



Minutes of the meeting held on

9th November 2011

I. Present

C.Roy, S.Kinnear, J.Pearson, J.Hulme, J.Skabara, M.Duckworth, W.Paterson.
Cllr Lambie, P.C.McNally.
One member of the public.

II. Apologies

None.

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.** Telephone Box – Ongoing. **C.Roy to update the notices in the phone box and Cllr Lambie to speak to Bruce Crawford.**
- ii.** Bank – The account has still not been closed. **J.Hulme to enquire again next time she is in the bank.**
- iii.** Bench Maintenance –The benches have been removed and C.Roy had put up notices explaining where they are. FCC will pay for the materials as necessary and C.Roy has purchased teak oil for the bench by the cross.
- iv.** Community Pride Fund – Still no quote from the Sports Club. **S.Kinnear to go ahead with the application for funding for the bridge repair.**
- v.** Tree Felling – C.Roy had been in touch with Hilary Kennedy who had liaised with the relevant department and it has now been left in their hands.
- vi.** Prescription Collection Letter – M.Duckworth had informed John Pattison from DRT that the service is going ahead and written a short article explaining the service which will be included in the next Fintry Focus by C.Roy. C.Roy had also put copies of the letter at the Sports Centre. **J.Skabara still to put a downloadable copy on the FCC website. M.Duckworth will also contact the pharmacist at Killlearn pharmacy to initiate the same service there.**
- vii.** Main Street verges – C.Roy had sent letters to householders affected by the cessation of grass cutting and Cllr Lambie had contacted Stephen Todd and Nicole Patterson (Streetscape) on the subject. **Cllr Lambie to follow up with a complaint about lack of information given to those affected.**
- viii.** Letters etc. –
 - Housing – ongoing - **M.Duckworth to contact Tony Cain re: potential site for Rural Housing.**
 - Burglary Advice – ongoing – **P.C.McNally to provide some advice for inclusion in the next Fintry Focus.**
 - Keystone Information – J.Skabara had forwarded to Sheila Fraser.

- Road Safety – J.Skabara had e-mailed Brian Roberts re: priority arrows over the bridge over the Endrick Water and the condition of the footpath along the Kippen Road. **B.Roberts to forward these queries to the relevant departments.**
 - Britain in Bloom – C.Roy had passed the information on to the Fintry Flower Show.
 - Sewage Works – C.Roy had sent the report to Cllr Lambie.
- 2) Action Day: C.Roy and J.Pearson reported that there had been a good turn-out and a good job was done.
- 3) FDT and FSRC AGM's – report and booklet update: J.Pearson reported that there were no matters arising from the FDT AGM that needed to be brought to the attention of FCC. FDT continue to run the Grant Scheme to support environmentally friendly heating initiatives and continue to support the allotment scheme, though not financially. C.Roy reported that the FDT were going ahead with the idea of a local directory of traders and that this was being supported through the Fintry Focus.
- S.Kinnear reported that the FSRC has a new Chair, Dougie Spence, and that the committee was not in full support of using the Youth Club money for a Wii. They did, however, have other ideas which were to be discussed at their next meeting. **C.Roy to follow up on this.**

V. Police Report

Very quiet everywhere. Still thefts of metal – men were caught pulling down overhead cable along the A84 near Doune and copper pipes have been taken from the Rob Roy in Buchlyvie. The local police have been working closely with the police in Kirkintilloch, particularly during the night, stopping vans and maintaining a visible presence.

VI. Councillors Report

See attached report.

VII. Finance

No report available at this time.

VIII. Planning

- A pre-notification of an application to purchase a section of park ground in the corner of Culcreuch Avenue to extend an existing garden.

IX. Local Development Plan

The Draft Local Development Plan was viewed and discussed and some discrepancies were noted regarding boundary lines. **These issues will be raised at the drop-in session to be held on 9th December at the Menzies Hall, 2 – 8 pm and an agreed FCC response submitted.**

X. Footpads

C.Roy and J.Pearson explained the constitution of FOOTPADS and its links with FCC. All Councillors present agreed with the proposed document. **C.Roy to publish and advertise in the Fintry Focus.**

XI. Correspondence

- 1) Stirling Castle leaflets & flier. **J.Skabara to display at Sports Centre.**
- 2) Information about 'MyStirling' – a free online service available to Stirling Council residents and businesses to report faults, subscribe to events and councillor information on surgeries, find out about bin collection days etc.

- 3) The October edition of the news sheet from the Communities Team. **It was agreed that in future, J.Skabara could forward these by e-mail to FCC Councillors.**
- 4) Two letters from 'Partnerships for Renewables' regarding the development of a site at Carron Valley forest and a potential wind energy development at Cairnoch Hill. There will be a public exhibition on 21st November in the Mayfield Centre in St.Ninians, Stirling between 2pm and 8pm. **J.Skabara to forward the link to the website to all FCC Councillors and J.Pearson to contact K.McIntyre and G.Cowtan from FDT to find out what information they already have about the developments.**
- 5) A request for a response to a consultation from the Commission on Rural Education (to be received by 12th January 2012). **J.Skabara to forward link to questions to everyone so we can decide whether it is relevant for FCC to respond or not.**
- 6) Association of Scottish Community Councils Online Bulletin – October and November editions. **It was agreed that in future, J.Skabara could forward these by e-mail to FCC Councillors.**
- 7) Search for a Stirling Motto – there were two options: 'Steadfast as the Rock' or 'Heid High and Gang Forrit'. **J.Skabara to cast a vote on behalf of FCC for the second option.**
- 8) An e-mail from G.Cowtan to let us know that he will be renewing the domain name for the FCC website.
- 9) Information about a Community Council Training Day on Planning and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan on Saturday 12th November in Kinross.
- 10) Information from the recent Winter Maintenance Seminar. **C.Roy to check that the Sports Centre are happy for a store of material to be kept in their car park.**
- 11) Correspondence concerning the condition of the footpath between Fintry village and the Clachan area of the village – this issue was raised by a resident to Stephen Todd who replied to say the footway would be assessed, temporary repairs would be carried out and the matter would be referred to Streetscape to clear the debris. Cllr Lambie had also contacted S.Todd to ask that repairs to the footway be included when the carriageway is resurfaced. **Cllr Lambie to continue monitoring this.**
- 12) Agenda for the next Rural South West Area Forum meeting to be held on Monday 21st November at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfroun. **C.Roy to attend.**

XII. A.O.B

- 1) Schedule of Meetings 2012 – the dates for the 2012 meetings were decided. **J.Skabara to forward to Helen Geddes.**
- 2) A Fintry resident requested that Fintry Community Council formally write to Bruce Crawford MSP and Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP to raise the issue of the prioritising of the route to Larbert Hospital. **J.Skabara to do this.**

XIII. Date of next meeting

Wednesday December 14th 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, 9th November 2011

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

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Road Maintenance Schedule Forth and Endrick Ward 2011-2012:** There has been a good increase in budget of £377,000 compared to the previous year. In percentage terms this represents a 44% increase. Also, in previous years the road maintenance schedule was split into 4 geographical areas – this year it is 3, which I understand is a more efficient way of delivering the improvements. There are a number of completed and planned projects on the B818 and the Crow Road for 2011 and 2012. Other completed and planned roads improvement projects in Forth and Endrick which may or may not affect residents in Fintry include: A875 Balforn Moor, A875 Lettre House, and 7 projects on the A81 and A811. The schedule does not show the dates of the works but the roads service will try to complete a lot of the work during school holidays, which will necessitate a number of road closures. The quickest way to check for these is: www.stirling.gov.uk/roadclosures or type 'stirling council roadworks' into Google. I have also requested that the roads schedule is sent to the Balforn local office along with other information relevant to Forth and Endrick. Two other roads projects that are not featured in the council roads programme are: New 'puffin' traffic light on A81 in Strathblane, near primary school, and an additional car park near Glengoyne Distillery to cater for walkers accessing Dumgoyne and West Highland Way. I have met the landowner, contacted Distillery management and roads service to get some progress on this. (**Update for November Meeting:** The A811 (Arnprior) and A875 (Balforn Moor) recent road resurfacing sections have now also been white lined. Work at the A811 at Allen Bend will correct the problem with excess water flowing over the road. Other work for on the A81 near Glengoyne Distillery is scheduled for 2011.
- **Road Maintenance – Clachan Section:** I have requested that the roads department address the footpath and fencing along with resurfacing the carriageway. I am hoping this road section can be scheduled for work in the next financial year.
- **Road Maintenance – B818 Fintry to Denny:** I drove over the Crow Road and along the B818 on Tuesday 8th Nov. Scheduled resurfacing has been completed and within the road closure period – white lining has still to be completed. The western section down towards Fintry needs more work and I will be making the case for this next year.
- **Road Safety:** Since my last CC meeting I have met with Buchlyvie residents to tackle the problem of high exit speeds at the western end of the village. This not only affects villagers but many drivers in other parts of the ward. Brian Roberts (Road Improvement Manager) has also met with residents to look at a range of traffic mitigation measures including 40 mph buffer areas, traffic islands, rumble strips, red hatching, and speed activated warning lights. As I stated in my last report over the last 4 ½ years there have been 8 road fatalities – 4 in 2011, in the Forth and Endrick ward alone and I am determined to reduce these.
- **Road Closure(s) – A811 Arnprior:** Although not in the Strathblane CC area this closure may have affected card drivers from the Strathblane area. The main reason for the closure was the re-surfacing equipment was too wide to allow larger vehicle to pass. The roads officers have also sent me images of the equipment used, which illustrated this. Also, as I understand it, the works were completed well ahead of schedule.
- **B818 – Hospital Priority Route:** I was contacted by a resident about this. I contacted Mark Craske (Transport Manager – Health Board), and Jonathan Padmore

(Stirling Council) in 2010, who confirmed that the B818 is not a priority route to the new infirmary. Also, due to traffic volumes it does not qualify for cross boundary winter treatment like the Crow Road. With respect to bus travel to the infirmary - the issue of using Fankerton as a bus stop/link was raised at the last Area Forum meeting. I've suggested that a bus serviced could be part funded/supported by Forth Valley NHS.

- **Police Patrols and Park Bylaws:** Following my previous CC meeting, I have attended three police patrols in July with PC McNally and PC Faulds and in September with PC Cummins and Sergeant MacFarlane. The principal areas we were looking at included travelling crime, speeding, and the effect of the new alcohol and rough camping legislation in the National Park area of East Loch Lomondside. The patrol included a check on the fatality site at Fintry, and a walk through Killearn - talking to local youngsters. However, arguably the most significant part of the patrol were visits to East Loch Lomondside to check the effect of the new bylaws. The feedback I am getting from the police, park rangers, and local residents is there has been a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour along the Lochside. There is no doubt that this success is down to a team approach involving communities, national park staff, police officers, and others. Although this has been very much a team effort, I would wish to highlight the contribution of Chief Inspector Findlater who I know has been making the case for park bylaw legislation for a number of years.
- **Fintry and Forth and Endrick Winter Maintenance:** The council set up an elected member group to tackle the issue of severe weather. The group was extended to include 2 rural based community councillors. Currently there are two Strathblane CC councillors on this and the feedback from Strathblane has been very positive. CCs will or will have received information about this process and I am also hoping that this will be the subject of an area forum meeting. (**Update for November meeting:** The council has now produced its revised winter maintenance policy and additional resources have been allocated to support this. These include 20 snow ploughs to be supplied to local farmers, additional mini-gritter tractors, pavement snow blowers, community size grit bins, and snow shovels. Community councils should have been contacted about establishing a community resilience plan to look at emergency planning for severe weather conditions, mainly snow, ice and flooding. I understand that Strathblane CC are well advanced with this and I'm hoping they will be able to share their development of this at future local area forums. Also, our primary and secondary schools have already met on the above and we are confident that we can maintain our policy that presumes against school closure unless there are genuine health & safety, and staff availability issues).
- **Planning:** I have not received any communications re. planning applications in the Fintry CC area although I note there are have been a couple of applications for the Fintry CC area in recent planning schedules.
- **Planning – Local Development Plan Drop In Sessions:** To date there have been 2 drop in sessions in Kippen and Strathblane. These were very well attended with a number of issues being raised including – housing mix, infrastructure, green/open space, tree plantation etc. I understand the Fintry LDP session will be on Friday 9th of December.
- **Windfarm Proposal: (Update for November Meeting):** This is still at the scoping stage and as yet is not a full planning application. I have been talking to elected members in neighbouring wards and I understand that there are concerns from villages such as Gartmore. There are parallels with the Ballindalloch application. However, the principal difference is the current windfarm policy is much more specific about the location and allowable heights of turbines. However, until this is an actual application with specific turbine heights, elected members would not normally make any public comments about the proposal.

- **Carron Valley Wind Farm (Partnership for Renewables):** I understand that this proposal may be visible from the Fintry CC area although the proposal appears to be mainly in the Stirling West ward. The proposal is for 16 turbines with an installed capacity of 48 MW, which would fall within the local authority planning department – above 50 MW it goes to the Scottish Government.
- **Public Transport:** This has been a major issue for residents and has been featured at a number of area forum meetings. Locally there have been successes with the DRT (Demand Response Transport), which is operating in the Fintry area, and has been working well in Balquidder for over 10 years. I've asked the council officers if there is any possibility of the SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) being extended to include West Stirlingshire and if there are any proposals to develop a smart ticketing system such as Oyster. The other main issue connected with transport are the routes to the new Larbert infirmary. I've asked if this could be done with a single bus route from West Stirlingshire without the requirement to change at Stirling.
- **High Hedge Legislation:** Mark McDonald MSP is leading on this and has set out his intention to bring forward legislation to address long running neighbourhood disputes on high hedges to Parliament. I submitted a report in 2009 to the consultation process and have requested that the legislation looks at adding some form of enforcement to the legislation, which could be implemented by a local planning authority. (**Update for November Meeting:** I have contacted Mark about this and asked if public sites such as at the side of the A81 would be considered in any legislation).

- **Stirling Council – Renewable Energy Projects:** The council are looking to install a range of renewable technologies in a number of their public buildings including council houses, schools, and waste treatment facilities. This technology is being installed to assist with the council’s fuel poverty agenda and to address the income generation target set at the 2011 council budget meeting.
- **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 Clackmananshire (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 November Meeting:** This is now operational and this initiative is already seeing financial savings and efficiency improvements within the Education Service for example. One such saving is the replacement of the posts of separate directors of education with 1 Head of Education and 3 Assistant Heads of Education to cover the whole of Stirling and Clackmananshire).
- **Other Issues:**
 - **Bridge Repair** – Request for Priority Arrows (Similar situation to Blane Burrn crossing at Killlearn).
 - **Menzies Avenue and Culcreuch Avenue** – Request for footpath repair.
 - **Wind Turbine** – I looked at the new turbine visible from the Fintry – Kippen – Arnprior road. This is under the 25 metres max height allowable as a single turbine application.
 - Any issues important to residents and the CC not covered here.
- **Councillor Colin O’Brien:**

For the minute I would like to record my appreciation for the work and dedication put in by Colin as a Councillor, Provost, and Bailie. He has also had the unenviable job of timetabling the rota to ensure that an elected member is in attendance at the 11 community councils in the Forth and Endrick ward. As provost of Stirling, Colin raised the profile of Stirling in not only Scotland but also overseas, including accompanying the Wallace sword to New York in 2005 for the Tartan Week celebration – the first time the sword had left Scotland in 700 years.

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