



Minutes of the meeting held on
8th May 2019

- I. Present/apologies for absence:**
- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Michele Bennett, Meg Duckworth, Karen Milliken, Hendy Spence
 - 2 members of the public
 - P.C. Steven Graham
 - **Apologies:** None
- II. Declaration of interest in any items of business**
None
- III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:**
To be approved.
- IV. Stirling Councillor's Report**
- No Councillors were present.
 - Ken noted that some road repairs in the area were scheduled but dates were still to be confirmed. (Also, see Section IX).
- V. Police Report**
- Over the Easter holidays there was damage reported at the primary school with fencing, seating broken and signs removed. At this time there are no suspects however should anyone have any information please contact the Police.
 - Report received at the weekend re youths on body boards going along the B818 near to Loch Walton. I remember this being an issue in the past. We attended however the persons had left prior to our arrival. It seems the person use a "look out" to ensure no vehicles are on the road as they carry it out however this does not mean that the activity is not dangerous and we will endeavour to try and catch them in the act..
 - **Road Traffic** - There were no reportable RTCs reported in the Fintry area since the last meeting.
 - **Theft:** Overnight between 15th – 16th April a quad bike was stolen from a shed within the grounds of Culcreuch Castle. At this time there are no suspects however again, should anyone have any information regarding this then please contact the Police.
We still urge people to report any suspicious vehicles or persons. Please phone in and the vehicle/persons will be enquired into accordingly.
 - **Shut out scammers:** Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople.
There is a campaign started called "Shut Out Scammers" which is raising awareness of offenders who cold-call people at their homes and scam them out of money. Doorstep criminals may offer to carry out work at a reduced rate, asking you to hand over cash

straight away and often in advance of any repairs being carried out. We have visited local businesses handing out leaflets and posters to highlight this issue.

There is no specific look to a bogus caller or rogue trader. If you have any concerns at all, do not allow an individual entry to your home, or provide them with any form of payment and do not hesitate to phone the police immediately. Always ask for ID and only let callers in if they have an appointment and you know that they are genuine.

If you would like to receive any of our advice and guidance on preventing crime then you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit our dedicated webpage at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>.

- **Sheep worrying:** This time of year presents the problem of sheep worrying. Dog owners are being warned their animal could be killed if it is found to be in the presence of sheep, even if it has not physically attacked them or chased them. A dog attacking, chasing or even being at large in a field where sheep are kept can lead to significant injury and often leads to the sheep being killed or destroyed. Such attacks have a financial and emotional impact on the farmer and cause immense suffering to the animals and are avoidable if dog owners follow some simple steps.

The vast majority of livestock worrying incidents involve sheep and can occur when a dog attacks, chases or in the case of sheep, is at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field where livestock is kept. The effects of a dog attack are evident and cannot be overstated but significant damage can also be caused by a dog simply being present in a field. Pregnant ewes can abort their lambs or lambs can be separated from their mothers.

The advice to dog owners who live in rural areas or anyone walking and exercising their dogs in the countryside is to ensure they are under control at all times and avoid going into fields where livestock is grazing. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says dogs shouldn't be taken into fields where there are lambs or other young farm animals.

- **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

VI. Treasurer's Report

- The money for the resilience plan has all been allocated with £900 remaining.
- £37K of the Kingsburn Fund has been allocated to grants with £6K to carry over to the next financial year. It was agreed that £41K will be requested for the upcoming year. Most of this will be available for the micro- and macro-grants with some money set aside for unspecified projects which may arise.

VII. Planning

- An application has been lodged by Ms. Kathy Li to build one house, west of the two roadmen's houses on the B818 road to Denny.
- An application has been lodged by Mr. Stan James to build a house north east of 10B Main Street, Fintry.
- An application from Mr. Stan James to remove four chimney stacks from Stewarts House, The Cross, Fintry has been approved.

VIII. Resilience - Knockraich

- The resilience centre at Knockraich was officially opened on 25th April, 2019.
- Work will now begin on creating a second resilience centre at the Menzies Hall and information about both centres and about the resilience plan will be made available to the community once this is open.
- It was agreed that the possibility of having a third resilience centre in the Session House at Fintry Kirk would be investigated.
- A Flood Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May to discuss the next steps, with a public meeting scheduled for the 19th June.
- 420 trees have been secured to be planted in November. They are a mix of different trees specifically selected because their root systems help to reduce flooding. They will be planted in the areas identified as suffering from the worst flooding.

IX. Roads

- Gonachan Bridge repair – this is scheduled for September and will probably result in the road being closed whilst repairs take place.
- Give way signs and road markings have been requested but are not a priority for Stirling Council. It was agreed that a traffic survey should be requested with a view to FCC possibly funding the road signs etc.
- Final approval should be granted next month for 20 mph signs to be installed on all entrances to Fintry.
- The A811 (Carse road) to Stirling will be closed between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. from 20/05/19 – 31/05/19 with diversions in place.

X. Cemetery Path

- Funding has been secured to surface the path. The width will probably be 1.5 metres (similar to the riverside path).

XI. Ground Maintenance

- There were no responses to the request for tenders. It was agreed to widen the advert to neighbouring villages.
- It was also agreed that the hedge alongside the graveyard path would need trimming on the road side as well as the path side.

XII. Duncarron Mediaeval Village

- The Grand Opening of the Duncarron Mediaeval Village is on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May. As parking will be limited, it was agreed that Karen would look into the possibility of shuttle buses running there from Fintry. A post will be put onto Fintry Buddies on Facebook to gauge the level of interest.

XIII. Subgroups update (Five year plan/village feature)

- There was no update yet from the five year plan subgroup. A meeting in the near future was confirmed.
- The village feature subgroup had met with Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council to look into the possibility of restoring the fountain at the cross. Grants are available and, as it is such specialist work, only one quote would be required. The Roads Department has been approached for a quote to repair the plinth. The fountain is of historical and architectural interest and so it may be possible for it to be categorised as a

listed building – this would open up more applicable grants. The light above the fountain works but is not contemporary with the age of the fountain so may be replaced. The plants in the fountain would have to be removed but the plan is to place planters around the base of the fountain instead. It is unlikely that water will be reconnected to the fountain due to the risk of Legionnaires' disease.

XIV. Correspondence

- An email had been received commenting on the bad condition of the noticeboard. Plans are already in place to purchase a new one.
- A letter had been received in response to a point in A.O.B. in the minutes of the February FCC meeting. It had been agreed that a letter would be sent to Mr. S. James to request the reinstatement of the noticeboard onto the end of the old toilet block and the replacement of the bench that had been moved during construction work on the old toilet block. Mr. James responded to the points raised in the meeting – new render and damp proofing had been applied to the wall in question and he felt that reinstating the noticeboard there may have a detrimental effect on the work done; he also felt that the residents in the building may be disturbed by people sitting on the bench if it was reinstated and there was the possibility of people climbing on the bench and then onto the roof of the building. Mr. James proposed that the bench and noticeboard be relocated down at the Sports Centre. It was noted that the bench had been in that position in the village for at least the last 60 years. It was agreed that a reply should be sent to Mr. James requesting the return of the bench. It was also noted that the pavement and the stone wall at the side of the building are yet to be repaired.

XV. A.O.B.

- It was noted that there are no clubs or activities available to the children/young people of Fintry during the summer holidays. It was agreed to see if funding was available to run a weekly bus to the swimming baths or the cinema and to approach Active Stirling and the Sports Centre to find out if any activities could be provided there. The question was raised as to whether or not Fintry residents can use the swimming pool at the caravan park. AM to find out.

XVI. Questions from the floor

- None.

XVII. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday June 12th 2019, 7.30 p.m. This will also be the A.G.M.

A vote of thanks to the Chair was recorded.