



## Minutes Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Present: Jamie Pearson (Chair); Ken Young (Vice Chair); Penny Roberts (Secretary); Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing); Cicely Roy (Waste Water System Rep); Dawn Roberts (Rural Forum Rep); Bert Comrie (Transport Advisor); Penny Crawford (Minutes); Cllr Alistair Berrill; Les Goodfellow (Head of Environment Services); Cllr Danny Gibson; Cllr Graham Lambie; 15 members of the public

Apologies: Ken Smith (Communications); Ron Garvie (LDP/Roads);

<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
Previous minutes were approved	
<b>3. Weekly Shopper Bus</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>Fintry Community Council welcomed Cllr Danny Gibson and Les Goodfellow (Head of Environmental Services, Stirling Council) to discuss the Fintry Shopper Bus.</p> <p>Cllr Gibson told us he became aware very quickly that the shopper bus service was to be stopped through a press enquiry. After a member of the public asked why it was stopping, he explained the budgeting restrictions. Stirling Council is receiving less from the Government, and council tax cannot be raised. He went on to say there were difficult decisions made last year, with more difficult decisions to come.</p> <p>Cllr Gibson went on to explain there has never been a budget for the locally known 'shopper bus' service. The current shopper bus takes residents from Fintry directly into Stirling however the DRT service, for which currently there is a budget, is intended to take residents to the next connecting service route.</p> <p>[This has been an historical error and started when Aberfoyle Coaches (previous contracted company) took residents into Stirling. Aberfoyle Coaches apparently never invoiced the council for these trips, when Crescent Cabs took over the contract they understood that there was an agreement in place for Stirling Council to fund the journey to Stirling and billed the council accordingly, these invoices being paid without question by the council and it was not until the council employee responsible retired that the council discovered the error,</p> <p>J Pearson commented that Fintry residents had believed the shopper bus service was funded by the council from the start, which it was latterly</p>	

although by mistake. The residents of Fintry were not informed of the mistake and the subsequent termination of funding– the residents should have been told.

A member of the public told those present five years ago Fintry had a bus service on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday which ran to Stirling. This was then reduced to a Friday, then were led to believe the 'shopper bus' would be replacing this service. The member of the public asked what had happened to this service. **L Goodfellow agreed to take this up and look into it further (although this action was cancelled later in the meeting).**

L Goodfellow told the room the initial bus service was removed back in 2010 as it was not utilised fully. The council decided to introduce the DRT service and monitor how it was used. All contracts were issued and Aberfoyle won the contract. He went on to say that as Aberfoyle were going into Stirling, they took passengers all the way without charge. The council never paid for this service. Aberfoyle as a company did not survive. They had a large number of contracts with the council and the council had to replace them rapidly. B Comrie then stepped in to help in Fintry. L Goodfellow went on to say there had been a lot of confusion, with a lot of change taking place. Invoices had been received by the Council from B Comrie and were paid, but paid in error. The DRT service continues from Fintry – but does not include the trip to Stirling

Several members of the public said they would like the service back to the way it was (shopper bus directly into Stirling). They went on to say there are no shops in the village and would need to travel to get supplies. They requested again for the service directly into Stirling to resume.

It was stated that the service remains, but not directly into Stirling.

A member of the public asked about a current bus service that travels from Balfron through Cambusbarron to Stirling and whether this service could come via Fintry. **L Goodfellow agreed he would ask whether the commercial operator would change their route via Fintry (this action was later cancelled).** L Goodfellow went on to explain if there was a need for this service, they may indeed change their route, however, if a commercial contractor travels through Fintry, the DRT service would have to stop – they could not run together. The public were asked if they wished L Goodfellow to look into this, bearing in mind this would result in the DRT service being stopped. No one wished the DRT service to stop, and so L Goodfellow was asked not to look into and service being redirected.

M Duckworth asked whether the council had any funds, or lottery money that could be used to fund this extension of the current DRT service into Stirling. **L Goodfellow said they probably have small pockets, but cannot be used to compete against a public service.** L Goodfellow said he would speak with Community Development workers to see if there is a grant for this. Cllr Gibson advised there would be questions as to why the residents of Fintry require this extra service. M Duckworth commented that elderly people would find it difficult to carry weekly shopping from the shops to the bus station. L Goodfellow said there was a limited budget and not everyone's

<p>needs could be met. The village does have the DRT service, along with other areas such as Cowie. There are limited resources and the council do not have a budget for an enhanced service with the current budget cuts. L Goodfellow suggested residents speak with B Comrie to make alternate private arrangement to continue the journey into Stirling. He said this has happened in Bannockburn where residents fund the travel into Stirling.</p> <p>A further brief discussion took place with members of the public stating the shopper bus is not just for shopping, but acts as a social outing, which they now believe is being taken away. Cllr Gibson stated this direct service into Stirling was never actually there. He went on to explain even if they wanted to continue the service directly into Stirling, they could not do so as there are commercial buses running from Kippen to Stirling. He talked about the services in Callendar. There used to be 7 subsidised buses from Callendar, until they were removed. First bus stepped in and ran 5 commercial buses. This resulted in no cost to the council. Similarly he went on to say the C34 and C35 services to the hospital were laid on, but only 5000 people were using it, and of that 600/700 used it for the hospital. It's intended use was to provide subsidised travel to the hospital, instead people were using it for their shopping.</p> <p>Cllr Lambie asked Cllr Gibson whether NHS have funded buses in neighbouring authorities. Cllr Gibson said some were funded in Clacks, but they were looking at removing these services. NHS do not fund any buses in the Stirling area.</p> <p>J Pearson asked B Comrie whether he wished to make any comments. B Comrie went on to explain the procedure Stirling Council had with Aberfoyle Coaches and the change over to Crescent Cabs. After further discussion between B Comrie, L Goodfellow and Councillors, the room agreed not to proceed with First bus, but to stay with DRT service as if First came in, the village would lose the DRT service. B Comrie to discuss with the residents of Fintry a way forward.</p>	<p>B Comrie (with help from FCC???)</p>
<p><b>4. Stirling Councillor's Report (parts taken from report)</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>Priority Based Budgeting (PBB):</b> This is the council's new approach to budgeting which is designed to achieve savings of some £29 million over the next 5 - 10 years. Cllr Berrill stated it would be helpful if Fintry puts in a statement to the council about the nursery closure - individuals can submit statements on PBB. J Borland commented that this has already been done.</p> <p><b>Community Empowerment Bill:</b> This consultation seeks views on a range of proposals intended to give people in communities, and those supporting them in the public sector, a range of new ways to help deliver a better Scotland. It takes forward proposals that were supported in a previous consultation in 2012. The closing date is 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2013/11/5740">www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2013/11/5740</a></p> <p><b>Proposed Fintry Nursery Closure:</b></p>	

This is a red line issue for the opposition on the council – the SNP group, along with the Green Councillor, are opposed to the closure. As it stands the opposition group do not have the votes to prevent a closure if that is what the Council Administration is planning to do. However, we are hoping that the administration will also regard this as a red line issue and support he calls to stop the closure.

**Roads Projects 2013:**

Cllr Lambie went on to say they are reasonably pleased with the progress and improvement of the roads in the area. They are not expecting a major reduction in spend.

**Crow Road Inspection:**

White-lining is still required on the resurfacing in 2013. Lower down the B822 at the Clachan, the pavement work is complete but the fence is still in poor condition. It is anticipated this section will be resurfaced as part of the 2014/15 road maintenance schedule.

**Roads Review:**

Although some residents have suggested that the roads department resurface longer stretches of road, after speaking with Stephen Todd (Area Roads Manager) , he advised there would not be much deviation from the 5 day closure practice as longer stretches would require closure lengths of 10 days or more.

**Roads Maintenance Schedule:**

The roads maintenance schedule will be on the agenda for the following meeting – Environment and Housing Committee Meeting and the Full Council Budget meeting – both in February. This will then be made public soon after the allocation of budgets.

**Petitions Panel – Boquhan Road A875:**

The petitions panel may be a route for Fintry CC to use to address critical issues within their area. The petition panel requires 25 signatures. If residents have an issue with roads, they can raise the issue themselves.

**Community Pride:**

Communities are being encouraged to apply for Community Pride Funds as part of Stirling 2014. The applications must demonstrate how they intend to celebrate a key 2014 theme or event.

**Police Patrol:**

A suspected house breaker was detained and questioned in Strathblane. This was one of the areas they were focussing on as there had been a rise in such crimes, although police checks have seen a decrease in this activity over the last couple of years. Two drivers were advised to replace broken lights. Early morning patrols saw several vehicles stopped but the public were urged not to worry if they are stopped. The patrol also looked at road safety including missing white lining on the B818 Killearn to Fintry, a hold in the road in Fintry and 40mph signage on the A81 Glasgow Road Strathblane. The 101 number for non emergency calls was also tested.

<p><b>Other Community Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning Application 13/00728/FUL Force 9 Energy LLP and EDF Energy ER:</b> Erection of seven wind turbines of up to 125 m in height. At this height, this would not fit Stirling Council wind-farm policy, however this is being confirmed. If it is in breach of the policy, the likely recommendation is for refusal.</li> <li>• <b>Emergency Planning:</b> David Bright has been asked what procedure exist for residents/communities to be informed about severe weather events and how it ties in with community resilience plans. Also, when will the contact details on the plans be updated.</li> <li>• <b>Roadside Trees:</b> Following recent windblown tree fall, including a critical problem on the A81 at Cockhill Callendar, Stephen Todd has been asked for the statutory rules for cutting back of trees near roadways. A member of the public asked whose responsibility is it to cut back overgrown shrubs which come past road ends. Cllr Lambie advised it was generally the landowners responsibility. The council adopt the road for structure and maintenance, such as drains. Vast majority of land is owned by adjacent property. The council is not responsible for trees. If the trees are not cut back, the council would serve notice on the landowner to get them cut back. If they are still not cut back, the council would do the work, but would have to charge the landowner.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Proposed Nursery Closure</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>Cllr Berrill informed those present that there was not much to add since the previous meeting. The PBB sets up an outline budget over five years. Proposals were proposals, put out by officials and cuts have to be made somewhere. The Council budget meeting will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.</p> <p>A member of the public, Julie Borland, stated that on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Alan Milliken (Asst. Head of Education) presented their position and how to go forward. J Borland said they were advised at the time there would be an Impact Assessment report. Did indicate Fintry nursery was most opposed in whole PBB process and from that point of view had a strong case as all information was consistent. J Borland stated they had said they were looking at putting others on the PBB list. Cllr Berrill hadn't yet spoken with A Milliken. Figures were not disputed and many have made good strong responses to the issue. J Borland went on to discuss the 'Killearn 5' who have a full time member of staff. She asked why were the council were not asking them to attend Fintry Nursery, as Fintry has been asked to send their children to Killearn Nursery.</p> <p>Julie – he did make a suggestion to both look at Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Another member of the public, Alison Sammut also noted that in the PBB, Fintry Nursery was referred to as Fintry 'class' rather than as a 'nursery' with numbers up at 19 with a capacity of 20.</p>	

<p>B Comrie noted there was a primary with 9 pupils and queried why it should be Fintry which should close.</p> <p>Cllr Gibson said we can tell them what we oppose, but we have to tell them what we propose as an alternative as well.</p> <p>Similarly, J Pearson, Chair asked the room if there was a second line of suggestion. We have said what we don't want, but is there something we can say they could do?</p> <p>Cllr Berril went on to inform those present that there will be three public meetings later this month:</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at McLaren HS  27<sup>th</sup> Jan at Balfron HS  30<sup>th</sup> Jan at the Council Chambers  All meetings start 7pm</p> <p>The budget takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with the agenda coming out on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The public can go online for the proposals being voted on.</p> <p>J Borland asked Cllr Berrill what he had done to convince fellow councillors against closing the nursery. Cllr Berrill stated he was pushing very hard to keep the nursery open.</p> <p>A Sammut asked Cllr Berrill if he could ask Johanna Boyd to attend so Fintry residents could present to a Labour Ward. Cllr Gibson replied on behalf of Labour to say he would make enquires about availability</p> <p>Cllr Lambie told us he has met with David Leng (Head of Education) and went through the stop reduce options. He asked the room whether they could come up with alternatives to Fintry Nursery closing. Cllr Lambie is due to meet David Leng again before budget meeting. He went on to say that all 22 councillors supported retention of nursery in last budget meeting, and would like to think the same again and pull back from closure.</p> <p>A Sammut informed the room that if the vote was to close the Nursery, the council would still have a year to escalate, so the nursery would still stay open for another two years.</p> <p>Cllr Berrill commented that with the new PBB process, everyone can see beforehand what will be taken to the table to be voted on.</p> <p>J Pearson, FCC Chair thanked Cllr Berrill and Cllr Gibson.</p>	
<p><b>6. Police Report</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>No crime has been reported in the area between 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 apart from the theft of a trailer on a rural development on the Crow Road.</p> <p>Both formal and informal licensing checks were made of all licensed</p>	

<p>premises over the festive period and these went well with The Fintry Inn in particular reporting good trade.</p> <p>There have been no reported road traffic issues in Fintry despite the festive drink drive campaign and increased breath tests in the area.</p> <p>There were no anti-social behaviour calls to Police and local officers are not aware of any issues when conducting routine patrols.</p> <p>Locally ATM crime remained a concern and three individuals have been arrested and report to the Procurator Fiscal for using card theft devices on local ATMs.</p>	
<p><b>7. Planning</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p>M Duckworth read out information relating to planning</p> <p>Change of use of open land to garden ground application received from Thomas Canning, 27 Culcreuch Avenue. The open ground in question is part of the swing park. After discussion, the committee put it to a vote of which 6 unanimously voted against. Reason being 'community concern'. Cllr Lambie said public areas such as swing parks should be offered to the community before going elsewhere.</p> <p>Proposed extension to the rear of 103 Main Street.</p> <p>Approval given to the erection of a dwelling on the lands to the rear of 115 Main Street.</p> <p>Approval granted for single story extension to the back of 7 Culcreuch Avenue for Sean Sims.</p> <p>App for change of use for existing office to dwelling house has been withdrawn.</p>	
<p><b>8. Ongoing Matters</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b><i>Wind farm developers meeting</i></b>  Force 9 are coming to the next meeting to explain their case and listen to comments. Closure for objections was 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.</p> <p><b><i>Communications/FCC website</i></b>  It was agreed this be taken forward to the next meeting for discussion due to K Smith absence, although it was stated the website has changed and FCC was committed to having more info on there and aim to alert the community what would be happening at meetings. They also aim to build an email database, but are aware some residents will not have access to email.</p> <p><b><i>LDP Update</i></b>  Nothing to report.</p> <p><b><i>Memorial Tree</i></b></p>	

A request has been received from N McKnight to erect a memorial tree. It was agreed this be taken forward to the next meeting.	
<b>9. Finance</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b><i>Goodwill fund application form</i></b> K Young said some money from FDT was available for groups to apply for after a meeting with Mr Gordon Cowtan. K Young will get it agreed with more information being in the sports club in a couple of weeks.	K Young
<b>10. AOCB</b>	<b>Action</b>
M Duckworth volunteered to attend the Hall AGM on Monday at 8pm  D Roberts was appointed fire safety person at the meeting  J Borland asked Cllr Berrill if member of the public could be present during the voting in the Council Chambers. He said they could.  B Comrie promised that whatever happened the shopper bus would not be stopping.	M Duckworth D Roberts    B Comrie
<b>11. Correspondence</b>	<b>Action</b>
None received	
<b>12. Date of next meeting</b>	<b>Action</b>
12. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.30pm	