

Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council Meeting Minutes

Held on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.15pm

Drumbowie School Standburn

Meeting chaired by D. Goldie.

1. Present

J. Hirst, D. Goldie, E. Chappell, J. Ingram, PC Todd, Cllr McLuckie, Cllr Kerr & 6 members of the public.

2. Apologies

G. Addison, A. Frerichs, H. Baird, J Singh.

3. Police Report & Community Safety

The Community Safety Team - Nothing new to report this month.

Police report

Since the last report (13/12/18) there have been 9 calls made to police relating to the village of Avonbridge. Those consist of the following call types:

Disturbance (familial)	Assist Members of the Public
Road Traffic Issues	Suspicious Persons
Abandoned/Silent 999s	Vandalism (War Memorial)

There have been no crimes recorded in Avonbridge in that time although the damage to the War Memorial call has at time of writing not been dealt with and may well result in a crime being recorded.

In that time there have been one call to the village of Standburn as follows

Assault – male stabbed

There have been 2x crimes recorded in Standburn in that time which relate to the above call but have been split and reported separately due to the serious nature of one part of the incident requiring to be reported.

- Attempted Murder (detected)
- Taking of a motor vehicle without owner's consent from same address a short time later (enquiry ongoing)

The calls relating to road traffic in Avonbridge relate to 1x report of a motorbike being used by a teenager without a helmet etc on the public road – a 15yr old male was later traced and warned regarding his alleged conduct; and 1x call relating to a vehicle parked in a designated disabled parking bay illegally. There were no calls or incidents of this nature in Standburn.

The suspicious persons in Avonbridge relate to the empty houses opposite the church/Standburn Road. These premises represent a problem and attract local youths. The police are making enquiries to ensure the properties are made secure.

Road salting issues were raised in the interest of road safety and it was established Falkirk Council have made changes to the Winter Plan without consultation.

It was agreed ASCC should write to Rhona Geisler – Development Services and highlight the number incidents/accidents recently and request salting be reinstated.

Speeding through villages – this was raised again as an issue and cause for concern. Vehicles continue to ignore the speed limits and lives are at risk especially those of children, elderly and disabled.

The police were asked if a Community Volunteer Speed Watch Group would be permissible.

It was noted Prevention of Speeding is the responsibility of the Council
Detection of Speeding is the responsibility of the police.

Those present once again noted their disgust with the Council that they appear unwilling to do more with regard to traffic calming in both villages.

4. Approval of Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 13th December 2018

The minutes were proposed by J. Hirst and seconded by E. Chappell.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

- **Food Bank** – It was highlighted the link and information for this were missing from the last minutes so need to be included here
- **Dog Fouling** – Agreed to contact Community Safety Team and highlight the problem also request dog waste bags be provided in the pub and at locations around the village. JI aware of specific problem areas.
- **Fence damage** – JH now in possession of further information and will contact housing and Councillor Hughes for assistance.
- **Land Ownership** – Query raised as to who owns land adjacent to the War Memorial as residents in the village would like to erect a fence and are fundraising in this regard. JH agreed to contact Carol Herron at Falkirk Council for details.
- **Minutes format** – It was requested the Minutes be issued for circulation in pdf format as not all recipients have the software to read current format.

6. Chair's Report/Correspondence

- a) Email received regarding Hunterston B - concern over safety of the 2 nuclear reactors on the Firth of Clyde – information received from Dr Ian Fairlie.
- b) Email received regarding the Planning (Scotland) Bill and the campaign by CC's including ourselves for and Equal Right of Appeal. A submission on behalf of 11 CC's has been submitted to the Scot Gov't by Sir Crispin Agnew.

7. Treasurer's Report

ASCC Acct -	Balance £6,009.67
Burnhead Moss Acct –	Balance £1,651.46

Micro Grant Applications – None

D. Cameron submitted a receipt for the Food Bank website now up and running.

8. Planning, IT and online update

1 application to amend an existing consent for house design at Netherton Farm Candie – P/18/0722/FUL
Website – 310 hits this month.

Research and experiments has been completed regarding engineering work that would be needed to integrate an application form for Micro grants into the site. It is technically possible, but the effort needed to implement and maintain a secure solution is not warranted at this time. If committee members really want this then send your comments to Ed C or David Cameron.

To ease things for potential applicants a direct link to a micro grant form to download and print has been added to the main navigation bar on the home page.

BROADBAND

The fibre activation date for the Avonbridge exchange has been postponed again, the 3rd time in 2 years. The Digital Scotland site now says June 2019 AND one months' time. The 1 month comment comes from a link direct to Openreach's website so who do we believe?

We also appear to be the ONLY exchange in Central Scotland yet to be converted.

I have decided to use my/our MSP to put pressure on Scottish Gov't to make sure we get an accurate picture and regular updates. I have an appointment with Angus MacDonald on Friday 12 January.

Subscribers to the Avonbridge exchange also reside in the West Lothian constituency, the MSP is Fiona Hyslop. MSPs can only deal with constituents in their constituency post codes. So if anyone who lives in FK1 2JZ and FK1 2JY and has a 01324 dial code wants to make representations contact me for the information I have prepared.

If necessary I will draft an information pack that people can use to lobby the MSPs involved.

We have waited too long and are being ignored!!

Facebook – It was noted the Facebook page settings have been changed and now it is a private a site but it needs to be public. JD & HB to be notified & asked to provide assistance.

9. Planning Committee Review of Broadhead Candie

JH reported the refused application for 4 houses on this site has now gone to Falkirk Council Planning Review Committee who carried out a site visit in December. There are 4 members on the committee and JH proposed an email to be sent to each of them to reinforce the objections raised by ASCC & residents. It was agreed the email be redrafted in a more favourable form before sending.

10. Avonbridge Community Hall

Falkirk Council has notified the Hall committee it will be closed unless taken over by a community led organisation. The current committee have resigned and volunteers are sought to form a new committee to work to retain the Hall for the use of local residents.

It was agreed to contact the old committee to ensure due process is followed to dissolve the committee and then a meeting will be arranged to form a new committee to negotiate with Falkirk Council. Volunteers offered to leaflet the village and advertise the meeting arrangements.

A heated discussion ensued whereby opinions were voiced to the two Councillors present that it was extremely unfair to expect residents in such a deprived area to form a charity and run the Hall the long term responsibility being too onerous.

The question was raised as to why Slamannan & Maddiston are categorised as Community Centres and Avonbridge is only a hall when it serves the community in various forms and is a vital asset.

This theme will be pursued with Falkirk Council representatives.

11. Avonbridge Christmas Tree & Lights

It was confirmed this project had been a great success and all involved were congratulated.

Jl confirmed the lights have been removed and are to be stored on behalf of ASCC by D. Cameron.

Jl will dismantle and dispose of the tree when appropriate.

12. Riverbank Avonbridge

The issue of extensive litter and waste being dumped on the riverbank in Avonbridge was raised. This is being deposited over garden fences and by other means.

It was agreed ASCC should contact Falkirk Council for assistance contact 'Douglas Gardiner' new head of environment and the Community Safety Team.

13. A.O.C.B

- I. **War Memorial** – Further discussion in respect of funding for a special commemorative bench to be installed beside the memorial in Avonbridge. Cllr McLuckie indicated special funds were allocated for such a purpose by FC and indicated he would provide details of funding available.

14. Closure of Meeting –

Next Meeting: Thursday 14th February 2019 in Avonbridge Community Hall 7.15pm

Useful Links:-

Burnhead Moss Windfarm – Grant applications

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/burnhead-moss-avonbridge-standburn>

ASCC Facebook page –

[www.facebook.com/search/top?q=avonbridge and standburn community council](http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=avonbridge+and+standburn+community+council)

BMET Burnhead Moss Education and Training Fund Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/BMETFUND/>

Advanced planning searches for planning applications

<http://edevdevelopment.falkirk.gov.uk/online/search.do?action=advanced>

Reports to the Police

UpperBraesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Purple Alert App



Purple Alert is a free app designed by Alzheimer Scotland and is fully supported by Police Scotland. The app allows carers to share the person living with dementia's profile if they lose their way and alerts any users within a set distance immediately so they can report any sightings. Purple Alert is the first app of its kind in the UK and it is available for free download to iOS and Android smartphones – visit www.purplealert.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Alert



All residents are encouraged to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland's ALERT system which is free and allows agencies including police to send out targeted information about issues including crime in specific areas. Sign up at www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk