

Avonbridge & Standburn Community Council Meeting Minutes

Held on Thursday 14th February 2019 at
7.15pm Avonbridge Community Hall,
Avonbridge

Meeting chaired by G. Addison

1. Present

J. Hirst, D. Goldie, A. Frerichs, H. Baird, J. Ingram, D. Cameron, Cllr Hughes & 5 members of the public.

2. Apologies

J Singh, E. Chappell, E. Lipski, K. Robertson, M, Lourie.

3. Police Report & Community Safety

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

Police report

Since the last report there have been 6 calls made to police relating to the village of Avonbridge. Those consist of the following call types:

Domestic incidents X3	Assist Members of the Public
Concern for person	Assist External Agency (ambulance)
There has been one crime recorded in Avonbridge in this time relating to Assault (Domestic related)	

There have been no crimes recorded for Standburn.

JH reported that the issues raised from the previous meeting regarding speeding and road salting were highlighted to Falkirk Council. No response to date.

PC Todd has moved onto pastures new. A new community PC has been instated and will be invited to next meeting.

Jl informed meeting that the person responsible for vandalising the war memorial has been cautioned and offered an apology for his behaviour. It was agreed that ASCC would ask the new community PC at the next meeting if any further information could be provided.

4. Approval of Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2019

The minutes were proposed by J. Ingram and seconded by A. Frerichs.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

- **Food Bank** - HB agreed to note the link to the Braes Storehouse Food Bank in future minutes. Link to their Facebook page can be found in the useful links section.
- **Fence damage** - JH contacted FC about this issue and still awaiting a response.
- **Land Ownership** – JH informed meeting that FC have confirmed that ownership with the land by the Avonbridge war memorial lies with Falkirk Council
- **Dog Fouling / Street cleaning** – DG informed meeting that an estate officer from Falkirk Council had been in touch to say that ‘Both areas had been mechanically cleansed’ to remove leaves and litter. A clean-up crew was sent after ASCC reported the areas and volume of litter that was lying around. Dog fouling bins have since been emptied.
- **Riverbank litter** – Cllr Hughes to follow up with Falkirk Council on behalf of ASCC.

-**EWOS** – DG is pursuing the continuing pollution issues. An enforcement notice was placed on EWOS but despite the installation of bio filters the smells from the factory still continue to be a problem. GA will write on behalf of ASCC to SEPA.

6. New ASCC members – JH proposed K. Robertson to become a member of the community council. AF seconded this motion.

7. Speed limit Blackston Road & other road issues

GA reported that residents have asked if ASCC will make an application to Falkirk Council for the speed limit to be reduced. GA agreed to proceed with this request. Cllr Hughes to send relevant contact details.

A concerned resident requested that a mirror should be installed at Dummies Lane to make the junction safer. GA agreed to investigate this matter further.

GA also urged that all members of the community to continue reporting the increasing number of potholes to Falkirk Council.

8. Defibs

GA informed meeting that Stevensons had expressed an interest in having defib installed by their yard. CC members agreed that this would not be best practical location as there may be times with limited access. GA will write to Stevensons to inform of decision. It was agreed that suitable location for Avonbridge should be the Doctor's surgery and Drumbowie Primary for Standburn. Residents at the meeting also suggested that a location should be sourced for the area of Candie due to its remote location. GA agreed to make further enquiries.

9. Chair's Report/Correspondence

- a) Invitation to Forth Valley annual review. Ministerial public session will be held on Wed 13th March 11.30am at FVRH. Anyone interested in attending, is asked to 0800 456033 to book a space.
- b) Dig In Falkirk – Falkirk Council have developed a draft community food growing strategy and are looking for views from the public. Copies of the strategy are available on FC Website and in local libraries. HB agreed to share information on Facebook page and send information to EC to place on ASCC website.
- c) Craigbank Road mess garages – GA received a response from FC that the mess had been cleared in the area. Residents from the area reported that this was correct but that it is still an ongoing problem. GA agreed to rewrite to FC.
- d) Avonbridge United Reform Church will be holding a reopening event on 24th February. All are invited to attend and formal services will be commencing in the church from Sunday 3rd March 2019.

10. Treasurer's Report

ASCC Acct - Balance £6,009.67 (£5237.67 ringfenced for Christmas decoration expenditure)
Burnhead Moss Acct – Balance £1,455.27

Micro Grant Applications – 4 applications received this month:-

Avonbridge Primary School Parent Council–	£150.00 Application for penny whistles for music club / lessons Approved subject to quote confirmation
Avonbridge Youth Club –	£150.00 to provide a Zoolab session for nursery to P4 age groups - Approved.
OAP Lunch Club Avonbridge -	£150.00 to buy additional crockery and pots – Approved

Avonbridge Community Hall –

£130.00 to provide roller skating tasters sessions and to run a roller disco in the hall – Approved.

11. Planning, IT and online update

3 applications have been reported since last meeting

X1 formation of vehicular access and road at Babbithill. Ref no. P/19/0061/FUL

X1 Resubmission for redevelopment of farm steading to form 4 dwelling houses at Boagstown Farm, FK1 2JF. Ref no. P/19/0042/FUL

X1 Erection of dwelling house and garage with amendments at Netherton, Candie. Ref No. P/18/0722/FUL

Website – 379 hits this month.

BROADBAND

EC met with MSP Angus MacDonald on 12th January to discuss the continuous delays and make him aware that Avonbridge exchange appears to be the last in Central Scotland that is still awaiting conversion to fibre. Mr MacDonald agreed to write to Digital Scotland. EC also urged anyone who falls into the West Lothian catchment to contact their local MSP Fiona Hyslop. It is hoped that pressure from 2 MSPs may help a little.

All ASCC members agreed that a letter of formal complaint should be issued to Open Reach for the terrible handling of the exchange being converted. JH agreed she and EC would draft a formal letter of complaint on behalf of residents to Angus MacDonald to urge him to act on our behalf.

12. Avonbridge Community Hall

A new committee was formed on 6th February 2019 with 13 new members. Committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

JH wrote to MSP Angus MacDonald to request support and ask if council would reconsider the decisions being made regarding hall transfer.

COSS event – JH & DC agreed to attend event on Saturday 2nd March to find out more about possible support and options available for the community hall.

ASCC will provide support to the hall and new committee where they can.

Local resident expressed an interest in having a Pilates class. JH to ask instructor she knows about holding class in hall.

Cllr Hughes agreed to support formal request for hall to be re-designated as a community centre. JH agreed to write a formal letter to Falkirk Council and to all 3 local councillors asking for support.

13. Christmas 2019 Planning

AF and JH confirmed that they are happy to continue with the planning of Christmas 2019 and report back any developments as they arise. They are going to pursue Falkirk Council about planning requirements, decoration and illumination options over the coming months.

MSP Angus MacDonald has confirmed that he will be supporting village decorations.

Cllr Hughes will find out if FC handles liability insurance in other local communities in regard to Christmas decorations.

14. Communication

AF highlighted that there seems to be times ASCC members are being missed out of circulating information. HB agreed to double check distribution list. All agreed that all members should be included in group discussions out with meeting times.

13. A.O.C.B

I. Paths – Member of public asked if there were any updates about current path upgrading. It was also highlighted that the manhole covers across from Avonbridge Primary was still an issue. Cllr Hughes agreed to follow up these matters and report back.

II. Firework consultation - Government consultation is running until May 2019. DG urged everyone to give their thoughts on this issue.

III. Special thanks – ASCC would like to offer special thanks to Maria Montinaro SCCC for continuing to pursue the fracking issue & Equal Right of Appeal campaign with JH

IV. Bean Geese research – A. McIver, a student from Napier University is carrying out a research project on bio microbial impacts on wild birds. He has taken samples from the geese wintering at the Slamannan Plateau as concern has been raised about decreasing numbers.

14. Closure of Meeting –

Next Meeting: Thursday 14th March 2019 in Drumbowie Primary School, Standburn, 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://edevelopment.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

Braes Storehouse Food Bank –

<https://www.facebook.com/Braes-Storehouse-Food-Bank-1986831428041452/>

<http://www.braesstorehouse.org.uk/>