

Chairperson

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**Secretary**

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Minutes of meeting held on October 4th 2007 in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

1. **Sederunt:** Ros Dingwall, Scott Provan, Geraint Short, Maureen Campbell, Owen McKee, Sue Russell, Fiona McEwan, Jimmy Quinn.
2. **Apologies:** Andre Goulancourt, John Fraser, Ralph Wolfe, John Clow, Duncan Cameron, Fergus Wood, Tony Ffinch, Paul Owens (all 3 at a Council meeting).
3. **Minutes:** agreed.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - Parking restrictions – Ros has emailed our comments again, but still no response.
 - Duke's Court – painting has started.
 - Owen has spoken to Tony Teasdale – he would like to come to our meeting (maybe January?) to let us hear his thoughts on Rural Housing, and to seek our views, and see if we can identify any suitable areas (or any derelict properties that could be renovated eg. in the forest)
 - Ros contacted the Council & Forestry Commission about the Manse Rd timber haulage. It was assessed to be OK for the new lorries weightwise (inc. 10% safety margin). Width could be an issue, so we'll report any damage seen to the bridge. The lorries seem to be travelling in convoy, sometimes at speed, in the early hours of the morning, disturbing residents' sleep.
 - Playpark – the Fraser Foundation have given £7k for the second phase, though £20k had been hoped for. John Paterson is going back to try to seek more funding.
 - National Heritage Grant – one area this can be used for is tree surgery, so we may look at this for the Poker Tree. Ros to contact.
 - School appeal – the outcome of the appeal is not expected for another 2-3 weeks. Discussed further in section 7.
5. **Pensioners' Christmas Dinner:** 3rd December. John Paterson will provide buses. There are fewer housebound folk needing parcels this year. To be discussed in more detail at November's meeting.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - John Fraser** – sending apologies, and resigning from his post as community councillor. This is due in part to his disillusionment, resulting from the way he feels that the Council appears to have a complete disregard for the consultation process that Community Councils are in place to provide (particularly with reference to the Council's pursuing of the planning appeal process relating to the School, against the community's wishes).
 - Bruce Crawford** – copies of his letter and response from Stirling Council re the poor state of litter around the Co-op area, and requesting action. Brian Devlin, Stirling Council, inspected 3 Sept, and observed some litter and damaged sandbags. Bins near-overflowing are the responsibility of the Co-op. Village Officer instructed to increase attention to this area. Weeds/detritus/litter to be cleared over the next few days. Litter from paper fallout on recycle bin collection days has become an issue – Ros will write.
 - Stewart Stevenson, MSP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change)** – copy of letter received by Bruce Crawford on the restoration of the Sir Walter Scott, and the Executive's agreement to support the project.
 - Stirling Council** – festive lighting public liability insurance cover only operates if the lights have been installed or checked by an electrical contractor. Cover purchased by Council through the ASCC.
 - Stirling Council** – request for our 2008 meeting schedule. Agreed that first meeting would be Jan 10th.
 - BT vans parking by telephone exchange** – Mike Campbell forwarded email that he had sent to BT on this subject – no response. Ros will email again.
 - Stirling 4 Community e-newsletter** – with various bits of information, including funding for local communities & youth groups.
 - Helen Geddes, Stirling Council** – re current Community Council vacancies – one in Aberfoyle and one in Kinlochard. Geraint was co-opted with the approval of the Community Council, but we are only allowed one co-optee at any one time.
 - Forth Valley & Lomond Leader Funding** – proposed new area, draft development plan. Meeting Sat 6th October – Jimmy Quinn will attend, and pick up copies of all funding information.

Community Partnership – Gathering 3rd November at the Winnock, Drymen. Up to 5 reps from Community Council/Trust may attend.

7. Planning:

- Tigh na Cruinn – National Park approved with conditions.
- Na Lagan – NP approved with conditions.
- Awaiting information from Paul Owens, re status of proposed Forest Hills footpath.
- Site visit for school appeal – we expect to wait several weeks for a response. Ros attended, and was very dissatisfied with how it was conducted, and the fact that some individuals made remarks inappropriate to the circumstances & exceeding their remits. There was no opportunity to enter into discussion on the issues. However, the National Park submission on the subject was very full and comprehensive, so it is hoped that the Appeals Officer will consider it fully before reaching a final decision.

8. Reports:

Treasurer – raised the possibility of a Bonfire/Fireworks Night, to generate funds – maybe a joint venture with Gartmore? Geraint will get in touch with the Council's licensing department. Also provided update on the Aberfoyle Motors Community Purchase project – offer submitted at closing date was too low, so various discussions are now underway regarding how best to proceed (1) to continue with the project as it is, despite having difficulties raising the funding, and increasing doubt as to whether it will be possible to run all aspects of the business or (2) to look at obtaining an area of land to site 2 automated pumps, open 24 hours.

Owen McKee – nothing to report.

Councillors – all at meeting. Fergus sent reminder about Mushroom Festival – 18th-21st October. Hopes to see as many Community Councillors as possible at the opening night concert.

9. Meetings Attended:

- **Committee for Tenants Association, Stirling Area** – Jimmy Quinn to attend meeting on Saturday 6th October. Issues are (a) shortage of housing (b) the right to buy multiple times (c) current homeowners allowed to go onto list, with no personal wealth restrictions – we will make Bruce Crawford aware of our concerns.
- **TAN meeting on the subject of Flooding** – Fiona attended. Lots of interest, but, although we are currently top of Stirling Council's agenda, we don't expect anything to be implemented in the near future. It was agreed that communities need to band together to access government money – the Scottish Government has recently taken this on board as a "hot topic". Various aspects of flooding were then discussed (a) do we have adequate sandbag supplies? (b) traders were looking at sourcing metal "water excluders" to be placed on the bottom of doors on Main Street (c) more depth markers to be placed. Fiona/Ros will push for these (d) ask for floodplans – legally these must be provided to us (e) set up network of information (f) implement emergency plan, including leaflets with air ambulance details (g) collect information on the number of days that schools are closed, or children unable to attend due to floods (h) drainage ditches & channels under and adjacent to road must be kept clear.

10. AOCB:

- **Community Action Plan** – is progressing. Workshop Sat 27th October 11am-3pm/4pm, in Memorial Hall. All organisations are being asked along & doing displays to raise awareness. Survey results will be displayed, and separate staffed "topic tables" will be set up to encourage one-to-one discussion.
- **Pharmacy application refused** – on grounds of viability. Great news, and many thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work.
- **Liz McGregor's Coffee Shop** – contract at David Marshall Lodge not renewed. Ros has been approached by various members of the community to see if there is any possibility of intervention with the Forestry Commission. Liz is overwhelmed by & very grateful for all the support she has received. However, she has now made alternative plans. We have also been told that the tendering process itself is being reviewed, and as such, it is probably not appropriate for us to take it any further.
- **Rubbish on Manse Rd/Covenants/Duchray circular walk** – Scott commented that fences/mattresses appeared to be accumulating here, and the burning of tyres and plastic barriers has also been observed. Forestry Commission have said that they will bury the rubbish.
- **Poker Tree** – Geraint had a good fundraising idea for the branch that needs removing. Possibly this could be cut into small pieces, mounted on a card with the story of the tree, and sold to raise funds.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 1ST NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM IN KINLOCHARD HALL