

MINUTES OF ARNPRIOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

On Tuesday, 19 June 2007

Present: Ed Carrick (Chair, Community Council); James Stirling (Treasurer, Community Council); Angus Robertson (Community Council); Duncan McEwen (Community Council); Hazel Walker (Community Council, Minutes); Margaret McKechnie (Stirling Council); Sid Pask (Stirling Council Community Warden); Wm. Dunn (Stirling Council Community Warden); M.Prescott (Stirling Council Community Warden); Fiona Stirling; Ian Muirhead; Rebecca Armstrong; Duncan McEwen (jr); David Muirhead; Andrew Hull; Malika Bahuguna; Nandini Bahuguna; Campbell Dunn (Central Scotland Police).

1. Welcome

Ed Carrick as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He negotiated with those present that the Community Wardens would make a presentation describing their service and contact details before the AGM and the general Community Council meetings commenced.

2. Apologies

Helena Buckely; Geoff Atkins and Eric Brodie.

3. Presentation from Community Wardens

9 community wardens cover the Stirling Council area. They tackle low grade, persistent problem behaviour. Wardens deal with litter, fly tipping, dog fouling, abandoned cars, vandalism, etc, as well as drinking and anti social behaviour.

Duncan McEwen (CC) asked about dog fouling as dog faeces can poison farm animals. The wardens can supply bags for disposal. An individual is committing an offence if s/he doesn't pick after his/her dog. Wardens can refer animal matters on to the Animal Protection Officer as necessary.

The Community Wardens then left and the meeting returned to the agenda. Those present were asked to introduce themselves.

4. Annual General Meeting

Ed Carrick declared the AGM open. EC presented Chair's report for the past year (copy attached).

Acceptance of report as accurate record of events:

Proposed: Duncan McEwen

Seconded: James Stirling

Treasurer's Annual Report

Accounts were accepted as an accurate record of Community Council funds (copy attached).

Proposed: Angus Robertson

Seconded: Ed Carrick

This concluded the business of the AGM and the Chair brought the meeting to a close.

General Meeting of the Community Council

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed: James Stirling

Seconded: Hazel Walker

2. Matters Arising

Road Safety: Stirling Council is looking at ways of improving the area around the bus stop on the south side of the village. It has been paved but there is no room for a shelter. James Stirling mentioned that the Council had not approached him re gaining extra land at the south bus stop to allow a shelter to be erected.

Action: Margaret McKechnie to discuss with those responsible in Council.

Community Action Plan, Item 7:

Hazel Walker confirmed she could attend the Forum Meeting on 25 June 07.

Action: Hazel to attend meeting.

Slow Down Sign:

Margaret McKechnie reported that the 2nd pole was due to be put up this week.

Duncan McEwen reported that the existing pole is on the wrong side of the entrance to the farm and he wanted it moved to the top of the entrance. Brian Roberts is the contact at the Council and Margaret will follow up.

Action: Margaret McKechnie to speak to Brian Roberts.

3. Police Report

PC Dunn reported that a crime spree had taken place recently in the local area.

There were no speeding statistics available but PC Dunn was able to say that they show an improvement in speed reduction. The hand-held radar is continuing to be used and is acting as a deterrent.

The nursery reported that some of their equipment had been broken. There has been no sign of any young people hanging about.

PC Dunn will ask the community wardens to look into the nursery in the passing.

Action: PC Dunn to talk to community wardens.

Care Vision young people still causing concern on the farm. The Manager has put in a new buzzer system to identify when a young person leaves the house. Duncan McEwen reported that the Care Vision Staff seem not to offer good role models for the young people in their care. The meeting agreed that the manager should be invited to the next Community Council Meeting.

Action: Manager of Care Vision to be invited to next meeting.

Action: PC Dunn to provide a generic protocol for information.

4. Road Safety

The promised installation of new double white lines through the village remains outstanding.

Margaret McKechnie reported on the road maintenance budget for 07-08. She will email to the Secretary for the Community Council. The council is resurfacing sections of A811 – the shaded areas are the ones included in the budget. Arnprior road matters aren't be included in the budget.

5. Review of Recent Correspondence

- a. Damage to Nursery property – perhaps the CC could give the nursery a grant to buy replacements?

Action: CC to write to nursery commiserating with the breakages and offering a donation.

6. Smaller Towns and Villages Transport Strategy

Margaret McKechnie reported that all community councils are to be included by mid July.

7. Proposed Wind Farm at Ballindalloch, Balfron

Ed Carrick gave a description of the background to the CC's involvement with the above project. A meeting is to be held next week at Balfron High School to discuss the project, which was made a public meeting at the request of the CC's affected (Balfron, Arnprior, Fintry and Buchclyvie).

Ed raised and explained the issue of Community Benefit. The four CC's have requested from nPower that negotiations re. community benefit start now as opposed to after planning permission has been granted, which would have been N Power's preferred option. Fintry CC invited representatives from the other CC's to hear their experience of negotiating benefit with an existing wind farm. Frostfree, the company handling all the business from the wind farm near Fintry on behalf of that community, offered to conduct negotiations with N Power on behalf of the CC's.

The purpose of the negotiation would be to obtain an agreement of benefit based on a share of farm output rather than on a fixed fee basis. Figures presented from the Fintry Group show that buying into a windfarm scheme yields significantly more benefit in the long term. This would require setting up of a company or similar by the communities in due course, but negotiation is required first. Time is extremely limited as nPower are due to submit for Planning Approval in September.

Ed reminded the meeting that it was important to remember that the Community Council had a duty to represent the Community in the matter of consideration of the Windfarm's Planning Application. Community Benefit which would arise in the event of the windfarm being constructed also falls to the CC to negotiate. It was important to separate these matters. The four CC's had recognised that the appointment of a third party to handle Benefit negotiations offered the opportunity for the CC's to concentrate on the Planning aspects.

General discussions followed. Ed noted that Frostfree have a proven track record of success on the Fintry project. In the event that Frostfree fail in their negotiations the communities would return to the basic fixed annual community benefit offered by N Power.

It was expected that a community company would be required to be set up in the event that the farm was to be built, as at Fintry. Financial risk there was limited to something like £10 per director.

For the current negotiation the CC's foresaw that one member of the CC group would each Frostfree/nPower negotiation meeting as an observer. Two representatives from each CC would attend Frostfree/CC meetings.

Frostfree's fees would be covered as a part of the negotiations with N Power, with no fee payable if the negotiation failed or the windfarm was not built.

Margaret McKechnie noted that the Dti have no set guidelines re levels of benefits to the community.

Action: Commission Frostfree to commence with negotiations.

Proposed by: Hazel Walker

Seconded by: Duncan McEwen and James Stirling.

8. Community Plan Draft for Discussion

Deferred to next meeting due to lack of time.

9. Any Other Business

Ed Carrick raised an issue on behalf of Carol Seymour at Thorntree. Carol was concerned about the lorries transporting treated effluent to Arnprior Farm for use on the fields, especially in relation to:

- The poor state of the road above Jennywoodston
- Damage which has occurred to verges, and the potential for ongoing damage to this minor road arising from the large size and number of vehicles using it
- Surface mess on the road from spillage.

Duncan and Duncan (Jr) McEwen responded:

- The material is treated sewage sludge from Kirkcaldy, delivered and applied by a contractor, Oran (formerly Snowie).
- The contractor spilt some material at the start of the operation, but this is not expected to happen again and they are now cleaning the road regularly. Dry weather made removal of the first spillage difficult.
- The size of vehicles allowed on road is a matter between the Roads Dept and Oran. The road is looked after by the Council and has no limitation on the size of vehicles.
- They consider that Oran is good a cleaning up after deliveries.
- At the end of operations any damaged to verges will be repaired by Oran, who will also clean road with road sweeper.

Hazel Walker raised the matter of Buchclyvie losing its dispensing service in the GP surgery. A petition is being circulated.

Duncan McEwen asked people not to walk through the Arnprior farmyard for safety reasons. Could people please use the footpath in front of the houses.

10. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday, 21 August 2007, 7.30 pm in Arnprior Nursery.