

Chairperson

Mrs. R. Dingwall
Taobh-an-abhainn
Lochard Road,
Aberfoyle,
FK8 3SZ.

Tel: Day 01877 382 231
Eve. 01877 382 668

**Secretary**

Miss Sue Russell
Loch Dhu House
Kinlochard
FK8 3TS
Tel: 01877 387712

**Strathard Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on July 10th 2008 in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall**

1. **Sederunt:** Ros Dingwall, Fiona McEwan, Maureen Campbell, Sue Russell, Ralph Wolfe, Scott Provan, Andre Goulancourt, Owen McKee, Cllr Fergus Wood, Sgt Tasker.
2. **Apologies:** PC Ricky Govan.
3. **Minutes:** Agreed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant – Scott understands that this has been repaired since July 2nd. The new filters have gone in, so hopefully it will function as expected!
 - Outdoor drinking byelaw – to be discussed under AOCB.
 - Sigrid Armitage Memorial Bench – Martin Armitage will send a photo of a possible bench for our approval.
 - Great Trossachs Forest – Fiona, David and Marion attended a meeting with FCS and Scottish Water, having done some preparatory work with Margaret beforehand (Bruce Crawford was not at the meeting as had been expected). Again, the topics of visual impact, land management, animal grazing, water quality, biodiversity, and the effect on flora and fauna were raised. FCS provided some additional photographic depictions which were clearer than the initial graphic representations, and are keen to push ahead with the project. They are estimating a planting density at the dam end of Loch Arklet of approximately 40-50%, and on average looking at approx. 60% density of planting overall at Loch Arklet.
 - Sandbags – we have received a one-off offer for removal of the sandbags, and have requested that we use this next year.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - Stirling Council** – Community Council Vacancy Elections 2008. 2 vacancies – one each in Kinlochard & Aberfoyle.
 - Stirling Council** – Meeting of Planning Panel 26th June.
 - Stirling Council** – Proposed changes to Public Transport Provision – Demand Responsive Transport. Advisory letter letting us know what is going to happen rather than offering consultation.
 - Central Scotland Fire & Rescue Service** – Consultation proposals.
 - Bruce Crawford MSP** – National Parks Strategic Review.
 - Paragon Housing Association** – letter to Mr & Mrs J Wallace. Owen suggested it would be a good idea to get the tree certified as dangerous.
 - Stirling Council** – Meeting of Health & Safety Panel 18th June.
 - Bruce Crawford MSP** – Aberfoyle surgery 16 July.
 - Anne McGuire MP** – Surgery dates.
 - Thornhill & Blairdrummond Community Council** – seeking a CC volunteer to speak on being part of the National Park – meeting 15 July.
 - Stirling Council** – Meeting of Health & Safety Panel 18th June.
 - J Parker** – Dutch Bulbs catalogue
7. **Planning:**
 - (New): **Corn Mill, Milton** – change of use of agricultural land to form garden ground and erection of garage. Within the only Conservation area in Strathard. From the road this would appear to be a single storey, with the depth due to the drop-off of the land. Our comments will be passed on stressing our preference for stone and dislike of wood, and emphasising that wood would clash with the other stone buildings in the vicinity. A concern would be that the wider land area should not be garden planting (this is not proposed by current applicants)
 - **Fairy Rade, Main St** – demolition of existing retail unit and erection of one and half / two storey building (retail unit & flat above). The applicant looked at building this in a similar

cottage style to Rainbow's End, to stay sympathetic to existing buildings. It will be rendered in white roughcast with grey roof tiles (rather than slate), and white UPVC windows. According to the owner, the current building suffers badly from damp. One resident noted that rooms in Duke's Court may end up looking directly into the upper level.

- **Stronachlachar Pier** – temporary planning consent to be sought for the Katrine Wheelz container (it is not yet being used).
- (Existing): 33 Limecraig Avenue – application approved,
- Forest Hills Hotel – alterations to leisure centre entrance façade approved.
- Glengyle House – approved.
- Dukes Cottage, Trossachs Road – no objection to proposed Planning decision.
- 2 Lochside Cottages, Kinlochard – refusal & enforcement notices approved by Planning Committee.
- Forest Hills Footpath – s75 agreement about to be signed off, as LLTNP have not followed through on their assurance (from the Planning Director) that it would be looked at. Only a brief inaccurate response has been received from the Planning Officer, which is disappointing, following all Fiona's efforts. Owen will investigate.
- (Other) We had been advised that Community Councils had not been invited to put forward representatives to the 'Planning Forum' because the ACC was involved – it seems that they have not been invited either despite a 2006 undertaking that they would be!
- Core Paths Plan consultation deadline 27th July. Objection to be lodged re Forest Hills path.

8. Reports:

- **Treasurer** – Main account £1120.79, Christmas account £609.49, and telephone book account £4914.73.
- **Owen McKee** – the National Parks Strategic Review has to happen every 5 years. It has been decided that they will stay but it is under review how they are run, who will run them, whether they should operate as an NGO or charitable trust, and how they should be demarcated? Dr Fiona Spencer, an independent reviewer, will report to the Government on her findings. There will also be consideration of applications for boundary changes, which may result in an expansion of the Park – eg parts of Loch Tay, Cowal, Thornhill & Blairdrummond also wish to join (though it is unlikely that anyone will be able to leave!) Michael Russell MSP is very keen that communities should have their say. Under the present structure for example, the Park is unable to operate commercially and “earn its keep” – there could be a stronger incentive to do more if it were? SEPA is to have 40 members of staff in the new HQ.
- **Cllr Fergus Wood** – recently returned from Ireland, where he and members of his delegation met various Chambers of Commerce and other organisations. Stirling Council is looking to have a local relationship with Galway. He also led a Council delegation to visit Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Canada. They took a copy of the Wallace Sword, visited many communities, and appeared on Canadian TV. Subjects discussed during the visit included an exchange programme with Stirling, a multi-million pound development project with the Institute of Agriculture, 2009 Homecoming year, and Nova Scotia week, with links to be built to promote travel and other reciprocal links between the two. The visit will hopefully generate lots of activity and business connections.
- **Sgt Tasker** – PC Jo McDowall who has been unwell, will soon be returning to work. A car at Shannochill House was damaged at the end of last month. An elderly gentleman died suddenly at David Marshall Lodge last weekend, although the paramedics got there pretty quickly. For information, all retained firefighters are defib trained, and every appliance now carries a defibrillator. The fire service may be sending out a communication on this fairly soon.
- **Meetings attended** – Proposed **traffic calming scheme** – there was good attendance at this local meeting, and all local residents and staff at the school feel these measures are necessary. Lots of options were covered and the council will look at them all and come back to us. Meeting with John Hair, Forestry Commission Scotland – **consultation on plans for Loch Chon and Corriegrennan area**. Fiona, Andre, Scott, Sue & David attended this 'field trip' where John showed and talked us through future planting plans, areas at different stages of regeneration, and the change in remit of FCS to embrace conservation, recreation and environmental needs, rather than simply the traditional planting/felling cycle. A useful and interesting exercise. We await the draft forestry plans in due course.
- **8. AOCB:**
- **Dukes Court** – there have been several fights, windows broken and local disturbances for the last 3 weekends and during the week, involving mostly adults. Several people have been

apprehended and charged. Sgt Tasker suggested calling the police at the time disturbances/loud music etc are happening. The trouble often begins after the pubs empty.

- **Outdoor Drinking Byelaws** – though the offence is to be seen drinking alcohol rather than just carrying it, the benefit of the law is as a deterrent as most believe that holding alcohol is an offence. Legislation allows prevention at an early stage. 79% of respondents to the survey said yes to the ban, although response rate was only 10-15%. Further discussions followed highlighting both points of view. Ros received an email from Peter Farquhar of Stirling Council who suggested it may be SNH who should be consulted re rural & remote area byelaws, while the Council deals with towns and villages. Sue to contact SNH and the Procurator Fiscal for their input. In most areas where the byelaw has been applied, it is demarcated by a circle around the 30mph village/town boundary.
- **Scottish Water** – are taking on board concerns about illegal fishing on Loch Katrine. David Horne and the police have both spoken to SW. They are also continuing to cut and maintain verges. On the subject of Royal Cottage, Ros has spoken to Rural Stirling Housing Association about the possibility of taking this on, though it may be too large a project for them. Owen will also speak to them. It was also expressed that it would be good to get various cottage industries into the workshops – Archie McGregor is open to suggestions on the use of these, but accommodation is not possible due to water shortages.
- **Local Phone Book** – Fiona presented an update report and budget, including various options for cover artwork, and the use of funds received relating to the project, which is self-funding, and should remain so. Funds could possibly be donated to other local causes. Community Councillors to review her paper for discussion at next meeting, and consider funding later in the year once the financial result of the new book is clearer.

Next meeting Kinlochard Village Hall – 7.30pm on Thursday 7th August.