

Airth Parish Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 100 South Green Drive, Airth, on Wednesday 16th January 2019

Members Present : **Aileen Amos (Secretary / Treasurer)**
 Robert Smith (Assistant Secretary)
 Stephen Sloper, Murat Dilek (Comm Councillors)

Also Present : **Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**
 Cllr. Joan Coombes; Cllr. Laura Murtagh; PC Pete Dunlop
 & Sergeant Ally Morelands; Jane Rae (Minute Taker)

In the absence of Jon Anslow (Convenor), Aileen Amos agreed to chair the meeting. Before the meeting began, Aileen informed everyone that in relation to the Data Protection rules anyone who does not wish their name to appear in the minutes please let the minute secretary know.

1. Apologies : **Jon Anslow; James Toal; Rev Jim Todd; Cllr. Jim Flynn; Cllr. Gary Bouse.**

2. Police Report :

Community Police Constable Pete Dunlop was in attendance and introduced Sergeant Ally Morelands, who had recently been assigned to the post of Community Sergeant. Sergeant Morelands spoke about his previous service in the area and acknowledged that he was happy to be back working locally and keen to be involved in policing the community.

PC Dunlop's report for the period covered 21st November to 17th December 2018 was available and he updated verbally on events since. The report identified 5 reported crimes / offences in the area (3 ongoing, 1 detected and 1 undetected). These included theft by opening lockfast place at the Parsonage, 1 drugs offence, 1 road traffic offence and 1 domestic incident. There were 47 calls to Police from Airth in this period. The majority of these related to road traffic matters and also to counterfeit notes, suspect persons, neighbour disputes, online frauds and concern calls.

His report covering 17th December 2018 to 15th January 2019 identified 5 crimes / offences. These included housebreaking at the Parsonage, 3 road traffic offences and 1 domestic incident. (1 undetected, 2 detected and 2 ongoing). There had been 58 calls to Police from Airth in the period, the majority relating to road traffic matters, suspect person, concern calls and children protection.

PC Dunlop added that there had been no further incidents at the Parsonage, although safety advice had been given to the owner. Over the past month a few minor

disturbances had been dealt with, nothing major of note. Traffic speeds have been monitored, no offences noted. It is planned to use a speed gun next time.

He also updated that he is making his presence known at the primary school and has spoken to various classes, mainly on the subject of social media and the dangers etc. He had also dealt with a couple of incidents at school and had discussion with children and their parents. He was happy to report that the parents involved were understanding and supportive of his findings, which would result in apologies from the children.

The area around the Pineapple is being monitored as it is a draw for youngsters drinking and smoking cannabis. Cllr Murtagh shared photographs of daubing and graffiti at Dunmore House which appeared to be recently done. PC Dunlop agreed to have a look.

He also mentioned that there continues to be illegal fly-tipping on the Higginsneuk Road and this will continue to be monitored.

Robert Smith mentioned suspicious activity in and around the ruin below woods at Airth Castle. Again PC Dunlop agreed to patrol.

There being no further information to share, PC Dunlop and Sergeant Morelands were thanked for their contribution tonight and left the meeting.

3. Previous Minutes :

Aileen mentioned that as the previous minute had not been received until too late for everyone to read it, the approval of this would be postponed until February's meeting.

4. Matters Arising

- **Flooding at Letham** : so far no flooding reported. Aileen asked Councillor Murtagh for an update on the project. Some remedial works had been undertaken to alleviate some of the problem areas, and thus far the area is clear right back to the cottages. So far, however, the main project had not been started. Scottish Water has not moved forward - Murat Dilek pointed out that we were at more or less the same point a year ago. Stephen Sloper said that the emergency discharge which had been approved by SEPA does not exist as yet - this would seem like a good starting point to take the initiative and contact Scottish Water, in fact it would seem that Falkirk Council Environmental Health should move on this point too. Councillor Murtagh added that despite a strongly worded communication from Falkirk Council to Scottish Water on the whole issue, this had so far failed to produce anything. Councillor Coombes suggested that perhaps a communication to Scottish Water via SEPA may be more successful. Councillor Murtagh added that she has continually asked for information regarding the appointment of a Project Manager, to no avail. Murat Dilek suggested that the Community Council should write to SEPA, Scottish Water and Falkirk Council

pointing out that nothing has been done in a year. Stephen Sloper added that he would also make this point personally. It was agreed that Robert would put together a letter, which should be approved by executive before sending out.

- **Repairs to Dunmore / South Alloa Road** : Aileen mentioned this but after a short discussion it was agreed that these may have been done very recently.
- **Support for Submission by Sir Crispen Agnew to Scottish Government** : Aileen said that she had received a mountain of paperwork from Maria regarding the submission and had had to stop printing it. The submission date has been extended to 28th January and support is still being sought from community councils in Scotland for their proposal. The timescale, it was agreed, still left little time to go back to the community to gauge views. There was much discussion on what the consultation agreed on two years ago and how this would or would not differ from current views. There was also a discussion on the difference between moratorium and an outright ban, which is what Sir Crispen's submission is supporting. From this discussion it was agreed that when the public were consulted on this previously they were only asked whether they were for or against "Fracking" and it was the Scottish Government who imposed a moratorium, therefore it was felt that the consensus would still be against it, i.e. a ban. Robert asked those members present whether they would want to vote for or against adding their support to the submission and it was agreed that the 5 members present, along with the 2 not here tonight, should take time to familiarise themselves with the submission and give their decision to Aileen by 23rd January.

5. Correspondence : the correspondence from 22nd November to date was dealt with.

- Community Safety Team report of 1 - 30/11/18 : continuing to monitor re dog fouling.
- email from Vivien Murchison thanking for welcome at November meeting and providing link for Crowdfunding page.
- email from Brian Pirie with budget update. There followed a discussion between those present and Cllrs Coombes and Murtagh re the process and timeline of agreeing the budget . It was agreed that Robert would write on behalf of the Community Council expressing areas of concerns - this to go to MSP and Council Group Leaders.
- email from Cllr Coombes regarding extra bin at Dunmore. Aileen reported that this had been installed, however on the wrong side of the main road. Possibly this might be the only place it could be sited, given the privately owned ground on the opposite side.
- email regarding feasibility of laying slabs at the benches in Airth Cemetery.
- email regarding handrail at Airth Cenotaph - apparently this land is not owned by Falkirk Council. Harry Foster was the contact previously when any works had been done - Cllr Coombes to pursue this issue.

- email from Senior Flooding Officer (FC) to Cllr Murtagh with update on Scottish Water project at Letham, i.e. nothing happening.
- email copy of Stephen Sloper's list of points for his complaint
- email regarding arrangements for public meeting held in December regarding budget concerns.
- email regarding problem with Xmas lights at Dunmore, temporary solution was to link to lamppost. This needs to be investigated and remedied.
- email from Scottish Flood Forum with details of an event being held at Cambuslang on 22nd April at 11am.
- email from Scottish Health Council with details of an event being held at Golden Jubilee Hotel on 31st January from 1 - 3pm.
- email from Scottish Flood Forum with details of community event being held in Perth on 16th February. Ronnie Martin and Robert Smith intend to go.
- email from Scottish Flood Forum - opportunity for communities to apply for resilience / emergency related funding. Robert says Airth CC does not qualify.

6. Treasurer's Report :

Aileen reported that bills from Lightways amounted to £2032.69, with a bill still outstanding for £915. It is anticipated there will be £2948.31 in the Xmas Lights A/c once this is paid, which should increase by another £250 once Robert and Aileen receive a cheque from Larbert Rotary Club. They have both been invited to Camelon for a meal and to receive this cheque. There is £749.04 in the admin account.

Robert added that amongst many generous donations made locally at the time of the fund raising for the Xmas lights, Stephen McLeod from Airth Castle had donated £500, which was gratefully received.

At this point, whilst talking about the Light Switch On on 7th December, Robert took the opportunity to thank Cllr Murtagh for her hard work in organising a community choir at short notice and how they had contributed to making it such a successful evening. He asked whether she would be willing to be involved this year again and she said that she had hoped that organising the choir might encourage the primary school to be involved again and she would be happy if it could be a joint venture this year - watch this space.

7. Round the Parish :

Airth : Progress on the conversion of the Elphinstone Inn seems to have stalled and there appears to be difficulties in obtaining a licence now.

Murat spoke about various bits of roadworks being undertaken and difficulties encountered because of them. There also appears to be a stretch of the Moss Road closed currently as work is being done on a culvert.

Murat asked that in light of what happened when “Beast from the East’ struck last March what lessons had been learned and what changes had been made. Cllr Coombes spoke about the doubling of the ratio for provision of salt bins for use by community. Cllr Murtagh spoke about how it was an ongoing process and the most important finding was that the vulnerable people in the community should be the number one priority - how to identify who they were and how to reach them to make sure they have everything they would need. Road networks and clear flow of traffic were secondary to this.

It was agreed that it is also important for the public to know what a “Red Warning” means and the implications of ignoring it.

Letham : No issues.

Dunmore: No issues.

8. Planning Issues :

(a) Plan for two dwelling houses at Forthside (golf range) : this has been withdrawn.

(b) Plan for replacement doors, windows and fence at 33 Letham Cottages : this has been withdrawn.

(c) Application for replacement window and door at Shore Road : this has been granted.

9. Data Protection : Aileen spoke about attending a meeting where Charlie Hastie of Park Street Education Unit in Falkirk offered to come and talk to members about data protection. On re-reading the literature it was decided that this might be quite a lengthy process and, although it was important for everyone to attend such a session, it may be a better use of his time if he organised something that more of the local community councils could attend at the one time. Aileen to investigate this suggestion.

10. AOCB : None

Aileen Amos concluded that there was no further business and therefore closed the meeting.