

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TROSSACHS COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON
15th NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Martin Earl (Chairman)
Frank Trzebiatowski
Gene Maxwell
Ron Mendham
Peter Brown
John Isbister
Duncan Carmichael
Jan Wilkinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Rena McGregor

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Roger Drapper, Lesley Niven, Iain Fraser and PC Kerr.
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th October 2007
The approval of the minutes was proposed by Frank Trzebiatowski and seconded by Ron Mendham.
3. MATTERS ARISING
 - a) National Park Plinth
All 4 landowners have been consulted and do not have a problem with TCC tidying up the corner area and the placing of the plinth on their land. It was agreed that Martin should draw up something in writing and get prices for work. It is intended to have a post and rail fence on the boundary towards Yew Cottage, with gravel and weed suppressant matting. It was agreed the National park would have to erect the plinth and amend the obvious errors on it. A bench will be placed beside it.
 - b) TCC boundary
No news
 - c) Bulbs
Duncan suggested where bulbs could be planted and agreed to distribute the bulbs to Ian, Ron, Lesley and Margo Rankin, who have kindly agreed to plant them.
 - d) Post Office
Brig O' Turk Post Office has not been included in the proposed Post Office closures and

so will remain open.

e) Callander Community Council Links

No response from Callander Community Council. Martin to contact Dick Johnstone again and if failing that, will attend a Callander Community Council meeting.

4. REPORTS

a) FINANCE

TCC has received £339.41 Administration Grant from Stirling Council.

b) LOCH VENACHER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Frank and Peter attended the 30th October litter campaign meeting. It discussed how effective the NP recent litter campaigns have been. It was noted that there has been increased police activity throughout the National Park in response to Nat Park Authority paying overtime. Nat Park are reviewing their policy on signage, however concern that this will not deter those wishing to cause nuisance.

It was reported that Loch Earn has 40 litter bins and sacks provided by Drummond Estates: the sacks being lifted and then deposited for Perth and Kinross Council to uplift from one car park. The provision of bins is felt by Drummond Estate to reduce litter by 90%.

Two 110L bins are currently provided by the Woodland Trust and Venachar Fishing for anglers to dispose of their rubbish. These are emptied by Snowie. Despite this, the general consensus of this meeting was that provision of bins would not make a difference.

Trossachs CC would support the re-installation of bins in Venacher and Achray car parks provided there is a strategy for regular emptying.

Stirling Council has confirmed that they will pay the landfill tax for rubbish collected by the Community Service Teams. We welcome this and expect that this shall be a long-term commitment. The Community Service teams have become a major part of the litter management in the Stirling Council area. TCC are keen to make sure they continue to operate in our area.

Flow control measures to be implemented next year to ensure drivers do not enter Forest Drive from exit to fish on Achray.

c) TROSSACHS AREA NETWORK

Joint Breadalbane and Trossachs Area Network Meeting on 29th November in Kirk Hall Callander to discuss the issue of anti-social behaviour. Peter and Martin have offered to represent the TCC at the meeting.

d) LOCH KATRINE COMMUNITY TRUST

They have not contacted TCC with anything to report. The Loch Katrine Advisory Group has not met for a long time. Frank has agreed to talk to Gordon Allan to discuss if there is a continued role for the LKAG or if another method of maintaining dialogue and links between the community and the SS Walter Scott Trust would be useful.

e) LOCH ACHRAY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Nothing to report

f) TROSSACHS COMMUNITY TRUST

Held their AGM on 30th October. The Chairperson's report was distributed amongst the community beforehand although the actual meeting was not well attended.

The Hall fund is now closed with the remaining £800 (approx) transferred into the main TCT account. The accounts are currently been prepared by the accountants.

Election of Directors and Office Bearers

All of the existing directors agreed to stand again and were reinstated. In addition, Andy Oldroyd was elected as a new director. There are now 8 directors in total. The current office bearers then stood down, with the election of the new office bearers taking place at a later meeting on the 13th November. Liz Maxwell and Adam Wallace remain as Chair and Vice-chair respectively. Martin Earl stepped down as Treasurer, being replaced by Keith Niven.

The next meetings are intended to be: Thursdays 24th Jan, 13th March and 8th May '08. It is also intended to have a new Glen Finglas Field consultation in the future.

5. SPECIFIC ITEMS

a) PLANNING

Frank reported about current planning applications that may be of interest to local people. Reapplication for Bellway site at Tannochbrae in Callander for 49 houses and 19 flats. This is fewer dwellings than their previous application.

Application for dry dock at Trossachs Pier has been re-submitted and application for a reception building for 'Go Ape' at the David Marshal Lodge, Aberfoyle.

b) ROADS

Nothing to report. In the New Year, we shall contact Stirling Council's Roads department to identify areas that require remediation in that year. TCC are keen to lobby for work to be carried out on Glen Finglas road.

c) COMMUNITY POLICING

Nothing reported.

d) POST BUS

Duncan has spoken with Mr Brown, Stirling Council's Public Transport Project Officer, with regard to the short notice changes to the post bus. Mr Brown states that these changes have taken place without the approval of Stirling Council or the Traffic Commissioner's Office; therefore the Royal Mail is operating illegally. The Royal Mail submitted an application to change the service to the Traffic Commissioner's Office, however due to the short notice, support is required from Stirling Council. Stirling Council is not willing to give support to these changes that result in less than an hours turn around time in Callander.

The current post bus service covering the Callander-Loch Katrine Pier-Aberfoyle route is subsidised by Stirling Council by £11.20 per passenger. There are over 1000 passengers carried each year.

Due to these current difficulties, Mr Brown is looking at demand responsive transport seriously and is hopeful to be able to introduce it in 2008. He emphasised that they will not remove the current post bus until something else is in place. TCC would want to see very comprehensive consultation with the community regarding any proposed changes and are mindful that whatever scheme may be proposed a commitment for long term funding will need to be made.

Mr Brown has offered to attend our TCC meeting on 20th December to update us on developments and answer our questions. It was felt that the January would be a better time for Mr Brown to attend so that the meeting can be well publicised.

Duncan to confirm to Martin if Mr Brown can attend, and formally ask him to investigate the change in the postal bus service.

Agreed there was potential to arrange a list of people who are willing to give lifts into Stirling. To be placed on agenda for next meeting.

e) COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN/LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Community Trust has agreed that their nominated people are Liz, with assistance from Andy. Martin has agreed to continue from TCC, however Duncan unfortunately will not have time to commit to helping to develop this. Martin to organise a meeting with Liz to coordinate the action plan.

f) ENVIRONMENTAL AFTERNOON

It was felt that the 2007 Environmental Afternoon was successful and worth replicating, however would have greater impact if biannually. It was considered better to hold a Heritage Afternoon in 2008, for a number of reasons. It would hopefully encourage people to participate in TCT's Local History Project, with an opportunity to showcase their archive and photograph new artefacts on the day. There was often a display of old postcards and photographs at the Bulbshow, which locals and visitors found interesting. It may help people and organisations begin to prepare for the Lady of the Lake bicentenary in 2010. The National Park is to plan and promote a series of events to celebrate the heritage of the Trossachs, and TCC is keen that as a community we play a part in this.

A few ideas were discussed for the Heritage Afternoon, including a children's local photography competition with disposable cameras.

Jan to contact Welfare Association to discuss if they are willing for us to have an event in conjunction with the Bulbshow, and to discuss possible dates.

Ron to contact Trossachs Community Trust to see if the History Archive Project is interested in being part of the event.

Martin to find out about Family History Society.

Peter to look into costs for cheap digital and disposable cameras.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Stirling Council meeting of Health and Safety Panel

Stirling Council consultation about Public art. It was felt that the recent Church wall hanging should be included.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on 20th December 2007 at

7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If anyone requires transport to attend, please contact Martin Earl on 01877 376367.