

Minutes of Strathard Community Council Meeting

Place: Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.

Date: 2nd November 2017

Present: John Clow, Michelle Colquhoun, Ros Dingwall, Trevor Geraghty, Andre Goulancourt, Fiona McEwan, Colin Smith, Fergus Wood

Apologies: Geraint Short, Stuart Stephen

Approval of minutes: Proposed by CS, seconded by RD. Two amendments: The last meeting took place at Inversnaid Hotel, not Kinlochard Village Hall. J. Clow had sent apologies via RD.

Attending: Cllr Jeremy McDonald, Michelle Flynn (Stirling Council, Toto McLellan (Minute Secretary) 8 members of the public.

1. Welcome & Introductions: Chair Trevor Geraghty welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters arising: None raised.

3. Resilience Plan: TG, CS and FM attended a recent meeting with Stirling Council regarding flood defence. As reported, there is no immediate funding available for full scale flood defences. Funding for practical measures to address the problems in the river will be pursued in the interim. The formation of a resilience plan for Aberfoyle was discussed. Ensuring that all residents have up to date information on the various accessible flood warning systems is a priority, although it was agreed that Strathard should strive to become proactive, rather than reactive following inevitable flooding events. Whilst valuable sources of support were identified (SC Emergency Planning Officer, SC Resilience Officer, Sepa) it was thought essential as a first step to form a designated group to undertake practical and strategic measures, who can then benefit from accessing that support. SCC will assist with strategy as required. It was thought opportune to identify the remit of various groups in the locality and form a cohesive contact list of those able to lend assistance. MF will research and report on the Strathard Initiative Group, initiated by Sepa. A list of landowners has been requested from Stirling Council, and it was noted that FCS are undertaking flood management measures in the Duchray Water catchment.

It was acknowledged that most residents have dealt well with events so far; Aberfoyle Primary School was known to have a resilience plan in place 18 months ago.

It was agreed to invite Stirling Council's Resilience Officer to a future meeting.

Confirmation was gained following Councillor Earl's enquiries that there are flood pods stored in Aberfoyle Fire Station, but at present there is neither protocol nor training in place for their use. Cllr McDonald was asked to look into this.

It was reported that a call centre is being set up in Edinburgh for emergencies such as flooding, calls will be transferred by them to the fire service, designated persons only may call..

4.: Police Report: Not present. The mobile police unit will be in the area on 9th November.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Community Trust: TG attended a meeting of Strathard Community Trust Ltd, where the Business Hub was discussed. For those not aware, the function of the Community Trust was outlined. The Trusts were originally set up in each community area by LLTNP, and play a vital role in facilitating projects, and sourcing and distributing funding towards accomplishment of Community Action Plan agendas.

7. Treasurer's Report: No report, treasurer on holiday.

8. Planning Retrospective consent granted to Duchray Castle and Home House. New application for Lochard Cottages, Kinlochard.

9. Upcoming Events: Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Forest Hills are not able to host this year's Christmas Dinner. It was revealed that historically the event rotated between local venues. It was agreed to approach the Rob Roy hotel for this year, and to raise the question of future engagement with other venues now. The Christmas Fund stands at £890.

10. Stirling Council Issues & Councillor's Report: **Drain:** Cllr McDonald was asked to investigate the circumstances surrounding the new drain installed in the Trossachs Road area at the time of the resurfacing works. This has never been opened for use. Bruce Crawford has already been made aware of the flooding problem created in nearby gardens following work at the location, but nothing has been done. **Connectivity:** TG has been told by SC Economic Development Team that funding will be made available by February for connectivity. Cllr McDonald was asked to monitor this. Two new projects were detailed: **Playlist for Dementia:** This project utilises music to support coping mechanisms for those suffering from dementia. Communities are invited to set up hubs to promote the scheme. **Military:** A project involving businesses to lend support to ex-military personnel seeking employment. **Heritage:** Cllr McDonald has been asked by other communities to assist in gaining support from Stirling Council to highlight sites of heritage value in their areas. Councillor McDonald intends to urge fellow councillors to do likewise, and invited input from Strathard. **Broadband:** Stirling Council are not happy with the current Gainshare map, and have submitted postcodes which they would like to have included. Some areas, such as Port of Menteith, are known to have main line fibre already installed, and it is not understood why these areas are being charged full price for connection. Cllr McDonald was asked to raise this question at the meeting scheduled for 29th November. It was also questioned why the Emergency Services Network are looking into location of a mast, when a working mast exists at Ledard, which is legally obliged to allow use by emergency services. **Stirling Council Community Conversation:** 2pm 14th Nov Council Chambers. Focussing on the environment, this meeting seeks to understand the needs of communities, and to work more at local level. **Community Council Review:** Only two submissions have been received from Strathard. MF provided paper copies of the survey form, and urged people to engage. Businesses may also contribute

11. AOCB: Secretary: Meg Wright has resigned as secretary of SCC, due to prior commitments. Stirling Council will be informed, and a replacement sought. **Glass Recycling:** There is a possibility that glass may be accepted in blue bins in due course. Empty brown bins may not be used, as they do not suit the collection vehicle. Cllr McDonald was asked to pursue the waste collection review which was scheduled to be held six months into the current scheme. **Bridge:** It was noted that the bridge in Aberfoyle is not being maintained well, with damaging vegetation growing from the stonework. **B829:** The flap valves on Lochard Road are not working and require constant cleaning out. Cllr McDonald was asked to raise this issue. **Theft/Damage:** Attempted theft of tools at Ledard was reported, and FCS vehicles have been deliberately damaged at Loch Chon **Festival:** The House Folk Festival will be held 8th, 9th and 10th of November in Kinlochard. A warm invitation was extended to all. **Road Closure:** It was felt that Stirling Council took all measures possible to minimise disruption during the recent road closure in Aberfoyle, going as far as providing a temporary change of bus timetable. Ros Dingwall was commended for her diligent work in ensuring residents were made aware of the impending situation.

Date of next meeting: Thursday December 7th at Kinlochard Village Hall

