



Minutes of the meeting held on

10th December 2019

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Michele Bennett, Hendy Spence, Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing)
- Councillor Graham Lambie
- P.C. Gary Martin
- 3 members of the public
- **Apologies:** Karen Milliken

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- Councillor Lambie's report is attached.
- A question was asked regarding the number of places available at the Nursery. New regulations mean that the number of places has dropped from twenty to sixteen. If the proposed development of 40 houses goes ahead, would the number of places be increased? Councillor Lambie said that the property developers would be asked to make a contribution towards increasing the available capacity if necessary.
- A question was asked regarding the crash barriers on the Crow Road. The wooden posts have rotted and need replacing. Councillor Lambie said he would make enquiries.
- Michele had asked previously about repairs to the primary school and nursery school. Unfortunately, they are not high enough on the list to be prioritised. Councillor Lambie said that he would arrange a meeting in January to have a look at the condition of the buildings and see if anything could be done. Michele will be invited to the meeting.

V. Treasurer's Report

- No change in the accounts since last month.

VI. Police Report

- P.C. Martin apologised for missing some previous meetings. This was due to the times of the shifts he has been working.
- There had been some flooding in the area over the last couple of days and a lorry had overturned on the A811 due to high winds. Michele asked about the possibility of getting signs to warn people about flooding that members of the community could put out or switch on rather than having to wait for the police to come out and close the road. Michele had been trying to contact P.C. McNally about this but had been unsuccessful. P.C. Martin said he would speak to P.C. McNally.
- A question was asked about the situation regarding a cannabis farm in the local area. P.C. Martin reported that it had been closed down and some people had been charged in connection with it.

- A question was asked about residents seeing cars speeding through the village and whether it is worth reporting them to the police. P.C. Martin said that if more than one person can corroborate the incident and they have a note of the registration number then it is definitely worth a call to the police who will follow it up although it may be difficult to prove.
- Once again it has been a fairly quiet period in the village in relation to calls over the last month which of course is good news for residents and Police alike.
- ROAD TRAFFIC - There was a two vehicle Road Accident on the outskirts of the village. Two persons were treated for shock with no serious injuries. A report of a tipper lorry colliding with a fence in the Main Street. Police contacted and traced company who agreed to pay for damage. Report of dangerous driving on the outskirts, Police attended immediately however no trace of offending vehicle. Further reports of cows and sheep on the road on the outskirts of the village. Please take care on these twisty damp roads. Local officers will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to improve road safety.
- DRINK DRIVE CAMPAIGN - We are having a Festive drink/drive campaign running through December and into January. Please be aware that you may be still over the legal limit of alcohol to drive the next day so be careful after any Christmas night outs planned. If in doubt, don't drive.
- THEFT - No reports of theft in the village since the last report. Alarm at the nursery, Police attended and confirmed all in order. All reports of suspicious persons and vehicles are always welcomed and will be dealt with immediately by local officers. The evenings are getting darker earlier and it is a time where traditionally housebreakings can occur. Please consider the following:
 - Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
 - Ensure all doors and windows are secured when you leave and when you go to bed.
 - If possible, use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
 - Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
 - Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
 - Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
 - If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
 - Create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
 - If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.
- ADVICE FOR DRIVERS - Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing. Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre. Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse. All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working. Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:
 - An ice scraper and de-icer
 - A shovel for snow

- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

Be mindful of the road conditions when you drive; bad weather is often blamed for causing accidents however the real cause is often inappropriate driving for the conditions that exist. In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip. Ice and snow can increase stopping distances by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE - PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are the only community ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, based at Balfron Police Office. They can be contacted at Balfron Police Office, on 101, or by emailing ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Please contact us at Balfron should there be any issues you would like to discuss and we will be delighted to assist. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision
www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol
www.twitter.com/policescotland
- NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT - This is a community messaging system which sends alerts regarding crime, safety and resilience to communities. Ruralwatch is an information platform that has been set up by what was formerly Neighbourhood Watch; however the big difference being that any members of the local community can sign up to have the relevant alerts sent to them by various means including E-mail or Text message. To receive free alerts simply register at:
www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk Neighbourhood Alert

VII. Planning

- An application has been received to extend the planning application for two new dwelling houses east of Mullenhead Cottage, Fintry.
- An application has been made to erect one dwelling house on ground east of Croftinstilly.
- An application to demolish a barn and shed on garden ground at 43, Main Street has been approved with conditions.

VIII. Fintry Brochure update

- Michele has spoken to Charlie Croft (Tourism and Marketing Manager, Stirling Council). He is interested in helping in some way with the brochure and a meeting has been arranged for January.
- The idea for the brochure had arisen because of concern over the impact that the closure of Culcreuch Castle may have on local businesses. Concerns were raised about the colony of pipistrelle bats which roost in the roof space at the castle and that some parts of the castle are listed. Michele also reported that the pond in the castle grounds is flooding into the field and down towards the Menzies Estate and wondered who would take responsibility for this.

IX. Kingsburn/Community Grants

- An application has been submitted for £1,100 from the Sports Centre to replace lighting in the squash courts with LED lights. The FCC members agreed to fund the net cost of the lightbulbs only as general upkeep/maintenance of properties should not be funded.
- An application for £250 from David Smith for insurance cover for the 2020 village photograph was approved.
- An application from the Strathendrick Welfare Fund for £250 was approved. This scheme provides Christmas hampers to residents in the local area (nine in Fintry this year) who are nominated by professionals in the community for example, doctors, church members.
- The closing date for applications has now passed but it was agreed to extend the date until the end of February.

X. Local Development Plan (LDP) (Sub group formation)

- A sub group comprising of residents from different areas of Fintry has been formed and will have their first meeting in January. The members of the group are: Sian McMurtry (Main Street), Terry Baitrum and Ron Garvie (Menzies Estate), Lorna English (Culcreuch Avenue) and Dawn Roberts (Dunmore Gardens).

XI. Culcreuch Castle Drive

- Gates have been erected along the castle drive. Angela Simpson (Access Officer, Stirling Council) has been informed as the castle drive is a core path which cannot be stopped up without going through a legal process. Core paths should be accessible to walkers, horse-riders and cyclists. Stirling Council will be discussing this with the castle owners as well as asking about access for residents in cars when the B822 is flooded at the end of Menzies Avenue.

XII. Sub groups update (Five year plan/village feature)

- No update.

XIII. Correspondence

- An email had been received to confirm that the fountain is now officially a 'C' listed structure. This should help with future applications for funding.

XIV. A.O.B.

- The bench outside the old School House has not been reinstated. Michele had made enquiries with Stirling Council and had been told that the house owner has responsibility for making sure this happens.
- It was noted that a gate with barbed wire along the top of it had been erected to prevent access to the old quarry at the top of Quarry Road. It was felt that Environmental Health services should be notified.
- Hendy had attended a Fintry Sports & Recreation Club meeting on the 4th December. The main points were that new cameras had been purchased at a cost of about £750; discussion of the problem of the Rugby club not being able to use the bar when private events were being held. There was a suggestion that they Rugby club use the outdoor Bowling Club once it has been refurbished; the museum is still waiting for a building warrant; some discussion of the change of circumstances of parts of the sports club.
- Hendy had also attended a Fintry Community Sport Hub Meeting. Four hubs were suggested – the Sports Club, the outdoor Bowling Club, Fintry Primary School and the Menzies Hall. The Fintry Inn was also mentioned as a possibility.
- Stirling Council is proposing to remove the rose bushes from the flower bed outside the Menzies Hall and replace them with shrubs which are easier to maintain. It was agreed that someone from the Fintry Flower Show committee should be involved in any discussions as to what should be planted.

- Angela confirmed that two buses would be running for the Christmas trip into Glasgow this year.
- The family ceilidh on the 2nd of January has enough volunteer musicians to make up a band. It was suggested that a collection be held on the day as a 'thank you' to the musicians.

XV. Questions from the floor

- Mrs. Roy said that she was honoured to have the cemetery path named after her and thanked everyone involved.

XVI. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 8th January, 2020

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Forth and Endrick News – Fintry – Tuesday 10th December 2019

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

Councillor Lambie Report

- **Police Patrol attended by Cllr Lambie:** I attended a police patrol on the afternoon/evening of 27th Sept, with community PCs Steven Graham and Gary Martin. The patrol included a visit to Rowardennan and other sites on East Loch Lomond as part of Iron Works. However, the main concern was speeding, raised by many communities in Forth and Endrick. We visited the **Safety Camera Unit at Arnprior**, operated by former police officers. During the visit the camera caught a number of drivers going over 39 mph. These were recorded to be then sent to court for adjudication, which could result in a fine and points on a driving licence. Occasionally drivers may wish to challenge the findings, the danger being that an unsuccessful challenge could result in a more severe penalty. During the patrol we also observed a careless overtaking manoeuvre by an HGV which involved overtaking a tractor before Allen's bend driving towards Buchlyvie. An oncoming car had to break to allow the HGV to pass. The HGV was safely stopped on the Kippen straight, and the driver's name and address was recorded. **Road Safety History:** From 2007 to 2012 there were no less than 10 road fatalities in the Forth and Endrick ward alone. The combination of the Safety Camera Unit, improvements in road maintenance, speed mitigation measures, and regular patrols by local police officers has contributed to a significant decrease in fatalities and serious injuries but there are still too many drivers breaking speed limits.
- **Police Commander Comments re. Role of CCs:** I am on record as being concerned about these comments, and I don't think this reflects the views of our dedicated community officers. However, the police commander has a new role in Police Scotland so I will be seeking the views of the new commander at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.
- **Your Stirling You Decide Results:**
 - Install a Pedestrian Crossing and Speed Restrictions on Main Street, Buchlyvie (810 Votes)
 - Arnprior Playpark Activity Pavillion (668 Votes)
- **First Bus Changes:** There are serious concerns about the First Bus provision in rural Stirlingshire. The council is investigating the forming of a public transport company. The council are currently in discussions with the Scottish Government and COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) over future public transport. Does this also lend more weight to extending the DRT, or should we be looking at adding some scheduled services but using smaller vehicles? Having recently used the excellent Lothian Bus service is this the kind of model we should be bringing to Stirling? **Update:** I note the amendments to the timetabling and the concerns about the Sunday service. To take this issue forward I'm looking for community guidance on Sunday timings and route preferences.

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Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Roads – Speed Limits:** Gargunnoch has had a 20 mph for some period and feedback has been positive. Other villages looking to install 20mph limits include: Balfroon; Kippen; Fintry; Strathblane. Ref: Road Safety Charity www.brake.org.uk
Update: The Kippen and Fintry 20 mph limits were approved at the planning panel on 1st Oct.
- **Roads Programme and A811 Works:** There are 4 sections that have been patched with inlay and were surface dressed later this year. The full programme for the Forth and Endrick ward is on **Appendix 1:**
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen:** The owner has engaged the services of Bell Ingram (Planning Consultants) and a public consultation was run at Killearn Church Hall on 28th Sept 2018 which I attended. The presentation included plans for: Carparking; Footbridges; Viewing platforms; Visitor Centre; Toilets etc. Feedback was largely positive although we have yet to see the results of the survey forms. I am reassured that the consultants have received positive responses from potential funders who see the economic development opportunities from the site. Also, Stirling Council roads officers see no issue with access from the B834 (Station Rd) – where the main immediate aims are getting parked cars and visitors off the road, and navigating the site safely. **Update:** I note that an application was submitted on 1st Oct 19/00745/FUL for: Proposed visitor facilities, car park, and new junction a land at Finnich Glen. I have asked the case officer Ritchie Gillies if the size of the application merits a referral to the planning panel.
- **Killearn Hospital Site:** It looks very likely that Cala Homes will be submitting a planning application for 89 units in September. This is more than the 70 originally planned for the site but builds in cash to pay for the whole site remediation. The site also includes space for mixed use development at a later date. This could include: Business Space; Bunk house for West Highland Way; Mini Care Village; Beatson Satellite Research Unit; Renewable Technology Centre. I've contacted the landowner to discuss this 2nd phase and the likely timescales. Due to this being a major development, it would be referred to the planning panel. **Update:** Cala and the site owner have met officers and later met with myself and Cllr Davies. The land consultant report has indicated that the site remediation costs are much higher than initially estimated, which will have an impact on the proposed commuted sum for 25% affordable units. The higher costs include removal of contaminants and poor quality ground, which will necessitate piling for some of the market properties.
- **National Park:** Residents may have noted that the application for the West Riverside development was withdrawn after park planning officers recommended refusal. Park Board members attended a site visit on Wed 6th Nov to the Cononishgold mine, near Tyndrum. Works are progressing well and it looks like the first gold will be produced in 2020. Scotgold, the mining company, are confidently predicting that at full capacity the mine will produce 23,370 Oz Avg. of Gold per year and create 63 jobs.
- **Mugdock Country Park:** Commercial income is looking very positive with £122K from the last financial year. It costs £450K approx. to run the park with 87% provided by East Dunbartonshire and 12.5% from Stirling Council, who own the park and lease it to East Dunbartonshire. It is hoped that the existing Friends of Mugdock membership card could be adapted into a parking permit as a car-parking charge has been suggested.

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

- **Fintry Issues:**

- **Road Maintenance B822 Balafark Farm:** This much needed section has been completed but I note that they have used small stones at the edges, some of which have spread onto the road. **Update:** Other drivers have commented on this but I'm not in favour of using larger stones due to potential wheel and tyre damage.
- **Fintry Main Street Utility Road Repair Inspection:** On 25th September, I met with a resident and two council road inspectors to look at the inconsistency of utility road repairs in Fintry, but an issue for other villages as well. This was a productive meeting with good explanations from the officers. I've asked for a members briefing on this but this has been delayed due to a certain event on 12th Dec. Also, the officers are anticipating an extension of the repair guarantee from 2 to 5 years as proposed by Transport Scotland, which is positive news.
- **B822 Crow Road:** I drove over the road in November and am generally pleased with the general condition of the road, and that priority 1 gritting has been maintained.
- **Road Repairs - A811:** These have been largely completed with a combination of inlay patching, followed by surface dressing. This was followed by sweeping, white lining and cats eye replacements in some sections.
- **Fintry Primary School Condition:** I had previously asked if this was on the priority list for a replacement school. According to the Condition and Suitability Overview the Total Ratings are as follows: Fintry Nursery 70%, Fintry Primary 80%. There are currently 14 schools and nurseries rated at under 70% with Callander and Allan's (Stirling) two of the lowest. However, Fintry Nursery is one to be watched.
- **Croftamie Nursery Update:** At the previous Children & Young People Committee the supported the following amendment:
 - "The committee directs the Chief Education Officer to bring to the Committee at the earliest opportunity a detailed, costed study of the improvements that can be made to Croftamie Nursery in order to ensure the fullest compliance with the recommendations of 'Space to Grow'."
 - To meet the entitlement of 1140 hours as specified by the Scottish Government by August 2020 the Education Service are advising that temporary provision is installed near Drymen Primary as there is insufficient time to extend the existing Croftamie Nursery, and the current site is unsuitable for a temporary facility.

- Councillor Graham Lambie Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling
FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Road Maintenance Programme 2019 – 2020 Forth and Endrick				
'A' Class Roads	Type	Value	Dates	Completed
A811 Stirling Carse - Gargunnoch	SD	£166,015	19 th May	Yes
A811 Kirk Lane Junction - Gargunnoch	SD	£61,650	"	Yes
A811 Balwill Layby - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£67,678	27 th May	Yes
A811 Ballat Crossroads to WD Boundary	SD	£145,733	3 rd June	Yes
A875 Boquhan - Balfroon	Inlay	£85,488	21 st Oct	Yes
A875 Coop Area - Balfroon	Inlay	£49,320	TBC	
'B' Class Roads				
B837 Mill Burn - Drymen	Inlay	£70,418	Mar 2020	
B822 Cemetery - Fintry	Overlay	£56,565	15 th July	Yes
B822 Balafark Farm - Kippen	Overlay	£56,565	29 th July	Yes
B835 Wester Auchentroig - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£69,135	15 th July	Yes
B835 Primary School - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£14,248	TBC	Yes
'C' Class Roads				
C6 Rowardennan	Overlay	£50,280	Mar 2020	
C21 from A81 to Balfroon	Overlay	£50,280	22 nd July	Yes
C23 from B818 to Balfroon	Overlay	£50,280	29 th July	Yes
'Unclassified' Roads				
Glinns Road - Kippen	Overlay	£26,397	TBC	TBC
Mye Road - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£31,425	22 nd July	TBC
Burnside Road - Kippen	Overlay	£67,878	17 th Jun	TBC
Old Gartmore Road - Drymen	Inlay	£37,710	14 th Oct	Yes
Streets				
Endrick Way - Croftamie	Inlay	£20,550	27 th Oct	Yes
Branziert Rd North - Killearn	Inlay	£63,505	27 th Oct	Yes
Culcreuch Avenue - Fintry	Inlay	£34,661	15 th July	Yes
Footways				
Branziert Road - Killearn	Inlay	£55,000	Oct 2019	Yes
McNeill Crescent - Gargunnoch	Inlay	£20,000	30 th Sept	Yes
Leckie Road Bridge - Gargunnoch	Inlay	£20,000	14 th Oct	Yes
B818 Bogside Fence Repair - Fintry	PostWire	N/a	20 th May	Complete
Station Rd - Gargunnoch	Fence	N/a	15 th July	Complete
	TOTAL	£1,370,781		

Key: SD = Surface Dress, WD = West Dunbartonshire