

## **AIRTH PARISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008.**

#### **Councillors Present**

D. Gilmour  
W. Douglas

B. Elliot  
A. Amos

R. Smith

#### **Also Present**

M. Penn  
N. Burnett  
S. Robertson  
D. Stubbs  
Constable Marshall

A. Ramsay  
J. Burnett  
J. Maciocia  
L. McIlroy Eastside News  
Constable McLaren

M. Davidson  
A. Davidson  
I. Cameron

R. Smith apologized for the late change of venue to the Clinic; a strike by council workers was the reason for this. Councillor Martin will not be attending the meeting as he will not cross a picket line.

He said it was nice to be back after his illness and thanked everybody for visits phone calls and gifts.

He also said it was good to see our Community Police Officers back after their absence due to the attacks they sustained at the incident in July.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were approved by W. Douglas and seconded by B. Elliot.

#### **Matters Arising**

The secretary endeavored to arrange a meeting with Letham Tenants Assoc. to discuss the development at Letham, but due to the lack of interest no discussion took place so the designated land which is the field at the back of Letham Terraces and Letham Cottages will now go forward for development.

W. Douglas and A. Amos attended a meeting about the Commonwealth Games and how communities could be involved.

The secretary has had no reply to his letter to the Bank of Ireland regarding an ATM machine for the village.

The Twinning event which the Community Council was involved in during the summer was very successful.

It was decided not to have a stall at Airth Games due to lack of time and volunteers.

It was agreed that we won't go to the full public enquiry of the Local Plan, instead we will go to a hearing with the reporter, and present our case to him, as will Falkirk

Council. At present we do not know what approach Airth Castle is taking in regard to the Plan.

The winners of the Garden Competition were announced in the Mercat Crier.

### **Correspondence**

The secretary passed round a list of all the correspondence received during the summer break, this was dealt with by the executive committee. Correspondence received recently is as follows.

The planning application from Composite Energy is for a Test Bore in the Larbert District.

The secretary passed round minutes of the meeting with Peter Rae, Regeneration Manager, Linkwide Limited, Falkirk, this was concerning the development of Wind Turbines at Letham Moss.

E-Mail from Brian Cochrane Area Roads Engineer, Falkirk Council stating the footpath between the Parsonage and Dunmore has been treated with weed killer. "The weed is Mare's Tail which is a prolific and almost invincible weed, it will be treated again in the Spring if it reappears, and only when we are confident it is dead and not dormant will we attempt a footway repair, at the earliest Summer 2009."

There was also a complaint that the farmer's tractor is continually driving over the footpath, we will contact the farmer regarding this.

Copy of E-Mail from C. Raine to Director Falkirk Council asking for the latest position with regard to Granfab. The secretary sent an E-mail to Tom Deignan stating we seek assurances that with any future application for this site any conditions placed on Tanketon are scrupulously enforced.

Met with P Rae at Conference, possibility of Turbines on Moss not going ahead

The secretary showed a copy of a letter and map from Airth Primary School to all Parents, Falkirk Council's Network Management Unit asked them to recommend an informal directional traffic system because of concerns raised by local residents over the traffic congestion and disruption along Elphinstone Crescent at school peak times. M. Penn stated she and some other parents had a meeting with Falkirk Council regarding the parking of cars at the school, they had also spoken to Councillor Martin regarding this matter.

Agenda Item.

The Community Council will speak to the Roads Dept. asking them to do a survey of the crossing and to recommend if the island should be removed. We will ask Findlay Brown and Russel Steedman to our next Community Council meeting

The secretary will also contact the farmer as the tractor and trailer have been using the road when the school closes at 3.00p.m.

The Community Council will contact the Fire Brigade and ask if it is possible to erect a collapsible barrier outside the school gate as the children continually run straight out on to the street. It was also suggested by a parent we should contact Falkirk Council and ask if it is possible to erect a barrier at the bottom of Baker's Close.

The secretary will contact Forth Valley Health Board asking permission for use of the parking facilities for parents use, at school drop of and pick up times.

Received FALKIRK COUNCIL(AIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL,ELPHINSTONE CRESCENT AND MILLER PLACE, AIRTH) (NO STOPPING) ORDER 2008. Sections of the road over which a "School Keep Clear" restriction will apply from 8.30a.m. to 4.00p.m.- Monday to Friday. An advertisement will appear in the local newspaper, and if the Community Council has any observations they should be sent by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The secretary will write to Falkirk Council asking for clarification of the times and a map showing the restricted areas.

E-Mail from Philip Watt, Local Plan Inquiry Programme Officer asking us to confirm if we wish an informal hearing or a formal inquiry session (which includes cross examination) at the public enquiry.

E-mail from Phillip Watt confirming we are now only maintaining an objection to the proposed housing site at Airth Castle South (Modification 15.3) and by means of a hearing at the Local Plan Inquiry.

Connect Scottish Health Council Noted

Community News Forth Valley NHS, it states parking at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary and Stirling Royal Infirmary is to stay free of charge.

The NHS Board has decided to apply for Royal status for the new acute hospital at Larbert. The new hospital which will have 860 beds will be completed in stages with the first patients seen in the spring 2010. The final phase will be complete in summer 2011.

An invite from Falkirk Community Health Partnership meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Copy of letter sent by Councillor Martin to Shona Robinson MSP, Health Minister, Scottish Parliament stating she had photo call and article regarding the sale of alcohol to over 21's in the Falkirk Herald and the 4 Councilors from this ward were not invited to take part although they have been involved in this initiative.

### **Police**

The police reported 21 Crime files raised they included 5 Vandalisms, 2 Possession of controlled drugs, 3 Breach of the peace, 1 Vehicle pursuit/Attempt Murder(Police Constable), 4 Theft of sat navs, 2 Theft of money and shoplifting, and 5 Road traffic

offences. On Friday and Saturday they are implementing the no alcohol sales to anyone under 21; to enforce this they mark the bottom of the bottles, this scheme has been very successful in Stenhousemuir, with a 40% reduction in anti social behavior. The police attended the illegal cars parked at Burgoyne's lay by, and 3 tickets were issued.

### **Finance**

We received £50 from the Airth Welfare Hall Committee for administration. We have approx £1,400 in the bank.

### **Planning**

Outline planning permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse at Castlebank, Mr. & Mrs. G. Beattie, Castlebank Falkirk.

The secretary will call in this application.

The barn at Letham does not require planning permission.

### **Roads Issues**

R. Smith stated the footpath between Bowtrees and Lightbody's Corner has been held up by the landowner and a CPO is being applied, this item was raised at the Access Forum Meeting.

The new bridge will be opened by Alec Salmon on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008, and a charity walk for Strathcarron Hospice will be crossing it on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

### **Christmas Lights**

All the children in the school have created drawings for a light on the lamppost outside the school, from this, one from each class was picked and a prize of a £15 book token will be awarded, the winner whose drawing will be chosen from the final 7 will receive a £10 book token and will also switch on the Christmas tree lights. A minute of the meeting with Airth Primary School was distributed. A provisional date for switching on the Christmas tree is 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2008. To raise money to pay for Blachere to connect the lights we will be having a Bottle Bingo provisionally booked for either 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. or 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. and one other event possibly a Car Boot Sale, it was suggested a Bric a Brac event in the Community Centre.

We have £460 raised from the Former Pupils Evening towards the school light. R. Smith has donated £50 towards the mulled wine, juice, and Christmas cake on the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. We will ask Lynne at Eastside News to advertise any event we will be having.

### **South Green Drive Play Area**

The play area at South Green Drive is being managed by the South Green Drive Residents and Tenants Assoc., they had a meeting with A. Berg and J. Banks and discovered that the £2,000 they had assumed was set aside for design of the play area and garden was not available, since this meeting this money is now available. Of the £15,000 which had been set aside for equipment £9,000 has been used on the Ballpark. J. Banks stated he would make £4,000 available from this year's budget and £4,000 from next years, this is for play equipment. The money for the garden will come from A. Berg and BTCV Scotland. Planting will not begin until the Spring.

### **Clinic Play Area**

Letter from Craig Littlewood, Enforcement Officer, Falkirk Council, advising us that the old play equipment and also the proposed new location are both considered unsuitable today. "The Council's Technical Officer, Mike Joyce, at the Parks and Recreation Division of our Community Services is liaising with the applicant to design, install and maintain appropriate equipment in a more child safe location. However such an amendment to the existing consent requires the prior approval of this Service"

Copy of letter from David Paterson Property & Services Manager NHS Forth Valley, confirming the Health Board is committed to providing appropriate equipment. He states he delayed installing the play equipment owing to the level of vandalism at the Health Clinic. After all this delay the Community Council will be asking for better play equipment than was promised originally.

### **Elphinstone Cafe**

D. Gilmour has made a room at the Elphinstone Inn available to the young people of the village for a café. We now have 10 volunteers to do the work required at the café; they will be supervised by an adult. W. Douglas and A. Amos will go to B&Q and Homebase to ask for a donation of equipment, we will also be applying for a grant of approx £3,500 to the Leader Group. The café will have adult supervision but will be run by the teenagers. Any volunteer supervisors from the village will be required to have a police check done.

### **Dunmore Sewage**

Approx 3 weeks ago the farmer spread treated human waste on the fields at Dunmore, this waste had been stock piled in the field for a month. The Community Council contacted SEPA and Environmental Health and they were both powerless. The stench lasted for 7 days polluting the houses and gardens in Dunmore. The Community Council are going to lobby the Scottish Government for a change in the Legislation. The Community Council will contact the farmer, asking if he would apply a good neighbour policy next year.

### **Christmas Dinner**

A booking has been made for the Christmas Dinner on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008; a £10 deposit should be paid at the next meeting from all the people who are going.

### **Post Office**

There have been several complaints regarding safety at the Post Office. The passageways are continually blocked, and are not wide enough for wheelchair access. In the past deliveries were made to the back door, now the cages and pallets block the pavement causing pedestrians to have to go on the road. There is also a lack of privacy at the Post Office, and the door between the shop and Post Office is not locked. The Community Council will contact the Planning Dept. and the Health and Safety

Planning,  
Environmental  
Health and Post  
office counters  
have all been  
notified of  
problems with  
Post Office

**A.O.C.B.**

Mrs. Penn asked if we could get the flashing speed lights, the Cllr. Martin has already arranged for one to be installed at the North end of the village, and is lobbying for one at the South end.

**Meeting** There being no other competent business the chair thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held in Airth Primary School 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 2008 at 7.00p.m.