

**Arnprior Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 April 2008**  
**7.30pm, Arnprior Nursery**

**Community Councillors Present:** Eric Brodie, Helena Buckley, Ed Carrick, Duncan McEwen, James Stirling, Geoff Atkins

**Also Present:** Kate Brodie, Councillor Alistair Berrill, Fiona Stirling,

**Also In Attendance (up until item 4):** Alister Veitch, General Manager ORAN, Andrew Prince ORAN

**Apologies:** Police Constable Campbell Dunn

**1. Welcome and Apologies;** The Chair welcomed those present. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February were proposed by Duncan McEwen and seconded by Ed Carrick.

**2. Matters Arising:** Ed Carrick has asked Jane Mackenzie, Scottish Water to attend next meeting on 17 June, and she had asked if possible to have any questions in advance of the meeting in able to be able to formulate answers to any specific questions.

**3. ORAN** The representatives from ORAN were welcomed to the meeting. Alister Veitch apologised that ORAN had not operated to the highest standards in sludge recycling in Arnprior in the past and that the matters complained about were now being addressed. He explained that he has recently joined ORAN and prior to that he had worked for Thames Water. Health and Safety and compliance with regulatory requirements are two key areas that the new management team at ORAN are addressing.

Mistakes were made in operations in Arnprior and should not have occurred. Measures are being put in place to ensure that there is no recurrence of poor practice and that there is full environmental compliance and proper health and safety measures. ORAN are putting in place a new member of staff to deal with FACS (Fertiliser Advisory Scheme), Waste Management Regulations and a process of audit to ensure that all staff comply with company procedures.

Eric Brodie asked about the storage of sludge and noted that when spillage had occurred it had not been cleared up. Alister Vetch acknowledged that ORAN should have reacted more quickly than it did to the problems that had been drawn to their attention. Mr Brodie reiterated that residents had to make complaints to SEPA before action had been taken by ORAN. Geoff Atkins asked for reassurance that ORAN would prevent any future impact on road users by its operations. Mr Veitch agreed that there should have been adequate removal of waste material at the time of operations and this would be the case in future.

Mr Veitch advised that advance treated bio solids have been through a treatment process. The bio solids are de-watered to 40% solids and then

limed to increase pH to 12. This kills bacteria: e-coli and salmonella to log 6 scale to ensure 99.999% eradication. ORAN has submitted a Hazard Analysis (HACCP) plan to SEPA. Scottish Water also undertakes laboratory analysis. Ed Carrick commented that there had been spillage during wet weather, followed by dry weather and that matter had baked in to road surfaces and consequently had not been removed during clean up operations. There was also an issue of verge damage which he agreed to give details of to Mr Veitch. Mr Veitch asked that he should be contacted if there were any concerns and he assured the meeting that ORAN would be quick to react. He acknowledged that there had been sloppy procedure when spillage wasn't cleared up there and then as standard operating process and assured that there would be no future sloppy procedure.

Discussion took place regarding heavy metals EU standard. Mr Veitch advised that typically sludge will be applied once every three years – it is highly unlikely that it would be more than this.

Eric Brodie wished to discuss issues raised by the community regarding the size of vehicles being used on Arnprior's single track roads and the consequent damage to verges particularly at the top of the Mains Road. He asked if ORAN will repair this damage. Mr Veitch said that the road network is assessed prior to operations with regard to the suitability of vehicles to be used.

It was noted that an ORAN vehicle had fallen into a ditch on the Mains Road and the Community Council were meant to get a report as to the reason why. It was noted that this had been a potential pollution incident due to operator/driver error and that the police were aware of the incident.

Ed Carrick stated that the Mains Road is not currently restricted to heavy vehicles.

Discussion took place regarding published research on the effect of waste bio-solids on sheep. Duncan McEwen said that none of his lambs born this year have shown any abnormalities. Eric Brodie said that he had read the articles as being about abnormalities in *future reproductive health* of sheep rather than birth defects.

The issue of the Safe Sludge Matrix was raised by Mr Veitch. He explained that it was developed in 1999 with a retail consortium to ensure that supermarkets would be happy to stock products grown in areas where sludge was used. The Safe Sludge Matrix Regulations state what crops sludge may be applied to, harvest intervals and a code of practice to ensure that food is safe to eat. The UK Government (Westminster) is now doubtful that this matrix needs to be encased in law.

James Stirling asked if sludge is applied can it be classed as an organic product.

Eric Brodie said that during ORAN operations, people had been unsure about who to contact regarding complaints: the Council, SEPA and ORAN and that his enquiries were passed from one organisation to another.

Mr Veitch stated that ORAN has an ISO 9001 procedure regarding complaints and that he was perfectly happy for any future enquiries or complaints to be brought to him directly.

Duncan McEwen asked what radius to ORAN vehicles travel from the treatment works and he was advised by Mr Veitch that it is no more than 25-30 miles from Dunfermline or Perth Works.

Ed Carrick asked how many waste solids are used. Mr Veitch confirmed that there is a need of 3% of UK agricultural land for bio solids, and that in Scotland this is probably less than 1%.

It was asked why this waste is not spread on moorland or forestry. Mr Veitch said that some does go to Forestry where the ph is below 6.

James Stirling asked what is the agricultural benefit of applying treated bio-solids. Mr Veitch said that the materials contains nitrogen and phosphate, and in sulphur small amount of potash good slow release fertiliser.

Kate Brodie asked could communities benefit in some way from the inconvenience of the operations. Mr Veitch replied that overall, community benefit could be regarded as cheaper food and spreading bio-solids on land keeps water cleaner, also in effect it is recycling rather than recourse to incineration or landfill.

The unpleasant smell of spread waste was discussed. ORAN has tried various masking agents but this is using more chemicals than strictly necessary and the smell nuisance depends on receptors in the nose of individuals. Pellets don't smell so bad but are a more expensive to process due to energy costs of drying.

#### **4. Police report**

Geoff Atkins gave a report received from Constable Dunn. There have been two incidents in Arnprior, one relating to Laraben and one to Burnside. No further details on the incidents were available. Ed Carrick was concerned that nobody from Care Visions was available at this meeting as it had been agreed at the February meeting that a Care Vision representative would be available to attend each Community Council meeting particularly to deal with any concerns. Ed Carrick stated that he was aware that Care Vision residents had been responsible for fire setting at Newburn, trouble at Arnprior Farm and breaking and entering premises through a roof. James Stirling considered that Care Vision residents were inappropriately supervised.

Kate Brodie asked what had happened in times past in dealing with younger people in Arnprior if there had been concerns. Helena Buckley said that the Care Vision residents were hard to place, vulnerable children and she was

concerned that there should be sensible relations in Arnprior as it is a small community. Duncan McEwen stated that he considers that the Care Visions residents are in the wrong place and he is concerned for the security of his property. Ed Carrick said that he will contact Care Vision to invite a representative to future meetings and also to chase up plan to swap plants.

Councillor Berrill suggested that if there were concerns about the standards of care for Care Vision residents that the Care Commission or Social Work department could be asked to advise.

**Action: Ed Carrick**

## **5. Road Safety Matters**

Discussion took place regarding the closure of the road at Jenny Wood Loan/ Jenny Woodstone Road and whether the Council is intending to repair the road. The community view was agreed as being to leave options open for the time being and wait and see what developments took place.

Geoff referred to a number of outstanding items on roads safety matters and agreed to send update to Margaret McKechnie. See below.

Kate Brodie had noted the tarmac on the main road was being laid this week and would this provide an opportunity to ask for side roads repairs? Geoff Atkins suggested that requests should be logged with Council.

## **6. Review of Recent Correspondence**

Mr Atkins provided a list of recent correspondence and asked people to note particularly the following:

- Ballindalloch Windfarm – objection from SNH. Cllr Berrill mentioned a report by Council re visual impact relating to Ballindalloch.
- Course for New Community Councillors 9.30 -12 this Saturday. Geoff may attend.
- Draft Final Core Paths Plan. Geoff asked people to note the dates of drop-in events during the 23 April – 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Geoff showed final draft core paths plan and explained that the next stage will be to seek Council approval and then funding to be found. Discussion took place regarding Backside of Garden and the close proximity of path to the house. It was agreed that the Community Council should respond by July to demonstrate support for the plan and also make contact with residents of Backside of Garden and Station House. Geoff agreed to drop a line to these people as they are resident so close to the core paths to ensure that they are aware of the draft final plan.

**Action: Geoff Atkins**

Geoff asked for comment on the usefulness of the recent correspondence list he provides and it was agreed that it was most helpful and Geoff agreed to

continue to keep it going in order to share information and the amount of correspondence received.

## **8. Financial Report**

James Stirling gave Statement of Accounts as being £2354.82 and £488.04.

It was agreed that an item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss how the 'free' funds could be spent and the possibility that they should be held until such time as the core path is ready.

## **9. Review of Community Plan**

It was agreed to keep track of the following matters in the Arnprior Community Council, Community Plan:

- Planning proposal on A811, monitor volume of traffic, report speeding traffic.
- Condition of roads and bridges. Funding of maintenance- good progress.
- Other Road Safety issues – Geoff will give list to Margaret McKechnie for help in making progress. The list includes white lines and improvement to north pathway.

**Action: Geoff Atkins**

- Access to Health Services – no action. Discuss at next meeting.
- Access to leisure facilities – Geoff will start gathering some information.

**Action: Geoff Atkins**

- Community Council Projects – Geoff suggested that we need to get to grips with any ideas for these and also ascertain is there a community will to proceed with these. Examples that have been proposed in the past include the shop, community garden, etc. It was noted that for the bulb planting and benches that a relatively small group of people get involved. The idea of planting of cherry tree idea was mentioned. Ed will take action on this to contact interested parties.

**Action: Ed Carrick**

With regard to benches maintenance, Ed agreed to give information on how to treat benches to put on website to Geoff.

**Action: Ed Carrick**

## **10. Newsletter**

Kate Brodie said that it was a great pity that the latest edition of Earrann was to be the last and that all the work put into this over the years should be commended. It was agreed that under Geoff's editorship that the newspaper had flourished and was excellent. Geoff said that the grant for the production of the newspaper had been used up and he would provide a completion report for the funders.

**Action: Geoff Atkins**

Ed thanked Geoff on behalf of the Community Council and community for his work as editor and said that it Earrann would be missed. An agenda item for next meeting would be to discuss how to take Earrann forward. A couple of suggestions were to make it shorter or to seek guest editors.

**11. Funding for minutes secretary**, Geoff will contact Margaret McKechnie.

**Action: Geoff Atkins**

**12. Community Council membership: co-option of member**

Following on from Hazel walker's resignation, Steve McFarlane has confirmed that he is on the electoral register and thus eligible to become a Community Council member. Duncan will invite him to the next meeting.

**Action: Duncan McEwen**

**13. Date of Next Meeting: 17 June, 2008, Arnprior Nursery 7.30pm**

This will also be the AGM.