



Minutes of the meeting held on
13th February 2019

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Michele Bennett, Meg Duckworth, Hendy Spence, Angela May, Karen Milliken
- Councillor Alistair Berrill
- 2 members of the public
- P.C. Gary Martin
- **Apologies:** None

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- The budget meeting for Stirling Council is next week. A Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process has been used which aims to match available resources to community priorities. Public meetings were held but were poorly publicised and therefore not well attended. It is unclear what will be in the budget but it is likely that Council Tax will increase.
- Following the resignation of Stirling Council's Chief Executive last year, the post has been covered temporarily by the Deputy Chief Executive. Interviews are to be held next week to appoint someone permanently.
- Twelve community councils were not formed following the election process but eleven of them formed successfully after a second opportunity in January. Only Buchanan did not have sufficient nominations and no longer has a community council.
- The Peak swimming pool is still closed for repair. The original scheduled re-opening was the end of March and there has been no update on this.
- Improvements have been made to the booking system for DRT as it is now possible to book online. Journeys can be booked from 30 days in advance and up to two hours before the required.
- Meg Duckworth asked if there were proposals to establish parking charges in Balfon. Councillor Berrill confirmed that there are proposals to install parking meters on Buchanan Street and in the car park beside the Co-op.

V. Police Report

- **Antisocial Behaviour:** There have been no reports of anti-social behaviour in the village since the last report.
- **Road Safety:** A report of a road traffic accident - vehicle collided with telegraph pole on the outskirts of the village. No serious injuries. Further road accidents reported - no serious injuries, again on the outskirts of the village. Please continue to be vigilant on

your travels - there have been reports of sheep on the road and fallen trees on roadways. Police attended again immediately and the matters were made safe as required. Please take extra care in relation to these issues. **WINTER CHECKS** - Please check and maintain your vehicle for road worthiness. The winter weather causes roads and driving conditions to be hazardous. This includes ensuring that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway. A number of drivers have been warned in other villages regarding not properly defrosting their windscreens in the cold conditions recently and the dangers this can cause to them and other drivers.

- **Theft:** Since the last report, there have been no further reports of break-ins to any premises, residential or commercial. A number of residential alarm activations received, Police attended and confirmed all in order, no issues, false alarm. As previously stated however, we always welcome any calls regarding any suspicious vehicles or persons so please phone in and the vehicle/persons will be enquired into accordingly. Local and Traffic Officers continue to carry out high visibility patrols in the area as much as possible along with static road checks and speed radar where required.
- **Police Message to Local Residents:** We need your help to make it harder for the thieves so 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 secure 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.
 - 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.
- If anyone would like further crime prevention advice, please contact PC Steven Graham or PC Gary Martin who will be happy to assist.
- **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
- There was a Search and Rescue incident at Todholes Farm through the forest area. Person with a suspected broken ankle was rescued safely, no further issues.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- The Community Council account has almost £3K but £848 of this has already been earmarked for the resilience plan.
- £1500 has been granted to improve the path to the graveyard but more will be needed.
- The cost of hiring the Menzies Hall for meetings has gone up by 5% and is now £18/hour.

- The Common Good fund currently stands at £17K. £7K of this is for macro-grants, £3K for micro-grants and £4K for path maintenance.
- Applications for macro-grants and micro-grants are open until the end of February.
- Two applications for micro-grants were discussed: An application for £250 from the Community Gardening Club for soil, seeds and plants, the council all agreed that further information regards what happens to the produce is required before deciding on this application; an application for £250 for the formation of a Macramé Club to help with the cost of yarn, beads, tutoring and room hire was approved with the condition that any equipment remaining if the group folds is returned to the FCC.

VII. Planning

- The case has been closed on an Enforcement Order concerning the erection of a garage at Culcreuch Avenue.
- An application has been made for a single storey extension to the east gable at Endrick House 28, Main Street.
- The height of a boundary fence in Menzies Avenue has been reduced to permitted development criteria.
- An application has been made for the erection of two houses at Cairnoch, Fintry.

VIII. Community Ground Maintenance

- The areas which the FCC is responsible for were agreed to be: the riverside path, the cemetery path and the community garden (the land belongs to the Sports Centre but the garden has been adopted by the FCC).
- The maintenance needed was agreed to be: grass needs cutting twice a month from May – September (cemetery path and community garden); hedge cutting (alongside the cemetery path and at the community garden); the apple trees along the side of the sports field need pruning; and the weeds alongside the riverside path need killing (there will need to be some agreement with SEPA about the best way to do this as the weeds are so near the river).
- It was agreed that quotes will be invited from any interested parties.

IX. Subgroups

- A subgroup was formed to draw together a five year plan for Fintry and decide if Fintry could have a village feature and what it could be – Angela May, Karen Milliken and Nicola Maharg.
- A subgroup is in place to develop and implement the village resilience plan – Ken Smith, Michele Bennett, Sue Wallace and Hendy Spence.

X. Broadband

- A meeting was held on Monday 11th February to update residents on superfast broadband. Anyone who is connected to cabinet two (311 households) can now receive superfast broadband. It should be possible to move a phone line so that it is connected to cabinet two if it is not connected at the moment.

XI. Resilience Update

- A village generator located at Knockraich Farm was commissioned yesterday – the funding bodies stipulate that there should be some publicity/advertising to highlight their involvement. MB to look at the best way to do this.
- Funding has been confirmed for a defibrillator to be installed at the church (due to be done next month). This takes the total number of defibrillators in the village to five – Menzies Hall, Fintry Sports Club, Balgair Caravan Park, Knockraich Farm and Fintry Church. It was noted that the church would benefit from having disabled access and that they may be eligible to apply for a macro-grant to fund this.
- Phase two of the resilience plan can now be initiated and funding will be applied for from various funding bodies. This phase of the plan will include a second generator at the Menzies Hall.

- All the defibrillators need new batteries every four years and new pads every two years. The total cost for this is approximately £975 and this will be covered with money from the Goodwill Fund.
- The Trossachs Search and Rescue Team are offering a defibrillator training course on 23rd February from 10-12 o'clock at the Menzies Hall.
- KS and MB met with the Scottish Flood Forum (an independent organisation which supports individuals and communities at risk from flooding) to look at areas of the village which are susceptible to flooding. A public meeting has been scheduled for 21st March at 7 p.m. at the Menzies Hall. Any residents whose land/property is affected by flooding are invited to attend the meeting for impartial advice.
- It was agreed that the flooding needs to be prevented from happening wherever possible as erosion in many areas is getting worse. It was acknowledged, however, that caution is needed so that the problem is not just moved further downriver.
- It was noted that the drains on Main Street become full after only a small amount of rain and may need to be unblocked. MB to follow up.

XII. Community transport/car share

- The possibility of an outside organisation being invited to set up a community transport/car share scheme was raised. It was noted that a similar scheme organised by the FDT several years ago had not been successful but it was agreed that it would be worth looking into again.

XIII. Five year plan

- Several neighbouring villages have developed five or ten year community action plans which summarise community views about village issues and priorities for the future. It was agreed that this would be a good idea for Fintry and a subgroup was formed to look into the best way to do this. (See Agenda point 9).

XIV. Village Feature

- As part of the five year plan, it was also agreed to look at the possibility of having a village feature. There may be grants available to help with this.

XV. After school care

- KS asked if the FCC would be agreeable to looking at a funding application from an After School Care group if one was set up. The FCC agreed that they would not be willing to help with startup funds but would consider an application for funding once such a group had been established.

XVI. Correspondence

- There had been an email query and KS had offered to meet to discuss the issue but had received no response.

XVII. A.O.B.

- Community noticeboard – the noticeboard located in the front garden of the Old Police House needs replacing. It was agreed to send a letter to the house owner of the old school house to ask if the board could be reinstated on the end of the old toilet block where it had been originally. The same house owner is also to be asked to reinstate the bench on Main Street which had been removed during construction work.
- A resident had approached a Community Councillor with concerns over a large, dead tree in a garden on Kippen Road. It was agreed that this was not an issue that the FCC could help with but it was suggested that the resident contact Stirling Council as they may be able to help.
- The hard work which has been put in by all involved to repair the riverside path was formally recognised and in particular, Michele Bennett was thanked for applying for funding and organising for the work to be done. It was noted that a sign should be erected acknowledging the groups which have supplied funding.

- It was noted that the bin for dog waste which is situated near the cross has been vandalised.
- MB is looking into the possibility of putting up notices with regard to fines being applied to people who do not pick up dog waste and the possibility of a dog waste bin being erected at the church end of the village.
- MD mentioned that anyone who lives in the Parish of Fintry is entitled to a funeral at the church regardless of their religion or whether or not they are church-goers.
- The Fintry Toddlers' Group has folded so will be returning any funds they have not used that were granted by the FCC.
- A formal thank you was given to the organisers and participants of the village litter pick last weekend.
- It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Bruce Mearns to thank him for installing the defibrillator at Knockraich Farm free of charge.

XVIII. Questions from the floor

- A member of the public noted that a considerable amount of damage to the paintwork of a vehicle had been caused by a Stirling Council gritter passing through the village. The issue had been raised with Stirling Council. It was felt that the speed at which grit was ejected from the vehicle should be controllable and should not be damaging other vehicles.
- A member of the public questioned the lack of road signs to Fintry.

XIX. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday March 13th 2019, 7.30 p.m.

A vote of thanks to the chair was recorded.