of the Community Council will be held in Powfoulis Hotel on Sat. 1st Dec. 2007 at 7.00p.m. transport has been arranged.

A.O.C.B.

D. Stubbs enquired if any screening or landscaping was included in the plans for the new road and bridge, tree & scrub screening had been included in the original plan

I. Phillips has asked for more articles for the Mercat Crier, in the current issue there are no items from any of the other villages in the parish.

D. Gilmour asked what is being done to clean up the mess left from the new house in the High Street that went on fire, Councillor Martin stated he had already had a complaint and he was speaking to the Council depts. involved.

A fairy walk at the Pineapple will take place on Sunday 25th Nov at 11.00a.m.

R. Smith requested help to get the two trees from Dunmore Estate on Sunday the 25th Nov. 2007.

Meeting

There being no other competent business the chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 19th Dec. 2007 at 7.00p.m.

Meeting will now be held in the New Year

Discussions are ongoing between planners and owner of the site. Some complications have arisen.