

# Airth Parish Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting held within Primary School, Airth, on Wednesday  
15th May 2019

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

**Also Present :**                        **Jacqueline Drew, Co-opted Member (Airth Parish Church)**  
    **Cllr. Laura Murtagh; Ronnie Martin (Bothkennar);**  
    **Alison Leonard & Yvonne Boles, RSPB**  
    **Jane Rae (Minute Taker)**

The Secretary 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 :** Stephen Sloper; Cllr. Joan Coombes; PC Pete Dunlop.

**2. Police Report :** Community PC Pete Dunlop sent his apologies. In his absence Jon Anslow presented his report covering the period 16th April - 14th May 2019.

The report identified 3 recorded crimes / offences in the area, these include a domestic incident, drugs offence and a speeding offence (all 3 are detected).

There were 47 calls to Police from Airth, the majority of which related to road traffic matters. No reports of wildlife crime and no calls for anti-social behaviour. There was 1 detection for drugs offences in this period. People should be aware of the possibility of deer on the roads.

Cllr Murtagh told the meeting that she has met with PC Dunlop on several occasions since the last meeting as he carries out in his duties within the community. She is impressed by his engagement with the community. The Convenor is of the opinion that all of our community policemen have worked to a high standard and any differences were usually with the management. Cllr Murtagh agreed that the police were sometimes subjected to a "bad press" but the community can be involved in the processes and hopefully work alongside the police for the good of the community.

**3. Previous Minutes :** Approval of minutes dated 17/4/19 were moved as correct by Aileen Amos and seconded by Robert Smith.

**4. Update by RSPB** : Jon introduced and welcomed Allison Leonard (Warden) and Yvonne Boles (Snr. Conservation Officer) of RSPB to the meeting. They were here tonight to present an annual update on their work at Bothkennar, in particular since the managed realignment project which was carried out last year. Allison said vegetation was growing and the wildlife building up. They reported no movement in the breach and they hadn't had to cut any paths. Work on the drainage had also been carried out. Robert engaged with both Allison and Yvonne and had several questions relating to the wildlife, particularly Spoonbills and the Avocets which had nested last year. He also asked them whether they had initiated any liaison with the local primary school. Allison explained that she was Warden in charge of five reserves and liaison with the school is definitely on her "To Do" list when time permitted. Robert spoke also about the Oystercatchers he had seen in the area, in particular a pair of nesting birds at the Keir Roundabout. Ronnie Martin had also spotted Snowgeese in the Bothkennar area, which Allison and Yvonne were surprised at and took note of in order to speak to a colleague.

Robert also enquired whether the Reserve was open to visitors. Allison said the Reserve is not promoted because of the difficulty of access by vehicles and because of the relatively small size of the area. Not many staff are present at times but if anyone does turn up when the office is open they are made welcome.

Jon thanked both women for coming along and giving us an update and they both left the meeting.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

- **Flooding at Letham** : Cllr Murtagh said, thankfully, there had been none. She spoke again to the information Cllr Bouse gave us previously about the altered timescale and the re-drawing / recalculation of the scheme. Environmental Health are in the process of taking this forward. MP John McNally and MSP Angus Robertson have both been appraised and asked to flag this up at higher levels. It is not the intention that this scheme is brought forward at the expense of something equally deserving but Cllr Murtagh felt that with the environmental health angle it is a priority. Robert reiterated that he felt that concentrating on the environmental health aspect had taken it to a different level and hopefully would ensure speedier action on the issue.
- **Moss Road Culverts** : These are to be removed but the question is of the timescale. The difficulty seems to be that Stirling Council manages both culverts. Cllr Murtagh has raised the issue with them. This has become a very dangerous bit of road, very busy. Murat said that whereas he used to see an occasional car coming down now it has become an overwhelming stream of cars. Jon Anslow was of the opinion that a traffic survey is needed. Jon said we need to gauge the volume of traffic and at least this would be a "mark in the sand" to base any future decisions on. There was no

doubt that this used to be a quiet road and is now a very busy road and with more houses being built can only get busier. Ronnie Martin wondered, because of the cross Council interest in this area, whether it would be a good idea for Airth CC to liaise with a CC in the Stirling area. Robert said that because the area in question was on the periphery of Stirling Council that this would be Throsk or Fallin and he's not sure if people are interested enough. On the plus side Robert said that preparatory work has been done to remove the culverts and Stirling Council have said it should be done within this financial year. Cllr Murtagh agreed to make the request for the traffic survey

- **Bins at Cemetery** : not appropriate for bins to be moved as Cemetery owns them.
- **Overgrown bushes at Bowtrees** : Robert mentioned this at the last meeting and this work has been done, although Robert feels more could be taken off. Cllr Murtagh said that AMEY are responsible for this.
- **“Strengthening Community Councils” meeting** : attended by Robert, Aileen and James Toal. Robert has the Paper. The meeting took the form of groups discussing and coming to conclusions about what community councils need. Airth CC members had made lots of comments / suggestions but no-one sure what will become of them.

## **6. Correspondence :**

- email from Cllr Coombes re resurfacing of Welfare Hall carpark. She is awaiting response from The Coalfields Regeneration Trust.
- information from SEPA meeting held on 18th April.
- information regarding defibrillators and possibility of applying to FC small grant scheme for funding. Cllr Murtagh also suggesting a campaign locally involving CC and school to raise awareness and perhaps funds. Aileen has passed to Alex Detlaff. Aileen also discovered that a defibrillator needs annual insurance.
- email from Robert to SEPA and CC members regarding the details of venue, times etc. for the Workshop which was held on 18th April.
- email invite to Allison Leonard of RSPB to attend tonight's meeting.
- copy of email from FC Funding Support Officer for annual grant of £341 to Airth CC.
- email from Andrew Paterson of Scottish Government to members who attended recent “Strengthening Community Councils” event in Edinburgh.
- notice from Ineos following controlled and unplanned shutdown of a chemical plant over the weekend of 20/21 April.
- email from FC re revised planning consultation “Education & New Housing Development”. Closing date extended to 31st May 2019. Cllr Murtagh spoke to the

issue and, as an example, to the background etc. of the Kinnaird housing development. She gave an insight into the difficulties of this particular development because of the ratios used to work out school size etc. which in turn determines the financial contribution lodged upfront by the developers. In this particular instance the ratios turned out to be much higher than envisaged because there are so many young families in the area. It is important to say that the developers are not at fault and therefore the investigation and consultation has had to be sensitive to this fact.

- email with link to notes and Powerpoint slides from “Strengthening Community Councils” event.
- email re another Fracking consultation - deadline 25/6. Robert asked whether members should reply to it separately. Aileen said comments to Maria in first instance.
- copy of notice of Lodge march on 6th July from 4 - 4.40pm and route of procession.
- information on workshops regarding “Wanderings and Windings trails” being held by Inner Forth Futures at various venues. i.e. at Alpha Centre, Fallin on 30/5 from 6.30 - 8.30pm; Bowhouse Community Centre, Grangemouth on 21/5 from 10am - 12 noon.
- Community Safety Team Report for 1/4 - 30/4/19. Continually monitoring Higginsneuk and Powfoulis areas for fly tipping. Continue to engage with dog walking companies at the Pineapple to promote responsible dog walking. Patrol other areas in relation to dog fouling. Robert alerted to fly tipping he had come across at the back of Letham.
- email regarding request for cigarette bin at Main Street bus stop. FC however says that there are 3 bins at this junction which appear adequate.
- email to Jon regarding letter in relation to Data Protection Act. Jon’s understanding of what he was asked to do differs to others who attended. A short discussion was held on the subject. Jon of the opinion that the email he sent is adequate and agreed to follow up with Brian Pirie and report back. The scheme seems appropriate to an organisation the size of Falkirk Council but it cannot be the responsibility of individual community councils for various reasons, not least the financial implications.
- Update from Paul Laidlaw, Scottish Flooding Forum, after he had contacted Falkirk Council. Ronnie Martin was unhappy at the outcome of this meeting and outlined the shortcomings between what had been discussed verbally at a previous meeting between Paul, Robert and Ronnie when they took Paul to the areas of concern. This meeting had unfortunately been cut short due to lack of time. Ronnie was particularly disappointed that there was no mention of the breaches in the banking. Robert asked if the CC could have sight of notes of the meeting between Paul Laidlaw and Falkirk Council. Cllr Murtagh agreed to make enquiries. She said that clarification is needed of the area being studied and whether the study has started / is finished and if so what the outcome is. Robert said that unfortunately for us the Grangemouth area will get

priority and of the £100M needed only £10M is available so it is not difficult to see where the money will be spent. Paul Laidlaw had suggested speaking to people whose homes were at risk of flooding to discuss strategies they could use to protect their properties. Robert thinks this would only panic people. It was agreed to await the report from Falkirk Council and further that Robert would write to the Officer at the Council asking specifically about the Airth Flood Protection Study.

- consultation on Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Strategic Plan, closing date is 18/7/19.
- information regarding Crowdfund Scotland. James Toal will look at this.
- cancellation of Ineos Community Liaison Group on 13/5/19.
- email from Cllr Murtagh regarding availability of bedding plants for community groups. Robert provided a container of wildflower seed mix for school pupils to sow at bottom of High Street. He asked whether Cllr Murtagh knew if rose garden at Shore Road is to be planted this year. If not, this would be ideal for the wildflower mix as well.
- email from Clean Up Scotland - nominate a litter picking hero.
- email from resident enquiring why no CC minutes had been posted since January.

## **7. Treasurer's Report :**

Aileen reported there is £515.54 in the Admin a/c and £3,099.05 in the Xmas Lights a/c.

## **8. Round the Parish :**

**Airth** : Robert had come across what he thought was a good idea, using old milk containers to hold supplies of dog poo bags (empty) for community use. He suggested that one should be put up in the School Road. He was wondering if this would be ok with Falkirk Council, Cllr Murtagh assured him that it would be.

Next high tides are due 3 / 4 August.

A local resident had spoken to him about the cracked pavements from the top of the School Road right along to the Church. Cllr Murtagh to take forward.

Murat again mentioned the state of the repairs made on the main road between Dunmore and South Alloa. These repairs had been done but in such a makeshift manner that they now required to be done again. Cllr Murtagh to investigate.

**Letham** : Robert had already mentioned the fly tipping at the back of Letham.

**Dunmore**: Aileen was happy to report that a young Dunmore lad, Joseph Parker, has been named Dux of Larbert High School.

**South Alloa** : No issues.

## 9. Planning Issues :

- (a) **Brackenlees Farm** : planning permission has been granted for 9 dwellinghouses. Ronnie Martin felt there was a safety issue regarding the access road which was little more than a car's width. The CC had already made several comments to the Planning Committee including the problems relating to traffic, isolation of any children living there, the proposal of 9 separate soakaway septic tanks. There is no scope to comment again. Cllr Murtagh, while not commenting on this particular application, said that generally the area needed new housing and therefore more children. The application does not conflict with the policy for the area.
- (b) **Linkfield Farm** : planning permission has been granted for this, there appeared to be not enough of a deviation from the application to ask for a re-application.
- (c) **20 Douglas Avenue** : application withdrawn.
- (d) **9 Banks View** : application for extension.
- (e) **Proposed Development at Dunmore Woods** : Mr Hardie invited Robert to a meeting he was having with the Planning Dept. On advice it was felt this was not appropriate. Mr Hardie has agreed that once he has brought his ideas together he will come along to a community council meeting and outline his plans. Planning department has agreed to hold onto any application relating to this project until after the summer recess to give the CC time to respond if need be.

10. **VE Day - 10/5/20** : Some time away yet but if area wishes to be involved in celebrations the organisation of this needs to be started sooner rather than later.

11. **Annual Garden Competition** : Already have the funding for this, as well as a trophy. Airth Games is being held on 27th July and we need to identify judges. Aileen suggested asking someone from the local Torwood Garden Centre. She will take this forward.

12. **Whisky Tasting** : This is going ahead this Saturday, 18th May. 7 tickets still remain.

## 13. AOCB :

- Ronnie Martin reiterated his fears for flooding in the area around his home and the fact that Falkirk Council do not seem to actively take his fears seriously. He said that in all the time that he has been in contact about these issues no official from the Council has ever suggested visiting to alleviate these fears. He has also appraised his MSP of the issues. Cllr Murtagh said she would take this back to relevant department.

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