

**Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council Minutes**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7pm**  
**Avonbridge Community Hall Avonbridge**

Meeting chaired by Jo Hirst

**1. Present**

Jo Hirst, Doreen Goldie, Dave Cameron, Iain McGillivray, P.C. Derek Wallace and 9 local residents.

**2. Apologies**

Ann Wallace. Cllr Murray, Cllr McLuckie. Harry Broadley

**3. Community Safety Team Report**

Community Safety Team unable to attend.

- Fly-tipping was noted on corner of Candy-end road and also (later in proceedings) at Boxtton East. Action JH to inform CST; please report any other fly tipping activity / number-plates to PC Wallace.

**4. Local Police Update**

Upper Braes January Report – P.C. Derek Wallace.

There has been one minor incident relating to Anti-Social behaviour which relates to male youths shining laser pens (torches) at windows. Two male youths have been traced and warned accordingly. Specifically for both villages of Avonbridge and Standburn there have been no crimes of serious violence such as Attempted Murder, Serious Assault or Robbery.

Specifically for Avonbridge there have been two minor assaults reported to Police, in relation to Standburn, no assaults have been reported to police.

Specifically for the Avonbridge and Standburn, there have been no Drug Search Warrants enforced.

Specifically for Avonbridge and Standburn there have been no speeding offences detected, no mobile phone offences detected and no seatbelt offences detected. No persons have been charged with drink/drug drive offences.

One person was however charged with a minor vehicle defect

Specifically for Avonbridge and Standburn there have been no housebreaking offences to residential houses.

There is no identified pattern or repeat location. There has been no Theft of Motor Vehicles. There is no identified pattern or repeat location.

There are no other local policing issues or local events to report on.

- General point raised was that the report seems overly 'wordy' and is not fully current; e.g. previous report covered Oct to mid-Nov-2015.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were approved being proposed by Iain McGillivray and seconded by Dave Cameron.

**6. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- Avonbridge Post Office moves this week from its current location in the corner shop to the Village Store on the Main Street; opening hours are thought to be the same as the shop so longer than previously.
- ASCC Newsletter distribution: generally well received but still some left to distribute. Suggestion that next time we have a written list of locations or a marked-up map to help share out distribution and avoid duplication.
- ASCC Meeting dates and locations. Due to difficulties opening Drumbowie School on Thursdays, a new list will be confirmed up to Jun-2016 and distributed. It was noted that Avonbridge Hall is used

regularly by Youth Club on Thursday evenings but they seem able to release the back hall if they can be given reasonable notice... DC will communicate.

## **7. Chair's Report**

### **Correspondence**

- Invitation from Falkirk Provost for representatives to attend the National Holocaust memorial event. RSVP by 12-Jan. Action: apologies.
- Scottish Government, 23-Dec-2015. Notification of SEPA response to petition regarding sewage sludge.
- 2 Posters for notice boards: call for feedback for a national review of neo-natal services; NHS screening service availability. Request that these be reduced in size if possible to reduce clutter in the cases.
- Newsletter from the "Make it Happen" forum: AGM date and location; information for over-50s in the Falkirk area.

## **8. Treasurers Report**

- Current Bank Balance = £ 281.44; Two outstanding cheques for expenses (£16) and hall-hire (£60, 8-Oct-2015)
- DG preparing this year's funding application.

## **9. Burnhead Wind Farm Community Fund & Foundation Scotland Update**

- Meeting with EDF / Foundation Scotland on 13-Jan-2016 at Limerigg Hall was well attended with representatives from all three benefiting areas.
  - Strong points made that contact with the community had been poorly managed and there had been considerable upset caused by construction traffic with damage to roads and verges.
  - The original proposal for the Community Fund was £2,000 per year for each megawatt of generation capacity – there are 13 turbines, each rated at 2 megawatts – so this gives a total of £52,000 per year, index-linked. The fund is to be split equally between three community council areas: Blackridge, Limerigg / Slamannan and Avonbridge / Standburn so our area will have access to £17,333 per year. The first year's money should be available as soon as the wind farm is fully commissioned and operational; the target for this is end-Jan-2016.
  - A subsequent proposal from EDF allows the per-megawatt rate to increase after 5 years but this is subject to some conditions that EDF have been asked to clarify at the next meeting.
  - The meeting provided information on how Community Councils and their office bearers can be insulated from the responsibility of handling this money and allocating it to applicants.
  - Frank McChord of FK Council Community Learning and Development offered help with funding applications and opportunities for fund-matching on larger projects. Rachel Searle-Mbulu of Foundation Scotland offered help with applications for (substantial!) funds available for developing a community plan.
  - Next meeting with EDF / FS proposed for 4-Feb-2016 at Avonbridge Hall. Action JH book and confirm. Note to notify the Youth Club but unlikely that DC can make this JH will attend.
  - Doreen Goldie asked EDF how much money was to be paid to Falkirk Council as a Bond to cover restoration of the site should they go bust. It was also emphasised wind turbine monies shouldn't be used in place of council obligations
- This led to some lively discussion of potential projects including: the village hall as an 'umbrella' for multiple smaller activities, transport for school swimming lessons and other trips, phased

improvements to the playing fields, white-meter tariffs, thermal camera surveys (and digressions to the effect of wind turbines on residents' garage doors... )!

## **12. A.O.C.B.**

- Helen Konkol: The playing field opposite her house contains a field drain that is not marked on the development plan. Action JH to contact planning about this and general concerns about flooding in the village.
- It was noted that Scottish Water proposed improvements to the pipe that feeds the sewage plant are now included in the 5-year capital budget plan.
- Doreen Goldie: Email from a Mr Hendry, associated with the Preston Grange mining museum, requesting any local knowledge of war memorials mentioning miners or mining disasters. Suggestions included Muiravonside (churchyard?), Geoff Bailey and/or Falkirk Historical Society, memorial at Redding Cross to men lost in the Redding Pit Disaster.
- Request noted to contact SEPA regarding 'odours' from the EWOS plant at Westfield.
- Noted an application for development of "land at the west end of Darnrigg Moss" i.e. Jawcraig Brickworks. Action DG to email and enquire.
- Concerns were raised about the changed use of land on Blackston Road across the iron bridge from Strath Mill. Site is becoming a scrap yard and the surrounding residents take exception to this. The trees on the riverbank have been cut and road margins disturbed outwith the boundary, on what may constitute part of the Avon valley heritage trail. Action: ASCC to contact Falkirk Planning Dept/ Muiravonside Ranger service.
- Ed Chappell offered to look at constructing an ASCC website with email.

## **Next Meeting Date**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Avonbridge Community Hall at 7pm.**

- JH not available for this meeting nor is DC (it's a school holiday), possibly James Anthony could chair? JH to make the request.