

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Airth Primary School on Wednesday 17th January 2018

Members Present : **Jon Anslow (Convenor)**
 Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)
 Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)

Also Present : **James Toal; Stephen Sloper (new Comm Councillors)**
 Murat Dilek; George Russell; and Margaret Penn
 (local residents);
 Jacqueline Hogg, Co-opted Member(Airth Parish Church)
 Cllr. Laura Murtagh;
 Cllr. Joan Coombes;
 Jane Rae (Minute Taker);
 Police Constable Christopher Morrison (for part)

1. **Welcome to new Community Councillors** : After everyone introduced themselves, the meeting welcome all new attendees. Where relevant, a copy of the Council's Code of Conduct was handed out for perusal and signing.

2. **Apologies** : **None received**

3. **Police Report**

PC Christopher Morrison presented his report.

The period covered was from 15th November 2017 to 17th January 2018 and identified 14 reported crimes / offences in the Airth, Letham, Dunmore & South Alloa area. These included 6 road traffic matters, the remainder were vandalism, sexual offences, breach of the peace, assault and theft. There were 118 calls to Police from Airth in this period, the majority of which related to road traffic matters, and also to youth disorder, neighbour disputes, lost dogs, youths using drugs and fires. In December PC Morrison held a street surgery in Airth to allow members of the public to meet their Community Police Officer and highlight any concerns or complaints. This surgery will be repeated on Tuesday 13th February from 6 - 7.30pm.

Any intelligence relating to drug misuse in the area should be reported to Police.

Robert Smith mentioned the street lighting on Cemetery Brae which instead of going all the way up now stops at the top of The Path. The Council appear to have stopped repairing them. Robert suggests that the lights should be reinstated both for safety and to discourage possible bad behaviour under cover of darkness. PC Morrison supported this.

Jon Anslow asked PC Morrison if he had any information on proposal to close police offices in the district. PC Morrison had no info but undertook to find out. Robert Smith suggested that the offices destined for closure would not have a direct effect on Airth & District. PC Morrison informed the meeting that as far as Camelon office is concerned this is only used as a base during the day and the officers who man it are actually based in Falkirk HQ. Councillor Coombes said she met Sgt Rennie recently and the main reason for closures is finance but also the way internet, mobiles etc. are utilised means that the offices have less footfall. Jon Anslow felt the closures were a backward step - once they were closed they would be lost to the community.

Robert Smith had written to Greg Pender of FC about alerts / signs which would highlight the dangers of deer colliding with vehicles but had received a negative response. Robert had recorded 11 incidents as opposed to Falkirk Council's total of 4. This seems related to lack of signage. PC Morrison undertook to look out for call cards recording these incidents. Robert said that the peak times for the deer was between April and May.

Margaret Penn asked about cars /buses mounting the pavement when coming to school. PC Morrison will look out for this.

PC Morrison was thanked for his report and information provided. He left the meeting.

4. Previous Minutes :

The previous minute of 15/11/17 was accepted as correct and approved by Aileen Amos, seconded by Robert Smith.

5. Election of Members to Community Council

- **Convenor** : **Jon Anslow**, proposed by Aileen Amos, seconded by Robert Smith
- **Vice Convenor** : **James Toal**, proposed by Robert Smith, seconded by Aileen Amos
- **Secretary/Treasurer** : Aileen Amos, proposed by Jon Anslow, seconded by James Toal
- **Asst. Secretarty** : Robert Smith, proposed by Jon Anslow, seconded by James Toal

- **Nominated Members** : CC is entitled to 3. Jacqueline Hogg was in attendance tonight as a co-opted member from Airth Parish Church. Two places still to be filled. Aileen to write to all voluntary organisations within Parish inviting nominations, e.g. Primary School, Old People's Group. If he wished to, it was suggested that Murat Dilek could be a full member. It had been recommended by Falkirk Council that the CC should attempt to attain full members who meet all the criteria. Aileen Amos to check with Brian Pirie regarding the paperwork which would need to be completed.

6. Correspondence :

- email from Robert to Cllr Murtagh re the abandoned plot at Graham Terrace. Planning department have contacted the owner who said he will do a clean up.
- email from Brian Pirie with update of nominees for Airth Community Council and apology to Stephen Sloper for omitting him from original list.
- email from David Anderson of Inner Forth regarding the possibility of attending our meeting. After discussion it was decided that as the planning application is not yet live we would wait until that time to invite a rep. Robert enlightened the meeting on the history of this project and the reasons for the apprehension. Apparently a rep has also attended the Grangemouth CC meeting.
- copy of Robert's letter to Greg Pender of Falkirk Council and the reply received regarding the possibility of deer signage.
- copy of Robert's letter to Greg Pender of Falkirk Council regarding the road safety on the A905 North approach road to Airth.
- copy email from Robert to various regarding problems with youths from outwith area damaging the community christmas tree and lights. This has now been sorted.
- email re CCoF's objection to INEOS request for extension to deadline and the final submission in response to DPEA's request for advice.
- email with details of survey regarding closure of Bo'ness, Bainsford & Camelon police offices. Deadline is 31/1/18.
- Community Safety Team report for 1 - 30/11/17. Continue to monitor re dog fouling. There still seem to be issues on path to school, Cllr Murtagh said there was even fouling on a wall.
- email with information of a meeting to be held on 24/1/18 within Scottish Parliament at 6pm with regard to flight paths at Edinburgh Airport. Robert felt there was nothing to be gained by sending a rep. All requests for comments etc. have been fully answered by us.

- email from Scottish Health Council recruiting for public partners.
- copy of letter to Cllr Murtagh regarding pedestrian crossing survey - A905 Airth. Unlikely that this will happen.
- copy of letter to Cllr Murtagh regarding various matters within Airth constituency. 7 pages of mainly road issues. Margaret Penn continues to bring to attention the potholes on the roads within the village, which apparently are to be dealt with. Vibration from heavy goods vehicles through the village has been monitored and it is concluded that the level recorded does not allow the Council to promote a weight restriction on environmental grounds. Murat Dilek brought to attention the inadequacy of repairs to the road between Airth and Dunmore. Potholes were filled in but sealed with tar resulting in most of them opening up again, which is very dangerous particularly to cyclists. Both councillors undertook to enquire about this - Councillor Coombes suggested that it was false economy not to do the job properly.
- note of proposed disabled parking bay at 76 South Green Drive. No comments to make.
- copy email to Brian Pirie from Aileen Amos regarding minute secretary grant. Awaiting reply. Aileen also highlighted that the copy of this email sent to Councillor Bouse was "deleted without being read".
- email regarding survey about buildings on the site of Stirling Community Hospital which will be called Stirling Care Village.
- Scottish Flood Forum - Robert attended a meeting on 2/12/17 with Ronnie Martin of Bothkennar CC. Unfortunately this was mostly geared more towards river flooding than tidal flooding, although applicable to Pow Burn, and the schemes were aimed at burns and small rivers flooding towns further down. Robert gave the meeting information regarding water retention at Letham Moss and likely future scenarios. Overall, Robert felt that the Forum was worthwhile, anyone interested in attending future events let Robert know and he will organise. The project is aimed at promoting self help in the event of catastrophic events. Planned community forum in March aimed at encouraging people to get on board. Anyone interested let Robert know.
- Following on from SEPA floodline meeting in Airth, Robert received phonecall from Gail Donald regarding a predicted high tide and tidal surge. As Robert was in hospital at the time he had someone check this on his behalf. Happily this subsided but Gail has inspected the bank and there has been a lot of slippage. However this area is privately owned and outwith our ability to do anything about it. James Toal asked if this was the same area that had been upgraded last year. Robert replied that this was a different area and explained what had been done. Danger that a combination of events could end up with a similar situation as was encountered 2 years ago.

7. Round the Parish :

South Alloa : No progress has been made on provision of noticeboard. A communication had been forwarded to Jon but he had returned it as he was unhappy with the planned position of board. Currently the bus stop is used for any notices.

Letham : nothing to report.

Airth : The issues regarding the traffic through the village/ signage/ HGV use/ more crossings were reiterated following on from discussions earlier. Robert expressed view that these issues have been ongoing for the last 20 years and each time surveys etc. have been done we have the same responses, i.e. no changes. It was acknowledged that the Council must adhere to national guidelines as well as their own policies. There is a need for the data to be collected regularly to make sure nothing has changed drastically. The ongoing discussions regarding these issues have been well documented over the years that the Community Council have existed. Councillor Coombes added that people must accept that it's not always possible to get what you want. James Toal made the comment about the 20mph zone at the top of the school road seems too short a distance to make much difference but it was acknowledged that anything within that zone must be within sight of the school crossing patrolman. Robert added that the survey showed that of the 5,700 vehicles recorded only a small percentage were actually HGVs. Murat Dilek spoke about the tractors and trailers using the road around the school, not always outwith school hours. This has previously been banned and Murat would look out for any repeats of this usage and report it.

Possible access via the wall between Castle Avenue and Castle walk - the residents of Castle Avenue own this wall and want nothing changed.

Potholes on the main road were discussed again, apparently they must be 50mm deep before they are filled. Councillor Coombes undertook to let Margaret Penn know what progress has been made.

Lighting at Cemetery Brae (again discussed earlier) - both councillors present will pursue. George Russell said this was needed for safety reasons.

Robert informed the meeting that apparently Elphinstone Inn is closing and looking for a buyer. It may be earmarked by owner for development of houses if buyer can't be found.

Christmas tree - asked councillors when it will be taken down. Councillor Murtagh to pursue.

Dunmore : James Toal posed the question - is it legally possible to opt out of refuse collections and pay to have the job done privately. Councillors present answered that it was but there would be no refund forthcoming of relevant part of the Council Tax.

James informed the meeting that Dunmore villagers had paid the Land Registry to find out who owns the bridge over the outfall to harbour but there was no record. An engineer coming out to carry out survey, however if work is required it may mean that the villagers will have to pay for this. It was recalled that the Community Council was involved with this question before. Apparently 5 households use the bridge for access. Robert suggesting that there may be something in their deeds giving a clue to responsibility.

Aileen Amos added that the Xmas lights in Dunmore looked great.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen Amos informed the meeting that there is ££56.76 in the admin account and £4694.99 in the Christmas Lights account, with bills pending.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) Application for development of houses behind old Crown Hotel on Shore Road

: Meeting agreed that compared to original application and subsequent request for amendments this has been much improved. Aileen Amos stated that the one issue that still remains is the problem of parking. Within the application it was suggested that visitors could park on Shore Road but as only two of the traditional homes on Shore Road have off-road parking this would not be acceptable. Legally any visitor parking is seen as less of an issue if near to local facilities, e.g. public transport, bus stops etc. Meeting agreed that Robert would write regarding these parking concerns as it is envisaged that villages will object. Councillor Coombes suggested asking for a planning visit to the site.

(b) 'Medina' - private dwelling house in Dunmore : application for a 2nd sunroom.

After discussion it was agreed that the CC would make no comment on this as it is not visible from front of house.

(c) 3 houses at old Scout Hall site : Robert informed meeting that each house would have an integral garage and CC had asked that a condition not to convert garages to rooms be included in any agreement made. Villagers are concerned about parking and access to these homes.

(d) Escarpment: nothing to report.

9. Larbert Rotary : A member of this group couldn't attend the meeting tonight as the date clashed with their own meeting. Their Santa and sleigh did not manage on the originally planned night in December due to inclement weather but rescheduled. They collected £530 from the Airth / Letham area and have promised that an amount from this would be donated to the good of the village. Aileen had suggested to the Rotary that the

christmas lights might be a worthwhile cause. Larbert Rotary have invited two of our members to come along to their next meeting - Aileen would pursue this.

10. Christmas Lights : 4 new lights were purchased this year. The cost was £400 plus a one off amount of £400 for installation. Total bill this year for storage, servicing and hanging was £2,693.47. Five more lights will take us to the end of village.

Profit from raffle this year was £1200 approx. and from Robert's letters of request for donations around £1973 was raised from local businesses - a commendable effort. The evening of the switch on went very well with record numbers of local residents turning out. It was agreed that as it seemed to be a winning formula the same format would be pursued for this year. Robert undertook to book the community hall for the first Friday in December 2018. Robert gave the meeting a breakdown of money raised and all expenses.

10. Whisky Tasting Night : This went very well on the evening of 25th November and from whiskies sampled the winner was Balvenie. It is hoped to make this an annual event. Those present who attended thanked Jon for his hospitality.

11. AOCB : Robert has dates organised for all the CC meetings this year and has booked the room for them. He will email a copy to everyone.

Aileen Amos reported a huge hole / puddle outside of the entrance to Larbert High School which she has experience of through taking her grandchildren there. Both Councillor Coombes and Councillor Murtagh would enquire about this.

Jon Anslow concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.