

Fintry Community Council

Inaugural Meeting

11th November 2009

Welcome

Pam Campbell, Rural Development Worker welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the returning members, Mrs Meg Duckworth, Mrs Cicely Roy, Mrs Sandra Kinnear, Mr William Paterson, Mr James Pearson, Mrs Jo Skabara.

Apologies were received from Mr James Pearson

Information Exchange

Members of the cc were provided with data protection forms for completion, information on talk back, synopsis of rural south west area community planning forum, building in the countryside, information on the local review body, Stirling Council management structures, doorstep advice booklet, local police person Dave McNally and Police and Communities Together (PACT) and my contact details.

Election of Office Bearers

Cicely Roy was duly elected chairperson
Jo Skabara was duly elected secretary
Sandra Kinnear was duly elected treasurer
Meg Duckworth was duly elected planning/licensing correspondent

Adoption of Constitution

The newly formed CC agreed to discuss the constitution after the inaugural part of their meeting.

The meeting was handed over to Cicely Roy to conduct the business part of the cc meeting.

Present

C.Roy, J.Skabara, S.Kinnear, M.Duckworth, W.Paterson.
Cllr A.Berrill, P.C. D.McNally, 4 members of the public

Apologies

J.Pearson, R.Garvie

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed by J.Skabara (Secretary).

II. Matters Arising

1) Skateboard Ramp

Cllr Berrill reported that he had looked into the possibility of Stirling Council adopting the skateboard ramp but their policy on this is that it would need to be constructed of concrete or steel and would need their approval at the design stage.

N.McKnight felt that the offer from the Community Council for him to take over ownership of the ramp was “outrageous”.

In reply to W.Paterson’s doubts as to the value of restoring the ramp, J.Lane said there were enough prospective users to warrant it.

The main issues facing the Community Council if they were to take responsibility for the skateboard ramp having been discussed at previous meetings, C.Roy reprised the insurance costs and conditions for the benefit of new members. She reported further advice from Dr N.Walker (Treasurer ASCC) that responsibility lay with all members of the Community Council regardless of who was appointed to inspect the ramp, and reassurance from a solicitor that with all the suggested conditions being carried out unacceptable risk was negligible. Members were unwilling to approve reinstatement without further written approval of the Community Council’s planned procedures, which C.Roy agreed to obtain.

It was suggested that J.Pearson may be willing to do the monthly checks - Chairperson to check. Various people offered to help out with the weekly visual checks. N.McKnight confirmed that Jewson’s had agreed to supply the ply board to repair the ramp free of charge and that he could supply a list of volunteers who would be able to assist in the repair work.

2) Sewage Treatment Works

As a result of Cllr Berrill’s enquiry Stirling Council Planning Department confirmed reference to Scottish Water’s current website figure of 142 housing unit equivalents of sewerage capacity for Fintry’s Sewage Treatment Work, so they would not refuse plans for housing on the grounds of there being insufficient capacity. (In fact, they would not refuse planning permission on these grounds anyway but would not allow the housing to be linked to the system and therefore the housing could not be occupied!)

N.McKnight, however, had a copy of a letter dated 11th September 2008 from SEPA to Scottish Water stating that there was “no further capacity for further development in Fintry”. The Community Council requested a copy of this letter from Mr.McKnight. Cllr Berrill also requested a copy of this letter and said he would check if Stirling Council Planning Department were aware of this and ask them to clarify its position on the situation.

M.Duckworth pointed out that 30 years ago the planning department required all developments to have two systems for drainage – one for surface water and one for sewage and that this is not now the case. N.McKnight explained that the Treatment Works could manage a flow rate of 6 litres per second but in reality, the flow rate was regularly as high as 12 litres per second and that the sewage that could not be dealt with was going straight into the river Endrick. A. May expressed dismay on hearing this as many children play in the river in the summer. It was felt that awareness of this issue should be raised in the village and it was agreed Fintry Focus would assist in this. M.Duckworth pointed out that all the residents of Fintry were paying water tax and that part of this payment was supposed to ensure that sewage was being dealt with appropriately. If this was not the case, it may be possible to initiate a private action against the Authority.

SEPA’s reply to the former chairman’s letter included the 2008 flow figures and stated that they have requested 2009 flow figures from Scottish Water by January 2010 in order to re-assess the capacity of the Treatment Works. Chairperson also referred to a copy of the reply from Scottish Water to MSP Crawford’s letter that

mentioned a proposed investment between 2010 and 2015 and that the problem of excess surface water entering the Treatment Works would be examined. Chairman agreed to respond to both these letters.

N.McKnight pointed out that Government funding had already been used to upgrade the Treatment Works but that this had not made a positive difference and it should not be necessary to await the 2009 flow rates before the Community Council took the matter further by speaking to the press, Members of Parliament, etc. However, it was felt that proof of contamination of the river would be needed before this could be done and that would involve members of the community and SEPA taking samples of water.

3) Community Pride Fund Application

Chairperson noted that the form needed to be completed by new Community Council Office Bearers, and this was done at the end of the meeting.

4) NHS Community Food and Health Promotion Grant Application

This application made on behalf of the Yoga class was unsuccessful due to lack of funds.

5) Footpaths

The Action Day on 1st November arranged by the Countryside Ranger was a day of torrential rain and as a result was very poorly supported but included a gentleman from Buchlyvie. Chairperson and N.McKnight helped repair the steps at the far end of the Riverside Walk. However, the path is still in a very poor state of repair and needs to be topped up with approximately 40 tons of gravel at a cost of around £20 per ton. It was agreed that the Community Council would meet the cost of this if finances allowed and that volunteers would be sought to help with the distribution of the gravel. J.Lane offered to contact Norrie Gilmour from the Criminal Justice Department to see if he could arrange for people to help with this as they were involved with the original construction. However, it was felt that villagers (in particular dog-walkers and other users of the path) would be approached in the first instance.

6) Village Seat

The invoice had been received from Mr.McFadyen for £82 of which £12 was for materials and the rest for labour. Chairperson agreed to speak to Mr.McFadyen about this as the original (verbal) agreement had been that he would charge £10.

III. Councillor's Report

Cllr Berrill's report is contained under Sewage Treatment Works and Skateboard Ramp above.

IV. Police Report

P.C.McNally reported that the village had been quiet and that the only incident had been a driver from outside the village found to be driving whilst over the legal alcohol limit. Elsewhere, there had been break-ins in Balfron, Blanefield and Killearn. P.C.McNally advised house owners to try and make their houses look "lived in" during the day when the occupiers were out at work by leaving lights on, cars in the drive, etc.

P.C.McNally confirmed that he is still trying to contact Stirling Council's Animal Control Officer to address the issue of dog fouling on the sports field.

Several radar speed checks had been carried out along Main Street but no problems had been noted. P.C.McNally agreed to try and check for speeding traffic in other areas of Fintry e.g. between The Lurg and Fintry and across the bridge near the Sports Centre.

N.McKnight mentioned phone calls he had received recently from a company claiming to be conducting a crime survey and offering to provide “free” security equipment. However, once the equipment is installed the cost of maintenance would be thousands of pounds. P.C.McNally said there had been other complaints about this and it was being investigated.

V. Finance

The bank balance as at 31st October was £1,775.75. A payment for the maintenance of the Community Council’s website was due to be made. It was decided that the website should be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Planning

Correspondence had been received which indicated that it was very likely that the planning application for the Ballindalloch Wind Farm would be refused.

VII. Correspondence

- 1) Information about Aberlour Child Care Trust and a request to advertise their Christmas concert on 13th December. Poster to be displayed on the Sports Club notice board.
- 2) Newsletter from NHS Forth Valley.
- 3) Letter from B.T. to ask if the Community Council would like to adopt the red telephone box outside the village hall. Secretary to write to B.T. to find out what will happen to the box if the Community Council doesn’t adopt it.
- 4) Letter from Bruce Crawford MSP enclosing a copy of a letter to him from Stirling Council re a constituent’s pavement repair request. In the opinion of Les Goodfellow (Head of Roads, Transport & Open Space), the footway between Menzies Avenue and Culcreuch Avenue “is in a reasonable condition”. Secretary to reply to Mr.Goodfellow challenging this opinion as it was felt that the footway was in poor, if not dangerous, condition.
- 5) Letters from SEPA and Scottish Water – see Sewage Treatment Works

VIII.A.O.B.

There being no other business, M.Duckworth offered a vote of thanks to the new Chairperson.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)