

Fintry Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2010

1. Present

C.Roy, J.Pearson, J.Skabara, S.Kinnear, M.Duckworth.
Cllr G.Lambie, P.Campbell, 3 members of the public.

2. Apologies

R.Garvie, W.Paterson, P.C.McNally.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the May meeting were approved and signed by C.Roy (Chairperson) and the minutes of the A.G.M. were noted to be a true reflection of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

i. Actions Intimated

- ❖ Fintry Bridge Footway - J.Skabara (Secretary) had asked Ian Young (Team Leader, Bridge Maintenance and Flooding) if it would be possible to have a salt/grit bin placed near the bridge for people to put down in bad weather. I.Young had replied to say that since the main elements are steel beams it would not be appropriate to spread salt anywhere near the bridge. Sand would be more appropriate but would become encapsulated in the ice, would have to be swept up at the end of the winter and would block the little drainage there is. Grit is not used in the bins. I.Young felt that in normal winter conditions there should only be minor problems.
C.Roy reported that she had spoken to Derek Leitch about Spout Burn footbridge who had noted that the sub-structure of the bridge may need to be dealt with in the future. C.Roy had asked to be kept informed of any decision about this.
- ❖ High School pupils' safety – J.Skabara had contacted H.Bezuidenhout who reported that she is still trying to make progress with this matter. She will contact FCC if she needs any support. Cllr Lambie advised that Colin McMenemy would be able to tell us if there were any spaces on the mini-bus which takes children from the cross to properties more than 2 miles away.
J.Skabara to e-mail Colin McMenemy with copies to the elected members.
- ❖ Litter – The missing litter bin has been replaced.
- ❖ Fintry Sign – J.Skabara had e-mailed the FDT as agreed at the last meeting but had not received any reply yet. It was also noted that one of the signs was missing at the moment.
- ❖ School Bus incident – See Police Report
- ❖ DRT – J.Skabara had thanked David Brown on behalf of FCC for all his help and hard work. He had replied to say that the DRT service is proving to be a success in Fintry and elsewhere.
- ❖ Gender Equality Scheme – C.Roy had responded on behalf of FCC.
- ❖ Earlsburn Extension Benefit – C.Roy had found and forwarded the addresses of the Community Council's who stand to benefit from the Earlsburn Extension to the FDT, as requested.

- ❖ Julian Smith letter – A congratulatory letter had been sent and gratefully received.

ii. Sewage Works

- No reply, as yet, from Cllr Berrill's second more focused request for information.
- Ms. McMillan from Scottish Water had replied to C.Roy's questions about the watermain upsizing and the infiltration issues: "if development was to be permitted in this area, the existing water main may have insufficient capacity to accommodate additional development and may need upsizing". "I can confirm the investigation works (into the waste water infrastructure) will be carried out this year."
- C.Roy had replied to ask for answers to the remaining questions about the Asset Capacity Tables' statistics.
- Cllr O'Brien had received a detailed reply from SEPA to say that they are ensuring Scottish Water address the issues of impact on the Endrick Water and have raised concerns with them about the dry weather flow, infiltration and the impact of this on available capacity and overflow events from the works. SEPA are awaiting confirmation from Scottish Water on the date of a planned survey to assess and tackle the extent of infiltration within the sewer network. Scottish Water has advised SEPA that there is capacity in the sewage treatment works for future development but SEPA's current assessment of the environmental capacity of the Endrick in this stretch of the watercourse is classified as "Red". This means it has less than 3% capacity to absorb any additional environmental pressures so any additional flow and load to the works would need to be within the 3% figure. Finally, a SEPA Ecology survey confirms that the works are not having a detrimental impact on the Endrick Water.

iii. Notice board

Alec Mason has repaired the notice board and re-erected it at no charge to FCC.

iv. Skateboard Ramp

Following the decision at the last meeting, a concession had been requested, and reluctantly agreed, that the ramp be repaired in time for the Fintry Fling and insured for the months of June and July in order to attract and monitor interest in the ramp and a skateboarding club. The ramp had not been repaired in time for the Fling and no information had been forthcoming about the repair work. It was agreed that the ramp now needed to be partially dismantled to make it safe over the summer holidays and eliminate the need for the barriers. **C.Roy to write to N.McKnight to inform him of this decision.**

v. Action Day

J.Pearson asked if he could buy 2 bags of cement to help with the repair to the riverside walk on the Action Day on Sunday 13th June. C.Roy reported that there was the possibility of another Action Day later in the year.

5. Police Report

See attached report.

6. Councillor's Report

See attached report. J.Skabara to e-mail Carron Valley C.C. to ask if they would like to make a joint request for the gritting of the Denny Road – aside from the fact that it will be the route for Fintry residents to use to get to the new Larbert Hospital, it is also used by the mini-bus to bring and return children who live outwith the village into the village for the school bus.

J.Skabara to also e-mail Les Goodfellow (with copies to all 3 Stirling Councillors and P.Campbell) to express FCC's disappointment in the removal of £1 million from the roads budget, to request that there be an increase in the roads budget next year and to ask that the B818 from Fintry to Killearn be given priority for repair as soon as possible.

7. Finance

S.Kinnear (Treasurer) reported that the FCC bank account balance is currently £2136.34 and the balance in the Fintry Youth Group account is £498.79. S.Kinnear had received notification of insurance for the coming year and was still pursuing the administration grants for last year and this year. S.Kinnear also mentioned that the T.V. programme "Spring Watch" was inviting people to apply for grants for community projects and she would find further information about this.

8. Consultations

- i. Stirling Local Development Plan, Main Issues Report Appendix A– Andrew Haslam explained the proposed development of 36 houses in an area of land beside the Castle drive. This would be a long term, gradual development by Eco Village Enterprises (A.Haslam and his business partner) and Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA). The development would be split into 5 main areas – 2 areas to be low cost housing developed by RSHA, an area of family homes, an area for co-housing (a way of living which brings individuals and families together in groups to share common aims and activities while also enjoying their own self-contained accommodation and personal space) and a green area.

Concerns were raised about drainage, flooding and the clearance of old, established trees.

A.Haslam said that they would consider a private treatment plant if it was not possible to connect to the Fintry Water Waste Treatment Works. There was some support for the provision of smaller housing for the elderly. The FCC was grateful to A.Haslam for taking the time to attend the meeting and explain the proposed development.

C.Roy reported that she had attended the Local Development Plan Roadshow and had discussed a proposed policy for consideration which would encourage the development of small settlements such as the area around the Clachan of Fintry into hamlets. C.Roy also pointed out to the Open Spaces Strategy Team that they are still using the wrong maps – their 1999 copy does not have the correct SSSI boundary.

- ii. Local Housing Issues Report – J.Skabara to e-mail link to FCC members (and provide a paper copy to J.Cuthbertson), collate comments and reply.

9. Planning

- i. An application for the erection of a weather monitoring mast at Craigannet Farm. No objection.
- ii. An application for the demolition of an old storage building on Main Street in preparation for the building of four 1½ storey low cost houses. No objection.
- iii. Permission had been granted for the erection of two 15m high wind turbines at Jaw Farm.
- iv. Approval with conditions for the change of use of two commercial buildings into housing in Dunmore Gardens.

10. Correspondence

- i. Details of the Community Pride Fund, an application form and notification of the deadline dates for 2010 for applications.
- ii. E-mail about a Garden Share scheme which aims to match people who want to grow vegetables but who don't have the land to do it, with those who have garden space but who are not able to garden it at present.
- iii. E-mail about grants available from DSV Action Earth – Biodiversity Awards of £250 and smaller awards of £50.
- iv. A copy of the Central Scotland Police Annual Report.
- v. A reply from Stephen Todd (Area Officer, Roads Maintenance) re: Trimming of trees around Fintry – they have no concerns regarding the recent work but in future will be contacting the relevant landowners to cut back the vegetation themselves.
- vi. A copy of the Agenda of the meeting of the Rural South West Area Community Planning Forum which was held on 17th May and minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February. The May meeting which concentrated on issues relating to the new hospital in Larbert was attended by C.Roy and J.Cuthbertson and a copy of the questions and answers from that meeting was received from P.Campbell. **J.Skabara to e-mail this to M.Duckworth.** The next meeting, on 13th September, will focus on social care issues and will be attended by J.Cuthbertson.
- vii. A letter inviting nominations for the Provost's Civic Awards 2010.
- viii. A note from Cllr O'Brien confirming that a can bank for the recycling of aluminium cans is now in place at the Sports Centre.
- ix. A flyer advertising Scottish Water's Annual Consultative Meeting.
- x. A poster advertising Stirling's Armed Forces Day Events on 18-20 June 2010. **J.Skabara to display poster in notice board.**
- xi. A copy of the Roads Maintenance: Five-Year Works Programme 2008/09 to 2013/14 Year Three Programme.
- xii. A Stirling Carers Connection leaflet. **C.Roy to give to J.Cuthbertson.**

11. A.O.B.

- i. M.Duckworth reported that parking at the church has become a problem now that church-goers are no longer allowed to park in the Clachan car park or on the neighbouring wasteland. **M.Duckworth to ask P.C.McNally for advice.**

12. Date of next meeting

8th September 2010

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

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary) Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Forth and Endrick News - Fintry - Wednesday, 9th June 2010

*Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen **Fintry** Gargunnock Killearn
Kippen Strathblane*

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Winter Maintenance:** At the last area forum meeting 17th May I was asked about the gritting of the B818 between Fintry and Denny. I contacted Cllr David Alexander (former leader of Falkirk Council) who directed me to their winter maintenance policy. Falkirk appear to have classified their part of the B818 as a Priority 1 route. Unlike Stirling, they do not appear to use traffic volume as a criterion for prioritising routes. Also, the boundary between Stirling Council and Falkirk falls into the Stirling West Ward, and Carron Valley & District Community Council. I have notified local member Cllr Scott Farmer about the concerns from Fintry and would expect that the other ward councillors and the Community Council would be involved in this process.
- **Crow Road Existing Policy:** 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.** (Note: With respect to the B818 Fintry – Denny route, the number of vehicle movements may be a limiting factor as according to the roads officers the Denny route carries less traffic than the Crow Road).
- **Grit Supplies and Community Stockpiles:** I contacted the head of roads re. Grit Supplies for 2010/2011 and the possible re-use of community stockpiles and/or large community salt bins. My understanding is that the council will have 5,000 tons of salt supply by the end of June 2010. This amount is normally sufficient for a normal winter season, however this may need to be increased if the weather conditions witnessed in 2009/2010 are repeated. Also, I would like to seek the community views on community stockpiles/bins of grit/sand. (Note: The council do not normally stockpile this amount of grit so this is a welcome precaution).
- **Fintry - Denny B818 Road Report:** I drove along this route on 4th June en route to the Fintry Development Trust Renewable Energy Event and have compiled some comments:
 - Poorer sections in both council areas
 - Turbine company have provisioned for lay-byes along their section of road
 - Surfacing beside reservoir was mainly good
 - **Critical Section** – from reservoir down to junction with Crow Road with poor sections of roadway necessitating evasive action to avoid larger potholes. This route is too narrow, in a number of places, for 2 HGVs to pass, also in some sections difficult for an HGV and standard family car to pass. Even with an extensive resurfacing operation the road will still remain constrained in certain sections.
 - **Route to infirmary** – this is the shortest route to the infirmary but may not be the fastest or safest. (Note: My understanding is that

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

choice of route to the infirmary will be down to the crew of the emergency vehicle).

- (Note: These are my own comments as a driver and not those of a professional roads engineer)
- **Road Maintenance:** On Monday 7th June, I drove over the Crow Road from Lennoxton to Fintry. The assessment is that the B818 Fintry – Denny route is in greater disrepair and the roads officers have confirmed that they will switch the planned re-surfacing works from the Crow Road to the B818 Carronbridge, with the works planned for August 2010. I have also asked the officers if the B818 Fintry to Killearn can be the focus of attention. However, the existing strategy is to prioritise '**the busiest, worst route first**' so I am assuming that the above road would fit with this strategy. **Other road projects** – Easter Glenboig (Completed); Menzies Estate (due to be completed this summer). (Note: The switch of re-surfacing is down to the analysis of roads engineers, not an instruction by elected members). **Update:** Community Councils have should have now received the spreadsheet itemising the planned works for 2010/2011. Other recent projects completed in ward 2 include – A81 Blane Smithy to Ballat Junction and related white lining works. These works have been carried out by the Stirling Council resurfacing team, and all jobs have been completed on schedule, and on budget.
- **Local Development Plan:** I attended the 3 roadshows in Forth and Endrick. Feedback appears to have been positive with good attendances at all 3 events. Expressions of interest were indicated on maps of the village and there were opportunities to discuss issues such as transport, open space, and housing strategy. I have also contacted planners about the problems with the existing sewage works with respect to the LDP. More info on www.stirling.gov.uk/ldp
- **Demand Response Transport DRT:** The feedback from residents is this appears to be working. Also, the contractor – Aberfoyle Coaches, confirmed that the response was positive. For more information check the DRT website on: www.aberfoylecoaches.com/drt/
- **Fintry Renewable Energy Show:** I visited the last part of this event on Friday 4th and have taken the liberty of telling other communities about the range of technologies and opportunities this offers.
- **Planning:** Aside from the Local Development Plan I have not received any communications re. planning applications in the Fintry CC area.

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Police Report

Sorry I can't be present at the meeting. Here are the goings on in Fintry over the last month.

1. Following the incident involving the aerosol can being turned into a flame thrower on the school bus, two youths have been charged and reported to the Childrens Reporter for Reckless Conduct and Breach of the Peace.
2. On the evening of 22 May, two persons were caught drink driving leaving Culcreuch Castle - both were from outwith the area and were apprehended.
3. On the very early hours of 27 May, a vandalism occurred at Balgair Castle Caravan Park whereby a corrosive liquid was poured over a Mercedes motor vehicle. This occurred between 0030am and 6am and remains undetected at this time.
4. During the very early hours of 5/6/10 a road accident occurred near to Fintry Cemetery (very slight injuries only). The driver of the vehicle responsible for the crash failed to stop and made off. He was later traced whereupon it was discovered the vehicle he had been driving was stolen. He was apprehended and charged.
5. Later in the morning of 5/6/10 a complaint was made regarding a suspicious looking man in the village. The male was quickly traced and found to be in possession of an illegal lock knife. He was apprehended and charged. (There is nothing to suggest the male intended to use the knife to injure anyone or anything. The mere fact that he was in possession of the item was a crime in itself).

Just to re-iterate, none of those apprehended or charged re the above offences were from Fintry (just to prevent the tongues wagging).

I have also received information involving the administration of Balgair Castle Caravan Park. Since the bar has closed in the park, it has been brought to my attention that a number of persons are driving to Fintry to visit The Clachan or Fintry Inn. They are then returning to Balgair, driving whilst over the legal limit. Whilst we have not yet caught anyone in these circumstances, over the coming weeks, this information will feature highly in our priorities.

Whilst at the Fling on Saturday, many people approached me and inquired about the car chase which occurred in the village the weekend before last.

Just to clarify, this was a Strathclyde Police incident which was resolved when the vehicle being pursued crashed outside the village. The person in the car was arrested and Strathclyde Police are dealing with all aspects of the matter. To my knowledge there was no-one injured in this incident.