

Fintry Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held on
13th January 2010

Present

C.Roy, J.Skabara, S.Kinnear, M.Duckworth J.Pearson.
Cllr G.Lambie, P.C.McNally, 5 members of the public.

I. Apologies

W.Paterson, P.Campbell

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

III. Matters Arising

1) Actions Intimated

- i.** Action Days – Following C.Roy’s request that the next action day should focus on repairs to the riverside path (beside the Sports Centre), the Ranger had replied to say that each Ranger has been allocated 4 action days and it seemed likely that Fintry would be accommodated. No firm commitments had been made yet and he thought the riverside walk suggestion was a good one. The final decision would be mid-February.
- ii.** Telephone Box – B.T. had replied to say that “should the Community Council choose not to adopt the kiosk, the kiosk and a telephony service would remain in-situ.” They would continue to monitor the use and cost of provision of the box and may need to consult with relevant parties concerning their continued presence in the future. **J.Skabara (Secretary) to e-mail B.T. to say that the Community Council feel that the kiosk should remain as a working telephone box at the present time, particularly as Fintry does not have full mobile coverage, but wish to be informed of any change in the situation.**
- iii.** Village Seat – The Community Council agreed to pay Mr.McFadyen the full amount outstanding on his invoice.
- iv.** Correspondence -
 - a.** Postcards relating to the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative had been put in the Sports Centre.
 - b.** Stirling Council Environment Services had been informed of the dates of FCC future meetings so that they can attend one of them to discuss their Flood Briefing Note.
 - c.** More copies of the Stirling Council Management Structure had been obtained and were made available at the meeting.
 - d.** Stirling Council Planning Policy changes had been given to M.Duckworth (Planning Correspondent).

2) Road conditions

Stephen Todd (Area Officer, Roads Maintenance) had been informed of the treacherous conditions on the back road to Balfron with regard to excess water on the road and ice.

3) Sewage Treatment Works

Scottish Water confirmed that they will forward the 2009 flow data when it has been collated and also provide FCC with information on any investigation into the surface water infiltration problem.

4) Crow Road Gritting

After a poor start, due to inferior grit being used, most people reported a big improvement in the safety of the road now that it is being gritted regularly.

5) Future meetings

The dates of the meetings of FCC for 2010 were confirmed and it was noted that all meetings would be in the Lesser Menzies Hall.

6) Postbox, skateboard ramp and website – see Special Issues

IV. Police Report

P.C.McNally reported that the recent bad weather had made things exceptionally quiet and no crime had been reported in Fintry. No speed checks had been carried out as the adverse road conditions were slowing people down anyway.

P.C.McNally said he had spoken to several dog walkers and reminded them to pick up any dog mess. He had distributed poop bags and brought some along to the meeting. P.C.McNally had had no success in contacting the dog warden – despite leaving several messages, his calls had not been returned. A member of the public commented on the amount of dog mess on the grassy areas next to the Menzies Hall and noted that some people let their dogs out on their own and some dogs are walked by young children who may not pick up their dog's mess. Another member of the public commented that the area taken up by rugby pitches on the sports field had got larger over the years leaving less space for dog walkers. A member of the public stated that part of the field was in fact owned by the sports centre and not a public amenity. It was agreed that the majority of dog owners did pick up after their dogs and it was a small minority who refused to. **C.Roy to try and contact the dog warden.**

V. Councillor's Report

(See attached report)

Cllr Lambie requested information about bin emptying and reported that whilst grey bins were not being emptied because of the bad weather, a black bin bag could be placed beside the grey bin and it should be collected. A member of the public asked about the food waste bins and Cllr Lambie said they should be arriving in the near future.

VI. Finance

The balance in the account as of 31st December 2009 was £1975.75 including a Food Health Grant. **S.Kinnear (Treasurer) to speak to Bronwen Ellis to check if this is in relation to an application from the Yoga class.** There was still money available in the Community Grants scheme which could be applied for. Cheques were signed for Mr.McFadyen (for the village bench) and for the FCC website.

C.Roy stated that the cost of the fencing around the skateboard ramp was £174 to date – it costs £6 per week.

VII. Special Issues

1) Website

The website needs regularly updating. J.Skabara agreed to speak to Gordon Cowtan to see how easy it is to keep it updated and agreed to take on that job if possible.

2) Skateboard Ramp

J.Lane expressed disappointment that she had not been informed personally of the decision taken by the FCC at the December meeting to demolish the skateboard ramp, particularly as she felt the feeling at the November meeting had been quite positive. C.Roy explained that a final decision had not been made at the November meeting as the new Council members were concerned about insurance issues and needed time to assimilate all the information. At the December meeting usage of the ramp was discussed and it was felt that there was an insufficient number of people using the ramp for skateboarding. J.Lane and N.McKnight had distributed surveys to 40 households with children and 32 of the 40 said that they wanted to keep the ramp. Whilst this clearly demonstrated support for the ramp, it did not reflect usage. D.Smith (FPS Head teacher) had discussed the skateboard ramp with the children at the primary school which again, demonstrated support for keeping the ramp but limited skateboarding use (other uses such as roller blading, bike riding and use as a meeting place were mentioned). A member of the public suggested that regardless of support for and use of the ramp, it was perhaps not a good idea for the Community Council to be responsible for the ramp in terms of insurance and liability, particularly in such litigious times. After much discussion, a proposal was made by J.Pearson, seconded by C.Roy and voted upon and accepted by the other members of the Community Council who were present as follows:

“The skateboard ramp should be dismantled in 9 months unless a group or club is formed to ensure the continuing use of the ramp.”

J.Skabara, J.Lane and P.Wallace agreed to work together to advertise the decision throughout the village and encourage interested people to form a skateboarding club.

3) Postbox survey

This item was carried forward to the next meeting.

VIII. Planning

- 1) Craigannet Windfarm: the invitation from the developer for consultation with FCC was declined.
- 2) Approval of a new flue for 3 Dunmore Gardens.
- 3) Schedule listing for tree felling in Main Street: M.Duckworth was satisfied with matters having ascertained the location and viewed the site.

IX. Correspondence

This was carried forward to the next meeting.

X. A.O.B

- 1) A member of the public asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the bridge in the park next to the village hall as it was overgrown and in a state of disrepair. Another member of the public said it had been built by the “Best Kept Village” group which no longer existed. The member of the public with the original query said she would contact Stirling Council about it.

XI. Date of next meeting

February 10th 2010

Vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)

Forth and Endrick News - Fintry - Wednesday, 13th January 2009

*Arnprior Balfour Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen **Fintry** Gargunnoch Killearn
Kippen Strathblane*

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Winter Service and Crow Road Gritting:** At the council meeting on 1st October the council voted for the following change to the winter gritting policy, which has incorporated a Cross Boundary Classification. The policy change 3.10 is itemised below. **3.10 Cross boundary route threshold: Routes with greater than 500 vehicles per day will receive treatment similar to the neighbouring authorities' standard.** As we only have one cross boundary route in Stirling Council i.e. the Crow Road this has allowed us to apply this classification as long as East Dunbartonshire continue to grit/clear their side of the route. I have been in contact with local residents for information about the effectiveness of the new policy. **Update:** I drove over the Crow Road on Monday 11th January night 22:00 and there was the same amount of very new snow lying on both sides of the council boundary line. There were also banks of snow at the sides of the road indicating that the road had been snow-ploughed.
- **Winter Maintenance:** During the severe weather council services such as bin collection and pavement winter maintenance have been hampered. Feedback from residents is that Priority 1 and 2 roads have been cleared although pavements have been a major issue. In response to community requests, stockpiles of sand have been left for public uplift. I have contacted the Fintry Sports Centre to see if a pile of sand can be left there, as the council do not have any convenient sites in the village.
- **Footbridge Surface Water:** I've passed this onto Stephen Todd (Roads Inspector) for his attention.
- **Balgair Castle Park:** I have contacted a resident over a number of issues including access during winter for emergency vehicles. Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service have been contacted about this and will make an inspection of the site access. I am planning to visit the site in January and the Scottish Government are looking at legislative ways of giving residents in residential parks more protection.
- **Road Maintenance Programme:** This is a 5 year works programme which is addressing the poor condition of Stirling Council roads. Improvement projects for Fintry include: Main Street; B822 (Kippen – Fintry); B818 (Fintry – Killearn); B822 (Fintry – Lennoxton); and B818 (Fintry – Denny). The B818 continues to be a major issue and I am hoping that we will see some progress over this in the 2010. Further away, there are a number of planned works on the A811 (Arnprior and Buchlyvie) and A81 at Ballat. I have also asked for a list of all completed works and planned works from the start of the 5 year programme in 2008 and whether this list is available online. **Update:** £1,172,000 has been spent in 2008/2009 on road maintenance projects in Ward 2 with projected spend of £1,171,000 for 2009/2010.

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Planning:** I have not received any communications re. planning applications in the Fintry CC area.
- **Ballindalloch Wind Farm:** To date I have not heard if the developer intends to appeal the decision to refuse the application. It may be that the case made by the community against this application was deemed to be so effective that the applicant may feel that an appeal would be counter productive.
- **Beauly Denny Powerline:** The council's position is to request that under-grounding is part of the developer's compliance with mitigation requirements in the Stirling area. Mitigation may also address the number of pylons in the Stirling Council area.
- **Planning - Earlsburn Windfarm Extension:** I have spoken to Gargunnock and Kippen Community Councils who are supportive of this project. I have also met the developer/applicant to discuss a range of issues including – Community Gain.
Update: Support for this project has also come from Fintry CC and this has been passed to planners.

Councillor Graham Lambie
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