



Minutes of the meeting held on

20th April 2011

I. Present

C.Roy, S.Kinnear, J.Skabara, M.Duckworth, J.Pearson

P.C.McNally, Cllr Lambie

3 members of the public, including a representative of the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service.

II. Apologies

W.Paterson.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

IV. Matters Arising

1) Actions Intimated:

i. Communications:

- a.** Notices at Sports Club – J.Skabara had displayed various posters and flyers.
- b.** Drains – ongoing - **C.Roy to inform Stirling Council which drains are in need of clearing.**
- c.** Road Danger – ongoing - **P.C.McNally to report a member of the public's concern about the dangerous conditions of some of the local roads.**

ii. Telephone Box – C.Roy had established that the telephone box is still in a poor condition. **J.Skabara to provide C.Roy with contact details to report this.**

iii. Bank – ongoing - **S.Kinnear and J.Hulme (previous Treasurer) to go to the bank to close the account. S.Kinnear to open a new account at the Post Office.**

iv. Benches – The plaque had not been fitted as the bench is in bad condition, as are all the village benches. **C.Roy to look into getting help from Stirling Council Social Works Department through their Community Service Orders programme and S.Kinnear to look into the possibility of Community Pride Funding to pay for materials.**

v. Bin bags – Cllr O'Brien had followed this up and received a reply from Malcolm Roy (Land Services Protection Officer) to say that the placing of bin bags in lay-bys is not official practice and all staff would be reminded of the council policy.

2) Fintry Inn/FDT – J.Pearson reported that the FDT were not proceeding with a feasibility study at the moment as someone local had expressed an interest in purchasing the Inn. J.Pearson also reported that the FDT were about to introduce a 'Car Club' – 2 cars would be available for Fintry residents to hire. This is a pilot scheme funded by the Government. This information led to a discussion about the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service. Bert Comrie who works for DRT highlighted some possible changes to the service: the Friday service bus could change to a Wednesday; the DRT

service may be extended to Lennoxton and to Fankerton to provide a possible link to the new hospital at Larbert; there was the possibility of a DRT vehicle being based permanently in Fintry; and Mr. Comrie hoped to produce some leaflets about the DRT which were specific to Fintry. Mr. Comrie also said that students at Balfour High School could use the DRT service to get to and from exams and if they provided a valid Pupil Journey Voucher (issued by the school) they would not have to pay a fare.

- 3) Consultations – There was some discussion on the ‘Future of Policing in Scotland’ consultation and the ‘Future of the Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland’ consultation. P.C.McNally gave some personal insight into the options proposed and the FCC agreed to indicate a preference for a rationalised regional force model which would involve the eight forces being reduced to three or four large regional forces. It was also agreed that the PACT system was a good model of local accountability and that this should be mentioned in FCC’s response. **J.Skabara to complete consultations and return to the relevant departments.**

V. Police Report

P.C.McNally reported that it had been quiet in Fintry although an unsecured agricultural vehicle had been stolen from a local farm. There had been an incident in Killearn in which a householder had agreed to have some holes in their driveway filled in for a nominal fee but had then been charged £2,500. P.C.McNally warned residents to make sure a price has been agreed before any work begins. P.C.McNally also reported that a recent incident in Kippen was not being treated as an attempted abduction.

VI. Councillors Report

Attached.

VII. Finance

The balance of the account was £1727.77 with £499.19 in the old Youth Club account. **J.Pearson to contact someone to get an estimate for the repair to the bridge over the burn near the Menzies Hall and S.Kinnear to use this information to apply for Community Pride Funding.**

VIII. Planning

An application from the Sports Centre concerning the positioning of their bio-mass boiler. There had been 6 applications for a total of 8 wind turbines in the surrounding area, all around 75 metres tall.

IX. Correspondence

- 1) An invitation to a Seminar being held on Saturday, 21 May where Cllr Graham Houston will host a briefing on the outcome of the consultation into how communities felt winter maintenance programmes fared during last winter’s severe weather and how Stirling Council intends to respond to concerns raised.
- 2) A request from Stirling Council for applications from active citizens who would like to serve on Cornton Vale Over 21s Prison Visiting Committee. **J.Skabara to display notice.**
- 3) Information about a presentation by Lord Monckton on Tuesday 26 April entitled ‘Wind Turbines – Facts and Fiction’.
- 4) A poster and leaflets – ‘What’s On at Stirling Castle, April-May 2011’. **J.Skabara to display in Sports Centre.**

- 5) A letter from SURF (Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum) to say that their SNAP (SURF Network Access Programme) will not be continuing.
- 6) A letter from Angela McGibbon (Traffic Management Officer) to confirm that arrangements will now be made for the installation of speed monitoring strips.
- 7) A letter from Bruce Crawford MSP with information about a review to be undertaken over this summer by Audit Scotland to explore how local authorities can work better with each other regarding arrangements for the maintenance and management of the road network.
- 8) Online bulletin of The Association of Scottish Community Councils.

X. A.O.B

- 1) Footpaths Update - C.Roy reported that the local footpath groups had amalgamated into a group called 'South West Stirlingshire Joint Paths Group' and are working hard to maintain a high profile. Fintry Community Council is now a member of the group.
- 2) Nominations – David Smith (Head teacher of Fintry Primary School) has been nominated and shortlisted for two awards – a Lifetime Achievement Award and a Head teacher of the Year Award - congratulations! Announcement of the winners will take place on 14th June.
- 3) Forum – A steering group has been established to help make the South West Forum meetings more efficient. The steering group has met but there has been no feedback yet.
- 4) CSGN – There has been no further information yet about the Central Scotland Green Network.
- 5) Trading Standards – C.Roy had been in contact with Trading Standards concerning computer scams. Advice concerning this can be found at OFT.gov.uk (publication OFT 831). **C.Roy to mention this in the Fintry Focus and put copies of the booklet in the Sports Centre.**

XI. Date of next meeting

May 11th 2011 – Annual General Meeting.

Vote of thanks to the Chair and those attending the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)

Forth and Endrick News - Fintry - Wednesday, 20th April 2011

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

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Road Maintenance - Inspection:** I attended a roads inspection on Friday 18th Feb with 2 senior roads officers and Cllr Jim Thomson (Portfolio Holder - Environment). The roads in question were specifically - A811 (Stirling to Kippen), B822 (Kippen to Fintry), B818 (Fintry to Boquhan), Unclassified Road (Boquhan to Station Road near Balfour Station), A81 and A821 (Balfour Station to Aberfoyle), B829 (Aberfoyle to Kinlochard), B829 and A81 (Aberfoyle to Ward Toll), B835 (Ward Toll to Buchlyvie), A811 (Buchlyvie to Arnprior), B8034 (Arnprior to Port of Menteth), A873 (Port of Menteth Blairdrummod via Thornhill). The roads officers did agree that the B818 Killearn to Fintry was arguably the route with the most deterioration and a commitment was made to resurface significant sections of this road. **(Update for April Meeting:** Resurfacing works on the B818 Fintry to Killearn have been completed ahead of schedule. I have driven along this route in both directions and the new surface is a huge improvement. I will check with the roads department if they intend to white line this route. I am hoping we can continue this work to cover the remaining section of the B818 to Fintry and B822 Fintry to Kippen. I have also requested another inspection trip to cover the A81 Blane Smithy to Strathblane, A809 Carbeth to Croftamie, and C6 Balmaha to Rowardennan roads).
- **Road Maintenance - C10 New Line Road Closure:** This had been timetabled for the first week of May. I understand this has been moved to the week beginning 2nd May. **(Update for April Meeting:** I have contacted Carron Valley community council re. winter maintenance and re-surfacing on the B818 Fintry to Denny. I have also passed on correspondence to Cllr Scott Farmer, one of the ward Cllrs for the Stirling West Ward which shares the B818 with the Forth and Endrick ward).
- **Roads Maintenance - Forth and Endrick:** There are current capital works at Allen Bend on the A811 near Buchlyvie (Due to be completed before 4th May). I have also had an initial look at some possible future capital proposals including - A81 Glengoyne to Strathblane, A809 Croftamie to Carbeth, A811 Arnprior. **(Update for April Meeting:** Note: These are capital road restructuring projects which have been designed to improve road safety based on historic RTA (Road Traffic Accident) statistics, as opposed to revenue projects which would include - resurfacing and pothole filling. For reference the current and planned road closures table is available on this [link](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/index/services/roads/roadclosures.htm).
- **Roads Safety - Traffic Warning Lights:** At the February budget - additional resources have been allocated to road safety warning lights. At this stage I do not have specific details but will pass on any requests from communities as to type of sign and preferred location.

- **Public Toilets and Comfort Partnerships:** I have asked for an update on these from Ian Anderson (Assets Officer). There have been encouraging responses from communities including an innovative approach from Crianlarich who are looking to run the public toilets themselves. **(Update for April Meeting:** The officer has confirmed that to date there does not appear to have been expressions of interest from Fintry. I have not been contacted by any businesses/organisation in Fintry re. the above.).
- **Shared Working with Clackmannanshire Council:** Both Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils have agreed to deliver Education and Social Services services jointly. This will mean that the Head of Education in Stirling (Belinda Greer) will be the Joint Head of Education and Deirdre Cilliers Joint Head of Social Services in Clackmannanshire (Deirdre Cilliers) will be the Joint Head of Social Services. There are substantial financial and efficiency benefits, which will accrue from this type of approach, and it allows good practice to be shared across the two authorities. **(Update for April Meeting:** This is now operational and this initiative is already seeing financial savings and efficiency improvements within the Education Service for example).
- **Sewage Works and Burn:** I've had previously contacted Alayne Findlay finlaya@stirling.gov.uk (Flooding Officer) re. on-going issues connected with the sewage works and the blocked burn. I've asked who is responsible for the clearing of the burn. **(Update for April Meeting:** This is proving to be tricky as I still do not know who is responsible for the burn below the bridge. I am hoping to progress this after May 5th).
- **Demand Response Transport Fintry:** This appears to be working well and I understand that other communities are interested in this type of provision.
- **Glengoyne Distillery - Car Parking:** In late 2010 I met with the landowner to look at the problem with car-parking at Glengoyne Distillery. We looked at an area of rough parking on the Strathblane side of the distillery and opposite the main footpath to Dumgoyne. This would appear to represent a good opportunity to resolve some of the parking issues for both Distillery visitors and hill walkers. The car park site looks to be inside Killearn CC area, whereas the summit of Dumgoyne is wholly within Strathblane CC area.
- **Campsie Fells Regional Park:** There is a working group looking at the potential of a Campsie Fells Regional Park. The group consists of representatives from the 4 relevant Councils - East Dunbartonshire, Stirling, Falkirk and North Lanarkshire local authorities, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland. The concept is similar to The Pentlands Hills and Fife's Lomond Hills which were designated regional parks in 1986. **(Update for April Meeting:** There has been some consultation with communities e.g. Balfour High School and there will be a related publication/guide launch at Mugdock Country Park on Tuesday 26th April. In my opinion the consultation needs to continue and I will be requesting that this issue is on the agenda for the next Area Forum meeting on 16th May)

- **Road Safety:** I have asked Alan Ogilvie to respond to a request for speed monitoring strips for Fintry CC. **(Update for April Meeting:** I did receive a response but need to check with Fintry CC if this has been done).
- **Police - Report:** Following my previous CC meeting there have been, sadly, 2 road fatalities on the A811 near Keppuloch Farm - between the A875 Balfour turnoff and Ballat Crossroads. And on the A898 near Finnich Glen. As I understand it these fatalities may still be the subject of a police enquiry. There is no apparent connection with the roadworks at Allen bend and the first accident. Also, two local police officers have been rightly commended for trying to save the life of the A811 driver prior to the arrival of paramedics. I also understand that members of the public along with local police assisted at the Finnich Glen accident.
- **Planning:** I have not received any communications re. planning applications in the Fintry CC area although I note there are have been a number of applications for the Fintry CC area in recent planning schedules.
- **Planning:** I understand that the planning department are working on a book of practical design guidelines to complement the Housing in the Countryside Policy complete with case studies, photographs, acceptable renewable energy adaptations etc. I have seen an early draft of this and I am hoping that this will provide an easy to use guide for - Applicants, Objectors, Community Councils, elected members.
- **Windfarm Proposal:** Following my last Community Council at Fintry I have subsequently attended a number of CC meetings including Balfour and Drymen meeting where the consultants - Banks Development Ltd made a presentation. For information the proposal from Banks is to construct an up to 20 turbine windfarm at Craigeivern Farm near Drymen. This is on the boundary of the National Park but within an area of search according to previous Stirling Council guidelines on Windfarm development. I also note that these guidelines indicate that the maximum turbine height appropriate for this site is up to 50 metres. However, the developer's proposal is for turbines of 80 to 110 metres. The developers are proposing to speak to local communities impacted by the development including those on the A811 - the proposed route of materials to the site. **(Update for April Meeting:** The above guidelines are now part of an approved council policy. I have also checked the www.banksgroup.co.uk site and there is no detail of the above proposal although I note that it is not yet a live planning application. Community Councils may be approached by an organisation called Energy4All www.energy4all.co.uk with respect to the above proposal).

- **Stirling Council Budget - Summary Points**
 - Continuation of the Freeze on Council Tax.
 - Continuing the winter maintenance programme, including the B822 near Fintry - £150,000.
 - Repairing roads following the worst winter in over 50 years - £444,000 (on top of the Scottish Government funding of £326,000 making a total of £770,000 for winter roads repairs. (Note: This is in addition to the overall road maintenance budget).
 - Caring for the built environment through an increase in funding for the Deep Clean Initiative covering both urban and rural Stirling - £50,000 (making a total of £140,000 for this initiative).
 - Encouraging civic pride through an increase in the Community Pride Fund and extending eligibility criteria to include other organisations such as Community Development Trusts - £40,000.
 - Investing in Economic Development with more apprenticeships, skills training & marketing of Stirling - £200,000.
 - Additional funding for development projects at The Smith Art Gallery and Museum - £70,000.
 - **Budget - Chief Executive's Statement:**
 - "The budget of £212.2 million proposed by the Administration and supported by some of the other political parties agreed 8.9m savings. **It also allowed for growth in several areas including winter maintenance, road repairs, deep cleaning of urban and rural communities in Stirling, civic pride, apprenticeships and skills training,** and marketing of Stirling including development projects at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum. This year the budget process was slightly different. Councillors worked on a cross-party basis with officers over several months to review potential options for efficiencies and change. It was a much more open and transparent process and this was acknowledged at Thursday night's meeting. The work of the Finance Review Group has played a key role and I am sure that this way of working is something we can build on for future success. Council has achieved its targets for this year. I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for playing their part in this. However, the hard work to change what we do and how we do it needs to continue. The economic situation will be challenging this year and beyond. Staff have identified many efficiencies to put Stirling in a stronger position than many other councils. But we still need to review and modernise so that every area of our work is as efficient as it can be".
 - Bob Jack - Chief Executive - Stirling Council
- Councillor Graham Lambie
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