

Fintry Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

21st April 2010

1. Present

C.Roy, J.Pearson, J.Skabara, S.Kinnear, M.Duckworth, J.Cuthbertson.
Cllr C.O'Brien, P.C.McNally, 2 members of the public.

2. Apologies

P.Campbell, R.Garvie, W.Paterson.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed by C.Roy (Chairperson).

4. Matters Arising

i. Actions Intimated

- ❖ Website/Software purchase - J.Skabara (Secretary) had purchased the software needed to maintain the FCC website at a cost of £20.12.
- ❖ Spout Burn Bridge – repairs had been carried out on the bridge and J.Skabara had e-mailed W.Hamill to thank him.
- ❖ Talkback/Streetscape – J.Skabara reported that there had been no reply from Talkback but that, with the help of Pam Campbell, all issues had been responded to by Stephen Todd (Area Officer, Roads Maintenance):
 - ◆ The problem on the back road to Balfron (flooding and then freezing) had been dealt with since the initial enquiry by the clearing of roadside ditches.
 - ◆ The build-up of silt and rubble at the bottom of the Crow Road – this situation will be monitored and action taken as and when required.
 - ◆ The footbridge over the Endrick Water collecting water and then freezing making it impassable – the issue has been passed to the Bridges Team. **J.Skabara to contact Ian Young from the Bridges Team to make sure he is aware of the issue.**
 - ◆ High School pupils walking along a section of the B822 (alongside Bogside Farm and eastwards) which is in poor condition, ungritted and unlit – no plans to include this in the Winter Maintenance provision. This issue appeared not to have been raised with regard to Safer Routes to School. J.Skabara notified the Chair of Balfron Parent Council of this. **J.Skabara to check with H.Bezuidenhout (parent of one of the High School pupils concerned) to check if a proposed walk along the route to check its safety has happened and to contact Cllr O'Brien if it hasn't happened.**

- ◆ The issue of the Denny Road being ungritted, with particular reference to the fact that Falkirk Council grit their end of it and that it will be the most direct route for Fintry residents to the new Larbert Hospital – the traffic volumes do not merit it being a Priority 1 route and if it were to be included as a Priority 1 route it would have to be agreed by the Elected Members. FCC was advised to bring the issue to their attention. As this issue was raised at the last meeting and this meeting, which were attended by Cllr A.Berrill and Cllr C.O'Brien respectively, this has been achieved.
- ❖ Village Officer – P.Campbell had e-mailed and then telephoned Derek Leitch and had found out that the Village Officer who covers Fintry is currently off long term sick. The village is therefore being covered by a mobile team. Unfortunately 4 officers on the mobile teams are currently on long term sick leave. Derek advised that if there were any particular issues causing concerns, FCC could contact him and he would direct the mobile team accordingly. **J.Skabara to contact D.Leitch to inform him of a large amount of litter along the roadside on all routes into Fintry.**
- ❖ Display Area – J.Pearson reported that the Fintry Development Trust (FDT) are also keen to have a display area in the Sports Centre and are happy for this to be a joint one. They will approach Sandy Kelso to discuss possibilities. **J.Pearson to follow this up.**
- ❖ Bus Shelter – P.Campbell had e-mailed Derek Parry about the repairs needed on the bus shelter outside the Menzies Hall. No reply received. J.Skabara had also e-mailed W.Hamill who had replied to say that he did not have responsibility for their maintenance. He had forwarded the e-mail to Graham Wilson who is charged with this responsibility. No reply had been received. **Cllr O'Brien to e-mail Graham Wilson to check what's happening.**
- ❖ Sewage Works –Peter Morgan (Planning Department) had received a spreadsheet detailing known issues in the Village Development Options from Scottish Water. He said, “Despite some indication that there is an issue at Fintry, it shouldn't be seen as a hindrance to development”. From the same document, C.Roy noted two interesting statements: “Foul only connection, surface water to watercourse. **There are some infiltration issues in the Fintry catchment which are causing concern, this has been promoted for further investigation and is a fairly high profile issue.**” and “**3" CI Watermain from junction of Menzies Terrace / Menzies Avenue will require upsizing**”. **C.Roy to try and find out why the watermain needs upsizing and ask when the investigation into the infiltration issues will take place.** Despite a request from Cllr Berrill, there had still been no direct response to the question of capacity. Cllr Berrill has now made a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act and Scottish Water now has 20 working days to respond. It was agreed that once the FCC has this information they will request a meeting with all 3 Elected Members to discuss the way forward. **Cllr O'Brien will also contact SEPA referring to a letter from 2008 stating that the Sewage Works has no more capacity.** N.McKnight stated that the “Fintry WwTW Inlet and Full Treatment Flow Storm/Spill Event Information, January to December 2009” document clearly shows that the Treatment Works does not work properly as the sewage is being diluted by the surface water entering the works and then entering the Endrick Water untreated.
- ❖ Dog bins – J.Skabara had e-mailed P.C.McNally to confirm that no more dog bins were required. A resident had asked S.Kinnear where they could collect poop bags from. C.Roy said the information was available in the latest Fintry Focus. C.Roy also noted that the

waste bin at the end of Culcreuch Avenue (near the bus stop) had disappeared. **J.Skabara to try and find out what has happened to it.**

- ❖ Friday Night Project – J.Skabara had made sure that the posters were displayed in the Sports Centre and in the notice board outside the Old Police House and C.Roy had put the information in the latest edition of the Fintry Focus along with an updated message from the Youth Worker.
- ❖ Planning & Licensing Seminar – J.Skabara had e-mailed the Power Point presentation from the Community Council Planning and Licensing Seminar to M.Duckworth (Planning/Licensing Correspondent).
- ❖ Demand Responsive Transport – The Friday bus to Stirling had been reinstated on a trial basis but must be pre-booked. Following residents' requests, C.Roy had attended Bruce Crawford's Surgery to ask if the service could be extended to include Killearn, as many Fintry residents are patients at the Killearn Surgery and if it would be possible to arrange for older residents to renew their bus passes locally rather than make the journey into Stirling.
- ❖ Hedgerow Treatment – J.Skabara had e-mailed Stephen Todd (with copy to Stirling Council's Tree Officer) to request a neater, more plant friendly method of trimming the trees and hedgerows in the future. No reply received.
- ❖ Skip – J.Pearson reported that the FDT were not willing to support a village skip. Cllr O'Brien said that he has been trying to get recycling facilities for aluminium cans to be situated at the Sports Centre and will continue to keep trying.

ii. **Skateboard Ramp**

J.Skabara reported that she had received one phone call in response to the advert in the Fintry Focus. Unfortunately, she was unable to take any details at the time and the person has not rung back. J.Skabara mentioned a meeting of the Rural Youth Work Network on Wednesday 28th April. Their aim is to improve opportunities for young people and increase funding for the rural area. It was thought they may be able to offer help, advice and funding for a skateboard club and other projects for young people in Fintry. **J.Skabara to contact P.Wallace and J.Lane to ask if they could attend this meeting and to request information from Sarah Winstone (Youth Services Worker) if no-one can attend. C.Roy had noticed that the "Danger Keep Out" sign had disappeared and would put up a new one.**

5. Police Report

P.C.McNally reported that there had again been no crime reported in Fintry and that he had been out patrolling a lot and meeting people in the village. C.Roy mentioned a survey that FCC had been asked to complete about the PACT (Police and Communities Together) process. **It was agreed that C.Roy could complete this on behalf of FCC as it needed to be completed online.** J.Cuthbertson reported a lot of noise from motorbikes driving up and down Main Street recently. **P.C.McNally to monitor this.** J.Skabara asked if there was a law concerning the lighting of garden fires. **P.C.McNally to check.**

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor O'Brien explained that, since the last FCC meeting, it had been the Easter recess so there was nothing to report. He mentioned the Stirling Local Development Plan which the Elected Members would be discussing on 22nd April and would be agreeing which issues would be open for consultation. A document about this should be available soon which would outline proposals for e.g. should Stirling create a new village rather than expanding existing ones.

7. Rural South West Area Planning Forum

A reminder that the next Forum meeting will be on 17th May and will feature health provision. There will also be several Local Development Plan Roadshows to find out about future development in our local area. The nearest one will be at the McLintock Hall, Balfron on Thursday 27th May between 2 and 8 p.m.

8. Finance

S.Kinnear (Treasurer) reported that the FCC bank account balance is currently £2136.34. The Yoga group's £275 Community Pride Award is yet to be paid. A cheque for £20.12 was given to J.Skabara for software purchased in order to maintain the FCC website.

9. Planning

M.Duckworth stated that there had been no planning applications in Fintry for the last few weeks. She had received correspondence from Scottish National Heritage to confirm the denotification of the Nature Conservation Act i.e. the boundary for the SSSI had been changed so that it no longer includes peoples' gardens. J.Cuthbertson mentioned that she had received notification (as she lives in neighbouring premises) of a proposed change of use for nos. 5 and 7 Dunmore Gardens from offices to houses.

10. Correspondence

- i. A forwarded e-mail from P.Campbell which she had sent to Harry Falconer and Mark Craske outlining FCC's concerns over the route for Fintry residents to the new Larbert Hospital.
J.Skabara to check if P.Campbell received a reply.
- ii. An e-mail from P.Campbell highlighting an information gathering session organised by the communities team at Balfron High on Thursday 13th May. They wish to identify the support and training needs of community councils so they can put together appropriate training events. **J.Skabara to e-mail all FCC members to find out what support and training they would like.**
- iii. An e-mail from P.C.McNally listing funding opportunities which may be relevant to FCC projects – given to S.Kinnear.
- iv. Leaflets from Stirling Castle highlighting events there in March and April.
- v. A "Carers Connection" newsletter.
- vi. A letter outlining a proposed 10 tonne Weight Restriction on the C41 Tak'ma'doon Road at Carron Bridge. **J.Skabara to e-mail to find out which route the new wind turbine traffic will take.**
- vii. A flyer advertising "The Big Fit Walk" on Friday 11th June.
- viii. A "Connect" newsletter.
- ix. A flyer advertising a course on "Doorstep Crime Training" on Tuesday 11th May.

- x. A "Community News" newsletter from NHS Forth Valley.
- xi. Information about a Stirling Community Health Partnership, Public Partnership Forum on "Cancer Services throughout NHS Forth Valley including Strathcarron Hospice" on 28th April at 6.30 p.m.

11. A.O.B

- i. Housing Consultation – Stirling Council has launched its consultation on the development of its Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and has produced a LHS report. They are inviting comments on the full report or on the sections in which FCC has a particular interest. **J.Skabara to e-mail the report to all FCC members.**
- ii. Footpaths – see attached report from C.Roy. S.Kinnear mentioned some erosion along the Lade walk. **C.Roy to find the likely cost of repairs to the River Walk and confirm the date of the Action Day when the work is to be done.**
- iii. Sports Club meeting – C.Roy attended the meeting and reported that the Sports Club had recently received details of the settlement of the claim re: the skateboard ramp. They asked what was going to happen with the ramp and C.Roy reported on what had been agreed. The Sports Club asked for help in promoting their music festival next month.
- iv. Notice board – the notice board outside the Old Police House needs repairing. **C.Roy to speak to A. Mason to see if he could do this.**
- v. Village signs – J.Pearson reported that the Fintry Development Trust (FDT) were willing to fund new signs for the village to say that Fintry is Scotland's 1st Carbon Neutral village. The FCC was not in favour of this. **J.Pearson to report back to FDT.**

12. Date of next meeting

12th May 2010 (AGM)

M.Duckworth offered a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)

Footpath Report

I attended the Paths for All conference at SNH headquarters at Battleby near Perth on 24th March. – the first *national* paths conference. From the presentations, workshops, tour of the path construction samples, and exhibits from associated organisations I collected some leaflets and I gleaned useful information and sources of help for developing a footpath: in particular about funding , pitfalls and the importance of maintenance planning.

There was a meeting of the quite new local footpath group – which includes those from Balfron and Killearn , who have experience of developing their paths – at the same time as this meeting. I have requested to be kept informed about the discussion, especially re training opportunities for path inspection and insurance issues which were on the agenda.

Together with our Countryside Ranger, Douglas Flynn, Jamie and I inspected and discussed the repair of the River Walk and the next steps in developing the Kippen Road Core Path. As a result and in connection with the River Walk I shall be checking the about the materials needed for the repair work planned to be done on the Action Day. It is hoped this will be on Sunday 13th June but remains to be confirmed. We want a really good turnout of workers and aim to use plenty of publicity. What funding might be provided by the Community Council - who constructed the path - taking into account the bill for the skateboard fencing?

For the Core Path we will be speaking to Mr Haslam, and possibly also Mr Ross, about further clearance of blackthorn scrub etc. near the start of the route, which Mr Mitchell has agreed to do. I shall also contact Mr McGregor at Stirling Council about permission to do some levelling and treatment of the verge where the path runs in front of The Manse. We will be approaching FDT about possible initial funding for the work.

The aim is to have the basic path route negotiable this summer.

(I then asked for any comments or questions.)

C.Roy (Chairperson)