



Minutes of the meeting held on

11th November 2020

(A virtual meeting held via Zoom)

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Michele Bennett (Vice Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Hendy Spence
- **Apologies:** Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing), Angela May (Secretary), 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

- No report submitted. This is the third month where no report has been submitted.
- Ken has emailed all the Councillors and cc'd Pam Campbell ((Community Link Officer).

V. Police Report

- Antisocial Behaviour – There have been no reports of anti-social behaviour although there was a report of a household breaching Covid guidelines. This was resolved by Police.
- Road Safety – There have been no reportable RTCs in the Fintry area since the last meeting.
- Vehicle care - 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. Please ensure 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.
- Theft - There have been no thefts reported since the last meeting.
All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. 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.
- Fraud - There have been numerous reports of a fraud involving tickets being sold via a website for "Winter Wonderland". Many people have been scammed with this and enquiries are ongoing.
 Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Recently calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the below advice:
 - Consider making your phone number ex-directory.
 - Don't give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.
 - Don't give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.
 - NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.
 - Don't give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.
 - Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.
 - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
 - Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved 'call blocking' technology.
- Community Engagement and Reassurance - It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems. PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact. 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

VI. Treasurer's Report

- General Fund Account
 The current balance in this account is £6,506. We have just received £2000 from Post Code Lottery.
- Foundation Fund:
 The foundation fund balance to date is £34,892.

Foundation Scotland Budget	Description	Budget	Spend	Remaining
Commissioned Service	Community Transport Scheme	£2,500	£672	£1,828
Commissioned Activity	Continued Path Maintenance	£5,000	£4,508	£492
Commissioned Activity	Maintenance of resilience fund assets	£1,000		£1,000
Fintry Special Project	Community Garden & Resilience Fund	£2,000		£2,000
Fintry Special Project	Menzies Hall Resilience Hub	£13,000		£13,000
Fintry Special Project	COVID-19 Hardship and Resilience Fund	£5,160	£1,389	£3,772
Micro Grants-A	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,000		£2,000
Micro Grants-B	Individual Grants £250-500	£2,000		£2,000
Main Grants	Constituted Groups £500-2500	£10,000	£2,500	£7,500
Student Study Grant	Student Study Grant	£1,000		£1,000
Administration Fee	FCC Admin work	£500	£200	£300
	Total	£44,160	£9,268	£34,892

New Community Council Notice Board is to be ordered for £1,500. Budget allocated above from Resilience Hub to be used.

Hardship Fund - summary of criteria - Current funds used to provide shopping for families that have applied for Universal Credit but have not yet received funds. Require evidence (can be verbal only) that they have applied for universal credit and then they need to let us know when their first payment will arrive.

Ken to re-post information about the macro and micro grants on Facebook.

VII. Planning

- Murgitroyd Forestry Investments have made an application to convert and extend a derelict farm building at Mount Farm to create a dwelling house.
- An application has been made by Mr. Bruce Cook to extend the house at 1 Menzies Avenue.
- There is a request for a formal opinion on the scope of an ETA report on the proposed development of 6 wind turbines (maximum height 149.9m) at Drummarnock, Carron Valley (north east of Craigengelt wind farm).
- An application from Miss Joanne Arnold to convert an old stone barn outbuilding at Provanston into a private dwelling.

VIII. Ongoing resilience and roads updates

- Michele paid tribute to Stuart Ballantyne from the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team who passed away from Covid-19 recently. Stuart had always been very helpful to FCC and other local communities and will be greatly missed. It was agreed that Ken would send a letter to Trossachs SAR from the FCC on behalf of the Fintry community to offer their condolences and their thanks for Stuart's help and support over the years.
- Michele gave an update on the Covid-19 restrictions for Stirling which is currently in Level 3. There has been a high increase in the number of cases recently and it is possible that Stirling could be moved to Level 4. Letters have been sent out to Fintry residents offering help with shopping and the collection of prescriptions and information about track and trace.
- Criteria for the distribution of funds for Hardship have been agreed.
- Various grants have been applied for including applications to Foundation Scotland and the Robertson Trust.
- A quote of £1,445.60 has been received for the installation of more river gauges. This is for one River Trak sensor, three display units, batteries and maintenance. Ken was concerned about where the sensor should be positioned as it needs to be fairly near a house for the receiver to gather the data from it.
- It was proposed that some work be carried out at the church hall resilience hub to improve the kitchen facilities in the near future but that work on the Menzies Hall hub would not happen until the next financial year.
- There has been a good response from residents regarding the trees to help alleviate flooding issues. Over 100 trees are to be planted at Provanston.
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has offered to do some work along the Lade path to clear overgrown trees etc. The landowner has agreed.
- Concerns have been raised about Japanese knotweed spreading along the burn coming down from Dunmore Hill. It seems to have spread from garden waste that has been

dumped there. Householders in the vicinity will be notified as it is important that it is not allowed to spread further.

- Double yellow lines have been painted at the junction of Kippen Road and Main Street.
- Speed testing was carried out along Main Street and Kippen Road recently. The 7 day average speed outside The Fintry Inn was 21.5 mph; at the Menzies hall it was 20.9 mph; and on Kippen Road it was 27.9 mph. No recommendations for traffic calming will be made for Main Street but a recommendation for speed bumps, speed cushions or road narrowing has been made to Stirling Councillors. Michele has requested that another survey is carried out further along Main Street near Kilunan Steadings.

IX. Main Street Cherry Trees

- Emails had been received to enquire about the removal of a cherry tree and a rowan tree on Main Street. Stirling Council had removed them as they had a fungal disease and there was a possibility of the trunks snapping. Both trees will be replaced by like-sized trees. The trees were originally planted in the 1990's and paid for by donations. Stirling Council approved the planting of the trees, the creation of the flower beds and the installation of the footpaths at the time.
- Michele had also made enquiries about the rose bed near Menzies Hall. New topsoil will be put down and perennials will be planted there in March next year.

X. Community Council Archive

- Michele has applied for a grant to purchase cabinets for the storage of archived documents.
- Jamie Pearson has passed on the documents he had to Hendy.

XI. Correspondence

- Emails about the cherry trees.
- An email with regard to the need for the FCC to have a safeguarding policy. This is needed if the FCC provides funds from the Kingsburn fund to any groups who work with children or vulnerable people. Michele confirmed that a safeguarding policy is included in the resilience policies. Sue pointed out that any groups who work with children or vulnerable people that apply for funding must show that they have a safeguarding policy in place.
- A letter from Fintry Primary School:

On behalf of myself, staff and families at Fintry primary School, I would like to thank you very much for the support you have given during Covid-19. The children have benefitted greatly from the generosity of the Community Council and the Resilience Group during lockdown.

The 6 Chrome books gifted to the school supported children who would otherwise not have been able to access home learning. As the term has started the chrome books will continue to support the children in their learning. The donation for the boxes has supported the storage of resources so that the classes became uncluttered and we can minimize the risk of spreading the virus. The smaller trays allowed every child to have their personal belongings separate and safe.

Thank you for looking after the school grounds and supplying the Nursery with a greenhouse. We love our new raised beds around the school and we would welcome the support of the community in planting new crops in the new season.

During lockdown it was great to have the support of the Fintry Community and we feel that during these difficult times we have developed stronger relationships that we hope we can continue to grow.

With thanks from everyone,

Yvonne Gibb

Headteacher

Fintry Nursery and Primary School

- Correspondence regarding the shed situated at the school. The school has confirmed that there are no issues with the location of the shed.

XII. A.O.B.

- Michele has applied for funding for Christmas lights to put up in the village and has asked Stirling Council about the possibility of using the electricity supply at the fountain.

XIII. Date of next meeting

- 9th December 2020