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## Minutes of Community Council meeting held on 6/12/07 in Inversnaid Primary School

1. **Sederunt:** Ros Dingwall, Scott Provan, Cllr Fergus Wood, Duncan Cameron, Owen McKee, Sue Russell, Fiona McEwan, Andre Goulancourt, Margaret Neufeld.
2. **Apologies:** Ralph Wolfe, John Clow, Maureen Campbell, Geraint Short.
3. **Minutes:** agreed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Drinking Ban – Ros has received a copy of the byelaws from Peter Broadfoot at Stirling Council. The Forestry Commission and police support a ban, and it would give the police the discretion to act when they need to. Local support is also needed – a simple survey is to be drawn up and delivered to all households in Strathard.
  - Inversnaid Christmas tree lights – Margaret has been footing the electricity bill for this – Community Council to make a donation to her.
5. **Pensioners' Christmas Dinner:** A good night was had by all. Raffle raised £332, which is excellent. This together with the existing Christmas account funds (including a £40 donation from Mrs Sherwood, £50 donation from Fairyland Aromatics, £158 from The Gathering duck race) means that there are sufficient funds to reimburse the money borrowed from the main account, cover the drinks bill and buy parcels for the housebound.
6. **Correspondence:**
  - Bruce Crawford, MSP** – Letter regarding safety on A81 and A811. 140 sites have been prioritised. Re-alignment planned at Dumgoyne due to fatalities.
  - NHS Forth Valley** – Info re PPP meeting 5/12/07.
  - Community Partnership** – Info on meeting 29/11/07.
  - National Park** – Update on progress of Local Plan. Info on NP website, relating to the whole park, and the Strathard area. We should all look at this as it will govern planning guidelines for years to come.
  - Forestry Commission** – Consultation on Loch Katrine Environmental Statement on CD. Comments required by 21/12/07. Discussion around the fact that Scottish Water had promised to reintroduce sheep on the surrounding hills once treatment works at Mugdock were complete – opportunity to create local jobs (though there is little housing infrastructure to support this as most water board houses have been sold). It was felt that a meeting for further discussion with Loch Katrine Action Group would be useful.
  - Carers Connection Newsletter** – newsletter.
  - Scottish Government** – Seminars on planning – 15 Jan & 18 Feb in Edinburgh.
  - Anne McGuire, MP** – Notice re surgery in Aberfoyle.
  - Stirling Council** – Notification of proposal to change postbus times. Introduction of new speed safety limits on buses (56mph on motorways) have resulted in a new timetable (although post collection times have not been changed to accommodate this - it could now be difficult to receive and post mail in the same day.) The postbus is popular with tourists (and has been used as a rescue service over the years) so it may be worth contacting the Stirling Office of VisitScotland to see whether they might consider supporting a bus with more convenient tourist times. Ros will further consult and formulate a response.
  - Postwatch** – newsletter re PO closures. Paypoint terminals set up in other outlets eg. garages, have been responsible for some depletion of post office income. MPs should be contacted regarding possible closures.
7. **Planning:**
  - Wee Blether Tearoom – proposed extension. We have not been consulted by NP on this, but as it is a public building in a public area, it would be good to see the plans – Fiona will request and circulate.
  - Retrospective separation of Wattie Cottage & Scott Cottage, Inversnaid. No external differences, and lots of fences to demarcate property boundaries. Agreed happy with this.
  - **Updates:** (1) Go Ape reception building – interesting building with a woodchip burning stove, and lower profile than main building. No comments raised after plans received. (2) Loch Katrine/French/Loch Chon aqueduct & inspection chamber covers. We were not on the statutory consultee list regarding this, and as such only found out about it by looking at the planning list on the internet. As these are structures in public

areas, we would like to see future Scottish Water plans at the consultation stage. (3) Ard Mo Chruidhe, Duchray Rd – domestic extension. (4) Na Lagan – undertakings and conditions reviewed. (5) HBoS autoteller – all concerns considered and carried out. (6) 2 Lochard Cottages – the new NP enforcement officer is waiting for a landscaping proposal to be drawn up. Fiona will request that we are consulted on the re-application, and to remind officer that our concerns relate to size/construction area/height issues (rather than landscaping). (6) Possible Forest Hills footpath. Fergus advised that the Council are currently discussing this, as there are concerns about maintenance of the footpath. Alternative uses of the £57k were discussed – streetlighting or alternative footpath? We are unable to use the funds for road maintenance, as this is not considered capital expenditure (despite the fact that the promise was given at the outset that due to the extra strain on the road caused by the extra FH development, the money would be put into road funds). (7) Ardarroch – refused for various reasons. (8) Trossachs Pier plans – withdrawn. Stronachlachar to remain as dry dock site.

**8. Flooding:** Thanks to pressure from voters, community councils, and Councillors, Stirling Council has agreed that more priority will be given to this. 2 studies which will help Strathard are currently being commissioned by the Council, including an aerial study of the whole catchment area encompassing the Teith, Forth and Allan rivers. All local information gathered will be studied by consultants. It is also possible for the Council to make a submission to the Scottish Government for a larger scheme (80% funded) though any sums available are likely to be concentrated in areas of higher population density. However timescales to achieve actual results will be long, and we should not expect any immediate benefit from this work.. In the shorter term:

- Local Solutions – it would still be beneficial to raise the road at Echo Rock, and various other areas, and we should continue to push for this.
- Community Response Plan – this needs to be developed to encompass early warning from remote locations; collection of local road depth data; continued reporting of flooding; movement of people in medical emergencies; sandbags/metal door shutters/airbrick shutters for local traders.

#### **9. Reports:**

- **Treasurer** – Christmas and telephone accounts both healthy. Aberfoyle Garage Community Purchase – still ongoing, with discussions between interested parties. Strathard Community Trust – David Warnock is working on the railway turntable project.
- **Cllr Fergus Wood** – Dukes Court now fully painted and cars removed. Playpark plans produced – the community should be able to influence what is included – our feelings were that it does not need as much landscaping as is planned, and possibly the enclosed football pitch is not large enough? Respite care funds (for handicapped kids, allowing their parents time away to go on holiday, as well as for the elderly) are under threat from other Council areas requiring funding (eg. foster child care). We feel that it is not appropriate to charge for, or means test respite care. Council budgets are currently being drawn up, and funding is very tight (though roads are a priority). Primary School – there should not be any planning problems with moving the proposed building (though it may be costly building warrant-wise – no details yet available); we believe the culvert was to be diverted. The church is happy to work with developers to help with disabled access from the lower carpark. There is also the issue of the possible selling of the school house, and the loss of usable play space. Fergus will clarify the position regarding the house.
- **RSPB** – Duncan advised that the new carpark is now complete, together with new picnic benches & signage. A donation cairn and 4 bike racks are to be done, and 2000 trees/holly bushes etc. planted. A joiner is needed to repair the boathouse doors damaged in a storm.

#### **10. AOCB:**

- **Pavements** – these have been redone in Lime Craig and Queen's Crescent. Ros will query when the pavement from Aberfoyle to the school will be done.
- **Roads** – Fergus brought the proposed road plans for this ward, which will hopefully be put on the website. It is planned to have road champions in all areas, as well as a maintenance "hit squad" in our ward and Strathendrick to clear drains of leaves etc. before they become a real problem. The drains past Forest Hills are due to be cleared shortly, hopefully removing the huge puddles that gather there.
- **Letter from Robin Dixon (factor of Comer Estate)** – regarding a potential community renewable energy "small/medium" hydroproject near Comer Farm. There shouldn't be a NP objection to a small project. SEPA would need to be involved. Agreed it sounds interesting and to seek further information.