

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TROSSACHS COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON
20TH MARCH 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Martin Earl (Chairman)
Peter Brown
Roger Drapper
Iain Fraser
John Isbister
Ron Mendham
Lesley Niven

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Hugh Dobbins and Cllr Wood
Mark & Sam Fowler (part meeting only)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Frank Trzebiatowski

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st FEBRUARY 2008

The approval of the minutes was proposed by Ron Mendham and seconded by Roger Drapper.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) NATIONAL PARK PLINTH

Noted that the plinth has now been installed and that Martin intends to tidy up the area surrounding the plinth.

b) CALLANDER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes have been received.

There is to be a public meeting about the future use of the St Kessogs Church Building.

Dick Johnson is doing a presentation to the National Park Board about flooding.

c) CHRISTMAS CARDS

While it was felt that this issue was possibly not high on the list of Stirling Council's

priorities, it was agreed to raise it again later in the year.

d) LOCH LOMOND & TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

Noted that Peter Brown's application to join the Access Forum had been unsuccessful.

e) COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARY

Proposed changes approved at Stirling Council Meeting held on 13 March.

4. REPORTS

a) FINANCE

The balance at the bank is £1372.25. Agreed that bills for £100 for the fencing around the plinth and £30 for the expenses incurred by the Family History Society should be paid.

b) LOCH VENACHER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Reported that the riparian owners have had a meeting recently. It was noted that, in the absence of planning permission, work at the Venacher Fishing Station to reclaim some land has stopped. Roger is to contact Peter Bennett to ask that a meeting of the Management Group be organised as soon as possible.

c) TROSSACHS AREA NETWORK

Community Partnership accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and Gene's comments were noted. The Community Partnership website is very out of date and Martin is to ascertain why it has apparently been suspended.

d) LOCH KATRINE COMMUNITY TRUST

Noted that signage warning cyclists and walkers about vehicular traffic had been installed.

e) LOCH ACHRAY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

No report.

f) TROSSACHS COMMUNITY TRUST

Adam Wallace has been appointed to the Access Forum. Noted that there have been various complaints to the Trust about roaming sheep.

6. SPECIFIC ITEMS

a) PLANNING

There were no new applications listed on the Planning Schedule.

Martin introduced Mark Fowler, the new owner of the Byre Inn and his daughter Sam who is the new manager.

Cllr Wood explained that as a member of the National Park Planning Committee, it was not possible for him to participate in any discussion relating to planning matters.

Mr Fowler explained that the Byre was very run down and had suffered from a lack of investment for several years. It would be necessary to replace the entire kitchen and to carry out substantial refurbishment of the premises. It is intended that the Byre should operate as a clean and well run establishment in the future. Despite the planned works, Mr Fowler has concerns about the viability of the business and has been talking to the planners at the National Park about the possibility of altering the Section 75 agreement on the staff bungalow to allow this to become available as holiday lets which would generate additional income. It would then be necessary to extend the Byre to provide staff accommodation and sketches of the proposed alterations were circulated.

Martin explained that in the absence of a planning application, it was not possible for the TCC to comment but encouraged Mr Fowler to discuss his proposals with local people and the relevant authorities.

Lesley Niven explained to Mr Fowler that as the co-owner of the property adjoining the Byre, it would be necessary for her to declare an interest and that she would not participate in any consideration of a future planning application.

Stirling Council is running a Planning Training Session on April 26 (Saturday 9.30-12pm). Martin will try and attend if possible and ask if Frank can attend also.

b) ROADS

Martin reported on a worthwhile meeting with Gordon MacLachlan.

The repairs to the culvert at Brae Cottage are proving to be very successful.

Improved signage at the bend at the end of the Milton straight would require a formal request to Stirling Council and Cllr Wood indicated a willingness to help with and/or support any such request.

Martin had made contact with Mr McDonald of Transerv (Killin Depot) regarding the junction of the A821 and the A84 at Kilmahog. Noted that the speed limit was reduced from 60 to 40 mph in 2001, the last accident was in August 2002, the verges have been cut back and there is an ongoing requirement on the land owner to cut back the verges as and when necessary. The review of the speed limits will be completed by 2011 which may well result in a further reduction to 30mph.

Hugh Dobbins indicated his intention to pursue this issue by writing to the Chief Engineer at the Scottish Executive to raise his concerns about a longer stretch of the road including the entrances and exits to and from the two woollen mills. TCC is fully supportive of this action and Cllr Wood suggested involving Bruce Crawford MSP and Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater. It was suggested that people be asked to notify all incidents and near misses.

c) COMMUNITY POLICING

No report from PC Kerr. Noted that patrols involving 24 police officers are to start from Easter weekend through until the end of September. The National Park is looking at the best way to provide ranger cover and is considering the possibility of enlisting special constables.

Martin is to contact Tim Edwards to ask when the Community Service teams will be available to litter pick Lochs Achray and Venacher and he is to write to Environmental Services with a copy to Cllr Wood to complain about Stirling Council's litter policy.

Brig O Turk litter pick is on Saturday 19 April.

d) COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Andy Oldroyd (TCT) is preparing the draft survey

e) LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Nothing to report. TCC will initiate discussion when the draft plan goes out to consultation. Cllr Wood emphasised the need to be involved in the forthcoming changes to

planning strategy and land management. To be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

f) HERITAGE DAY

It was thought to have been generally well received and worthwhile and Martin thanked all those involved including Stirling Council and the Family History Society.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) MEETING AT LOCH KATRINE

Lesley to contact Gordon Allan to arrange for the TCC meeting on 15th May to be held at Loch Katrine.

b) VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Agreed not to enter.

c) PATH TO KILMAHOG

Noted that the path to Kilmahog which runs alongside the A821 is in very poor condition. Martin to contact Dick Johnson and Mr Balsillie at Stirling Council to ask about responsibility for maintenance.

d) VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Noted that Mrs E Twaddle of Bethany Cottage has asked to be added to the Village Directory. Lesley is keeping a note of changes and inclusions which will be published in the Bicycle Tree from time to time.

e) COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Hilary Robertson is no longer able to maintain the website and help is needed. It was agreed to install a "hit meter" to monitor usage and to discuss again at a future meeting. It may be necessary to employ a website manager.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on 17 April 2008 at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If anyone requires transport to attend, please contact Martin Earl on 01877 376367.