

Fintry Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held on
19th January 2011

I. Present

J.Pearson, J.Skabara, M.Duckworth, S.Kinnear.
Cllr Lambie, P.C.McNally.

II. Apologies

C.Roy, W.Paterson, P.Campbell, J.Cuthbertson.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed by J.Pearson (Vice -Chairperson).

IV. Matters Arising

1) Actions Intimated

i. Communications:

- a.** Telephone Box – ongoing. **J.Skabara.**
- b.** Traffic Calming – J.Skabara had e-mailed Alan Ogilvie (Traffic Management team-leader) again with copies to Les Goodfellow, all 3 Councillors and Bruce Crawford MSP to enquire about speed monitoring strips but no reply had been received. Cllr Lambie had also e-mailed Alan Ogilvie but had not received a reply either. **Cllr Lambie will follow this up and P.C.McNally will make some enquiries.**
- c.** Wii – still ongoing. S.Kinnear asked if it was fair that young people wanting to use the Wii would have to have Sports Centre membership but it was felt that the membership fee of £5 per annum was not an unrealistic requirement.
- d.** Focus – C.Roy had included information about the Community Council vacancy, Broadband and pothole reporting in the last edition of the Fintry Focus. **Information about The Ribbon of Wildness book will be included in the March edition.**
- e.** CFSLA – e-mail sent.
- f.** ASCC – survey returned.
- g.** Create Christmas and Stirling Castle notices – displayed.

- ii.** Spout Burn Bridge –J.Pearson had checked the condition of the bridge and found that the main beam was rotten. The bridge could be patched up to last for another couple of years but it would be better to have a new bridge. There was some discussion over whether it would be possible to re-vamp the whole area, including the bridge. **S.Kinnear to contact Helen Geddes to find out if any funding is available.**

- iii.** FCC website – ongoing. **G.Cowtan has offered to help.**

- iv.** Petty Cash - ongoing. **J.Skabara and S.Kinnear to go to the bank.**

- v. Benches – J.Pearson had identified 8 benches in and around Fintry. All need brushing down and re-varnishing or oiling. The bench on the Sports field is quite rotten. C.Roy had ordered the plaque and needed a cheque for £56.99.
- vi. Drains – J.Pearson had noted that the street drains were full of silt and were not draining the roads properly. A request was made for the drains to be cleaned. J.Pearson also mentioned piles of leaves that had built up when the snow was cleared which now need removing.
- vii. DRT leaflets – J.Skabara had managed to speak to someone from Stirling Council who was able to send out 1 leaflet. **Cllr Lambie will try and get hold of some more.**
- viii. Parking at the Church and barking dog– see Police Report.
- ix. LDP feedback – C.Roy had completed the feedback form for FCC to approve. M.Duckworth pointed out that the maps at the roadshow had been out of date so this was included on the form. **C.Roy to finalise and submit the form.**

- 2) FCC vacancy – notice of the vacancy has been in the Stirling Observer twice and the closing date for nominations is 4 p.m. on Friday February 4th. **J.Skabara to display notices.**

V. Police Report and Consultation

P.C.McNally reported that there had been no crime in Fintry and that break-ins in neighbouring villages had tailed off recently. P.C.McNally had spoken to a resident about the barking dog but the resident said his dog was always in the house and he had also been disturbed by a dog barking early in the morning. **P.C.McNally to try and speak to other residents nearby to try and ascertain whose dog it is. P.C.McNally is on duty this weekend and will check the church parking and try to offer a solution.**

The Police Strategic Plan Consultation was completed. **C.Roy to submit.**

VI. Councillors Report

Attached.

Cllr Lambie asked for feedback on gritting during the bad weather. The general feeling was that Stirling Council had done the best they could under very difficult circumstances. It was felt that a pile of grit at the Sports Centre would have been helpful which residents could use to grit the pavements. Cllr Lambie reported that Stirling Council were looking into the possibility of enlisting the help of local farmers, particularly with clearing snow off pavements. The repair bill for damage done to the roads during the bad weather was around £2 million. J.Skabara reported that a resident had mentioned subsidence at the side of Kippen road on the stretch between the Sewage Works and the entrance to the Courtyard Café.

VII. Finance

S.Kinnear had not received a statement for the account since the last meeting. There is £499.07 in the old Youth Club account. The Bank of Scotland has still not managed to arrange the change of signatories on the account **S.Kinnear and J.Skabara to go to the bank and try and get this sorted.** J.Skabara had received an invoice for website hosting for £35.86 which was passed to S.Kinnear and a cheque was issued.

VIII. Post Office Consultation

The Post Office is proposing to cease the one-hour service at the Caravan Park and provide an additional session at the Sports Club on a Wednesday between 16:00 and 17:00. They had been advised that there are plans which will affect their continued access to the Caravan Park and that many of the residents had moved away. J.Skabara had received a letter from Anne McGuire M.P. asking if FCC have any comments/representations that Anne McGuire M.P. could reinforce. M.Duckworth reported that the Caravan Park now had new owners. Nobody knew where the information had come from about the access issues or the departure of any residents. J.Pearson had spoken to the driver of the mobile Post Office to find out how many people used the service at the Caravan Park and the answer was 1. **G.Lambie to try and contact the new owners of the Caravan Park to establish if there are going to be access issues. J.Skabara to reply to Anne McGuire M.P. to let her know about the new owners and to point out that problems with access should not be allowed to happen as the Caravan Park has permanent residents who pay Council Tax.**

IX. Planning

- 1) An application for an extension to Cottage 1, Ballikinrain Smithy and a change of agricultural land to garden land. No objections.
- 2) An application for the installation of a new underground sewage system at Balgair Caravan Park. No objections.
- 3) An application for a replacement porch, extension to front, rear and side of house and a double garage at 15, Menzies Drive was approved with conditions.
- 4) An application for hopper storage for wood pellets for a new heating system at the Sports Centre.

X. Correspondence

- 1) An e-mail from Keep Scotland Beautiful with information about their National Spring Clean to take place between 14 March and 16 May 2011.
- 2) An e-mail highlighting the next deadline for the Community Pride Fund – 18 February 2011.
- 3) A poster about a cannabis awareness raising session to be held on 26 February 2011. **J.Skabara to display poster at Sports Centre.**
- 4) A poster about an internet safety seminar to be held on 7 March 2011. **J.Skabara to display poster at Sports Centre.**
- 5) The rota for Surgeries and Community Councils January – June 2011.
- 6) The Stirling Council Youth Services Rural Areas Newsletter December 2010. **J.Skabara to display newsletter at Sports Centre.**
- 7) SSSI documents re: Double Craigs SSSI.
- 8) Information about the Census to take place on 27 March 2011. **J.Skabara to display letter at Sports Centre.**
- 9) The Rural Stirling Housing Association Rural Matters newsletter for Winter 2010. **J.Skabara to display newsletter at Sports Centre.**
- 10) Information and a poster about “Beating the Freeze” and gritting priority maps from Stirling Council. **J.Skabara to display poster and maps at Sports Centre.**

- 11) A request from Stirling Area Access Panel for help in advertising their forthcoming Access for All Questionnaire to be launched online during the last two weeks in January 2011. **J.Skabara to display letter at Sports Centre.**

XI. A.O.B

- 1) The Fintry Inn – J.Pearson outlined a proposal from the FDT to assist the community of Fintry in purchasing the Fintry Inn to be used as a community resource. FCC felt that they could neither support nor oppose this proposal without knowing the views of the community. **J.Pearson to report back to FDT that FCC are willing to facilitate a public meeting to gauge the strength of support or otherwise.**

XII. Date of next meeting

February 9th 2011

Vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes submitted by: Jo Skabara (Secretary)

Minutes approved by: Cicely Roy (Chairperson)

Forth and Endrick News - Fintry - Wednesday, 19th January 2011

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

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Fintry Winter Maintenance:** The Council purchased an additional 2,000 tonnes of imported salt, and there are currently no issues relating to salt supply. I have asked roads for an update on the issues below: **1.** Location of Community Salt/Sand Piles. **2.** Clearing of footways and priority 4 routes. **3.** Access to any public buildings - Library, Community Halls, Primary School. On a more general area I have asked if the TayForth agricultural contractors machinery ring is still open to local contractors in West Stirlingshire to join. I've also been in discussion with the Cllr Jim Thomson (Portfolio Holder Environment) who is of the opinion that more mini-gritters should be purchased. These have been very effective in the urban areas and I would like to see these used more in the rural areas - Should these be co-owned/run by communities subject to appropriate insurance and safety checks? **(Update:** I have passed on all email correspondence from residents to council officers on this Contact List - Hunter Jamieson (Community Engineer - Rural), Stephen Todd (Area Inspector), David Hopper (Waste Services Manager).
- **Crow Road Inspection:** I drove over this route on 10th January at 22:30 from Lennoxton to Kippen. As with the previous year there was moderate snow falling and about 1 inch lying on both sides of the council boundary. This was drivable with extreme care and it would have been difficult with a high-powered rear wheeled vehicle with inappropriate tyres. There was evidence of previous snow clearing.
- **Road Maintenance Programme - Fintry:** Following my previous report I have asked the roads dept for an update on maintenance work for winter damaged routes, and specifically the B818 Fintry to Killearn road. As in my previous report have enclosed the pothole reporting website link www.stirling.gov.uk/my/forms/fill/2000300. **(Update:** The council have been allocated £300,000 from the additional £15 million from the Scottish Government allocated for winter damage. This is being currently used for temporary patching across the authority, this method of patching is being used as we may still experience further snow and ice road damage).
- **Road Maintenance Programme - General:** There are works planned for the A811 including the stretch near the Garden Estate, Buchlyvie, and Ballat Crossing **(Update:** Since my last meeting with Fintry I checked out the works done in Balfour, Killearn, Croftamie, and Drymen which all looks in order and have been completed ahead of schedule. The council resurfacing target per year is 4%, the achieved level for 2009/2010 was 7% as confirmed by the portfolio holder Cllr Jim Thomson. For reference the current and planned road closures table is available on this link. www.stirling.gov.uk/index/services/roads/roadclosures.htm

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Police Activity:** Both PC Andy Faulds and PC David McNally have highlighted incidents of theft in the West Stirlingshire area. The officers have given some very useful tips to deter burglars including: Radio Alarms, Lighting with Timers etc. Also, they have encouraged communities to report any suspicious activity, particularly during late afternoon 14:00 to 18:00 on weekdays
- **Road Safety:** I have asked Alan Ogilvie to respond to a request for speed monitoring strips from Fintry CC.
- **Council Tax Rebate Hoax:** This is a warning about bogus phone calls claiming to be about council tax rebates or a band reduction. The bogus caller then asks the resident for bank or credit card details to process the refund. Anyone who receives a phone call should contact the council on 01786 443210 or Central Scotland Police on 01786 456000.
- **Planning:** I have not received any communications re. planning applications in the Fintry CC area although I note there are a number of applications for the Fintry CC area in recent planning schedules.
- **Windfarm Proposal:** There is a proposal from Banks Development Ltd. to construct an up to 20 turbine windfarm at Craigievern Farm near Drymen. This is on the boundary of the National Park but within an area of search according to the 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, which I am hoping will include Fintry. (**Update:** I 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).
- **Hospital Transport – Priority Routes:** I contacted a number of officers including Jonathan Padmore (Team Leader – Transport Planning) with the query – Will the B818 be a designated a priority route to the hospital, and if so will the NHS Forth Valley be able to make a contribution to road maintenance? The official response is there are no proposals at this stage to re-designate the road as a priority route to the new infirmary. However, this is an area I intend to pursue over the longer term.
- **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: The officer has confirmed that to date there does not appear to have been expressions of interest from Fintry).
- **Shared Working with Clackmannanshire Council:** Both Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils have agreed to deliver Education and Social 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.

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- **Sewage Works and Burn:** I've been in contact with Alayne Findlay finlaya@stirling.gov.uk (Flooding Officer) re. on-going issues connected with the sewage works and the blocked Clachan burn. I've asked who is responsible for the clearing of the burn. (Update: Alayne has stated that the WWTW (Waste Water Treatment Works) are the responsibility of SEPA and Scottish Water. However, she is planning to inspect the burn to see if there is a flood risk and contact the relevant parties as required).
- **High Speed Broadband For Forth Valley - www.fvl.org.uk:** The project will put in place the necessary infrastructure to allow high speed broadband of between 2Mbps to 20 Mbps to be offered wirelessly as a commercial service which, as a minimum, will cover the communities of Tillicoultry, Alva East, Alloa West, Bandeath, Throsk, South Alloa, Cambusbarron and parts of **Rural South West Stirling**. (Update: There does not appear to be specific details of what villages will be covered).
- **Fintry Winter Waste Collection:** Waste Services have undertaken prioritised collections of outstanding bins and recycling boxes, along with scheduled fortnightly collections of grey (mixed waste) bins in rural areas and brown (cardboard + green garden waste) bins in the urban area. Due to the fresh snow and continued presence of ice on untreated local access and residential roads (Priority 4 routes) in rural areas, grey bin collections have been delayed in many areas. As stated previously, recycling box collections are running behind due to seasonal increase in volume of recyclables being presented after festive period, and difficult road conditions in rural areas. Waste Services will be working over the weekend (Saturday / Sunday - weather permitting) catching-up on delayed / outstanding bin and recycling box collections, summarised as follows: Grey bin collections will be completed over weekend at: Buchlyvie / **Fintry** / Kippen / Balfron / Strathblane / Blanefield / Cambusbarron / Plean / Cowie / Bannockburn (part of) areas + priority list. Recycling box collections in Plean / Cowie / Bannockburn (part of) / Fallin / Cambusbarron / St Ninians / Kippen / Arnprior / Buchlyvie / Balfron / Bridge of Allan (part of) / Lochearnhead / Callander areas. Refer to website update for details at <http://www.stirling.gov.uk/index/services/waste.htm>. Residents are requested to leave outstanding waste bins and recycling boxes, etc., at kerbside for collection, which may be delayed in some areas. All presented waste and recyclables are being uplifted. Household waste recycling centres are open and community bring bank recycling facilities are available for public to deposit their excess recyclables after festive season celebrations. It is intended that normal collection schedules will resume on Monday (10/1) - fortnightly collections of grey bins (urban area) and brown bins (rural areas) and weekly collection of recycling boxes (all areas) - weather permitting. (Kevin Robertson - Head of Planning, Regulation & Waste).

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