



## ***Minutes of the meeting held on***

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### **I. Present**

C.Roy, J.Pearson, J.Hulme, J.Skabara, M.Duckworth.  
Cllr Lambie, P.C.McNally.

### **II. Apologies**

W.Paterson, S.Kinnear, R.Garvie.

### **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. Drains – ongoing.
- ii. Telephone Box – C.Roy had managed to speak to BT concerning the state of the telephone box and was informed that maintenance work was only carried out between April and October so the box would not be done this year and was unlikely to be done next year. C.Roy had also looked into ways of using the telephone and found that it was possible to make a reverse charges call but that the information inside the box was incorrect with regard to being able to use a credit card. It was noted that the telephone box is a listed building. **C.Roy to keep in contact with BT and Cllr Lambie to look into the matter also.**
- iii. Bank – J.Hulme and C.Roy had visited the bank and hopefully succeeded in closing the accounts. **J.Hulme to visit the bank to check that the closure is going through and S.Kinnear to open a new account once the final cheque comes through.**
- iv. Bench Maintenance – The bench at the cross needs to be treated with teak oil. C.Roy had tried to contact Mr. Gilmour but he was away on holiday. **C.Roy to purchase teak oil and contact Mr. Gilmour at Criminal Justice/Community Service again to find out when they are going to collect the benches.**
- v. Community Pride Fund – J.Pearson had obtained a written quote for the bridge repair but no quote had been provided from the Sports Club. **S.Kinnear to go ahead with the application for funding for the bridge repair. C.Roy to check up on the Sports Club quote.**
- vi. Forum minutes link on FCC website – done.
- vii. SSSI update – C.Roy had contacted Stirling Council about the felling of the tree and they are going to find out which department needs to deal with it. C.Roy had provided the Kilunan Steading residents with better maps. **C.Roy to keep in touch with Stirling Council re: the tree felling.**
- viii. Prescription Collection Letter – M.Duckworth had met with the pharmacist at Balforn and had drafted a letter which can be completed by Fintry residents wishing to have their prescriptions collected by a DRT employee. **M.Duckworth to inform John Pattison from DRT that the service is going ahead and write a short article explaining the service to be included by C.Roy in the next Fintry Focus. C.Roy also to put copies of the letter at the Sports Centre and J.Skabara to put a downloadable copy on the FCC website.**
- ix. Roadworks Plan – C.Roy had highlighted anything relevant to Fintry and distributed to everyone.

- x. Main Street verges – C.Roy had contacted Stirling Council and been told that the land belonged to the householders and Stirling Council would no longer be responsible for cutting the grass. No notification of this decision had been given to the householders. Concerns were raised over an elderly resident who is unable to cut the grass himself and over the appearance of Main Street if other residents did not cut the grass. **Cllr Lambie to look into it.**
- xi. Surveys etc. – J.Skabara had submitted the two surveys completed at the last meeting. **C.Roy to pass Britain in Bloom letter to Fintry Flower Society at their forthcoming AGM.**
- xii. SW Area Forum meeting – There was some discussion over the Meals Service. The LDP is to be presented to Stirling Council tomorrow (6<sup>th</sup> October). The next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- xiii. Sewage Works – C.Roy had received a good response from the Asset Manager at Scottish Water containing maps and a thorough report. Infiltration into the drainage system is severe, and now it is in writing, Scottish Water cannot deny that the work needs doing. Their next step is to prepare a Financial Study. **C.Roy to monitor and send the report to Cllr Lambie.**
- xiv. Housing Update – **M.Duckworth to e-mail Tony Cain (Head of Housing) again to arrange a site visit.**

## **V. Police Report**

It has been quiet over the summer. There had been a disturbance at the Sports Centre and one person had been charged. There had been an accident on Kippen Road and a U.S. tourist had been charged with dangerous driving. The church roof in Killearn had been targeted twice for the theft of lead off the roof which had also happened in Aberfoyle. The high price of items such as lead, steel, diesel and gold has led to an increase of thefts and is likely to cause an increase in house burglaries as the nights draw in so everybody needs to be vigilant. Police priorities over the next few months will be to target commodities thefts, break-ins (working closely with Strathclyde Police) and drink driving. **P.C.McNally to e-mail advice to C.Roy for inclusion in the next Fintry Focus.**

P.C.McNally also mentioned his intention to put together a Fintry community profile for use within the Police Force, some information for this having already been passed to him at his request.

## **VI. Councillors Report**

See attached report.

The Denny Road should be reopened by the end of October.

## **VII. Finance**

The balance of the account was £1727.77.

## **VIII. Planning**

- An application to demolish 19 Main Street and the single storey building beside it and rebuild. No objections.
- An application for an Air Source Heat Pump at 109 Main Street. No objections.
- An application for a porch extension to the Log Cabin had been approved with conditions.

## **IX. Correspondence**

- 1) Notification of an increase in Hall charges by 5%.
- 2) Notification of a Fundraising Workshop on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.15 – 10.00 pm.
- 3) A newsheet from Stirling Council Community, August 2011. **J.Skabara to pass Keystone information to Sheila Fraser.**
- 4) Information from the Cross Party Steering Group on Severe Weather including notification of a Seminar on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

- 5) Notices regarding Stirling Tenants Assembly Annual Conference & AGM which C.Roy had already displayed.

**X. A.O.B**

- 1) Local Development Plan – to be discussed after it has been approved by Stirling Council.
- 2) Road Safety Issues –
  - a. A Fintry resident has asked whether it would be possible to have priority arrows on the road bridge over the Endrick Water as it is not always easy to tell who has priority. J.Skabara to e-mail Brian Roberts (Traffic Management Team Leader) to make enquiries about this with a copy to Cllr Lambie.
  - b. The pavement along Kippen Road between Menzies Avenue and Culcreuch Avenue is in a bad state of repair. J.Skabara to e-mail Brian Roberts (Traffic Management Team Leader) to make enquiries about this.
- 3) Action Day – C.Roy and J.Pearson have arranged with Douglas Flynn for an Action Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. This will concentrate on improving portions of the Lade walk.
- 4) Fintry Development Trust's AGM will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. J.Pearson reported that there will be spaces for two new Directors. J.Pearson also mentioned the idea of putting together a booklet containing useful Fintry information and phone numbers and reported that the FDT would be happy to assist with the publication of such a document.
- 5) Fintry Sports Club AGM will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> October. C.Roy to check if S.Kinnear can attend.

**XI. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2011.

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, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen **Fintry** Gargunnock 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 main Road maintenance projects for Fintry is surfacing on the A809 (I don't have the exact timetable for these). Other completed and planned roads improvement projects in Forth and Endrick which may or may not affect residents in Fintry include: A875 Balfron 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](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/roadclosures) or type 'stirling council roadworks' into Google. I have also requested that the roads schedule is sent to the Balfron 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 October Meeting:** I am very pleased to see that the traffic lights are operational and the car park application has recently been approved. Also, now that half (approx) of the B818 from Fintry to Killearn has been resurfaced and white-lined, I will be requesting that the roads department complete the other section. I've requested another roads inspection visit with Stephen Todd (Area Roads Inspector) to assist with this process).
- **Road Safety:** Since my last report there has, sadly, now been **4** fatalities in the Forth and Endrick ward in 2011 - one on the A811 (near A875 Balfron turnoff), two on the A809, and 1 on the B818 to the east of Fintry. Two of the fatalities were motorcyclists and I understand that all of the drivers were over 30 years of age and were not resident in the Forth and Endrick ward. This is a worrying trend and at a recent police board meeting I asked for a review of the rationale for the location of the Speed Camera Safety Van as it currently does not operate on the A809. Also, the roads department have issued speed safety proposals in 3 locations in the Forth and Endrick ward at Buchlyvie, Strathblane and Dumgoyne Village. The Dumgoyne proposals are vehicle activated signs to reinforce the 40 mph limit although according to the report the exact locations have still to be determined. Road safety was also a major issue I was looking at on the two police patrols. (Note: The above safety proposals were the result of an extensive speed study conducted throughout the council area. My understanding is this was to include the A809 and I have requested an update on this one)



- **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. The patrol also included a check of the Queen's View Carpark, and a vehicle check in Strathblane to target any travelling criminals, and vehicle offences. 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. This has also been confirmed in a recent BBC article and Radio Scotland interview with Park Officials. 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. This is seen very much as an empowerment process where the council can support communities to help themselves during severe weather conditions. There is also an acknowledgement that the council cannot do all of this work without the community. 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 October 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 have been a couple of applications for the Fintry CC area in recent planning schedules.
- **Planning – Local Development Plan:** This is due to be presented at the full council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. If this is approved it will go out to communities for final consultation over the months of November and December. The CC also informed me about a potential housing site and this passed onto planning officers.

- **Windfarm Proposal:** Following my last Community Council at Killearn I have subsequently attended a number of CC meetings including Balfron and Drymen meeting and the consultants - Banks Development Ltd made a presentation. For information the proposal from Banks is 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 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 October 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.
- **Balfron Recycling Facility:** There have been concerns about the future of this facility. I have a categorical assurance from the service that there are no plans to remove this service. The council have put substantial resources into this facility and it is widely used by residents and there are no plans to close it.
- **Bag It and Bin It:** The council have introduced an innovative campaign to encourage dog owners to bag and bin their dog waste. The link is [www.stirling.gov.uk/bagitbinit](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/bagitbinit) and you can use any bag and you can put it in any bin including a grey bin. This will mean that some red bins will be removed, but only if there is a general waste bin nearby. The campaign will also go around Stirling schools. The campaign is a very positive attempt to encourage dog owners to dispose of the dog waste, however the £60 fine will still remain.
- **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.



Councillor Graham Lambie  
Forth and Endrick Ward  
Stirling Council

- **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 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 October Meeting:** This is now operational and this initiative is already seeing financial savings and efficiency improvements within the Education Service for example).
- **Other Issues:**
  - Sewage Works – No updates at present
  - Balgair Caravan Park – The new owners appear to have addressed many of the previous concerns in a very professional manner and I have not received any communications from residents.
  - Any issues important to residents and the CC not covered here

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