

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 6th September 2017, at 7:30 pm

Present: John Anderson (JA) Chair
Patrick Thompson (PT) Vice-Chair
Danny Conroy (DC) Treasurer
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary
Jonathan Bacon (JB)
Stuart Dean (SD)
Jon Jordan (JJ)
Matthew Pease (MP)
Val Whyte (VW)
Peter Wyatt (PW)

PC Reggie Ryles (agenda item 5)
Lesley Baillie, Clackmannanshire Council (agenda item 7)
Annette McEnaney, Clackmannanshire Council (agenda item 7)
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Bill Mason

Status: **Approved**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Kathleen Martin, PC Barry Reiter, Huw Sherrard (Clackmannanshire Youth Council) and from MCC members Mike Wilson (MRW - due to a bereavement) and Marlene White (MW).

JA welcomed Councillors Bill Mason and Graham Lindsey to the meeting and also Lesley Baillie and Annette McEnaney from Clackmannanshire Council, for item 7.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Meeting on September 31st May 2017

JA noted that the final version of the Community Plan had not been issued for approval by the members, prior to going to print, and apologised for this oversight (re item 6b). The Minutes were accepted without dissent, proposed by PT, seconded by SD.

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising from the previous meeting - Broadband): JA reported, on behalf of MRW, that progress had been made with regard to the provision of fibre broadband within the village and that the Exchange Only (EO) lines, in the Pool, were now connected to the exchange via “Cabinet 3”. This indicates a further step towards British Telecom being able to offer residents and small businesses a faster, fibre-based, broadband service. It has been confirmed by Digital Scotland that the works required to provide a fibre broadband service would be complete within the next six to nine months. JA also noted that prioritisation of faster connections could be positively impacted by visiting <https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/> and entering ones landline number *(and requesting to be kept updated on progress being made with the service roll-out)*. Members were encouraged to do so.
- Re item 4 (Matters Arising from the previous meeting - Edinburgh Airport: Consultation on Flight Paths): SD noted that proposals for new flight paths had now been submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority. The report from the public consultation was now available on the Edinburgh Airport web-site. He reiterated that there are no proposed changes to flight paths over Muckhart and little change is likely to be noticed unless the number of flights from the north increases over the present 8% of flights into and out of Edinburgh.
- Re item 14 (AOCB): JA noted that the Great Muckhart Get Together had been a huge success and congratulated all those involved in its planning and running.
- Re item 14 (AOCB): Alison Peden, from the Coronation Hall Committee, noted that an appeal had been made regarding the rise in the Hall’s small business rate and that representation had been made to the Council. The outcome is awaited. Meanwhile the Committee had received forms to apply for a discretionary allowance. AP confirmed that the Hall did not have charity status.

5. Police Report

PC Ryles noted that two reported crimes had taken place in the Muckhart area, since the last meeting of 31st May, namely:

1. On 5th June, an assault took place in the Pool of Muckhart. A man was charged and held in custody, prior to appearing in Court.
2. On the 18th August a car collided with a bollard owned by the local authority on the A91 by the Inn at Muckhart. The car failed to stop and the driver failed to report the collision but the car’s number plate was behind. The car’s registered keeper resides in England and enquiries are continuing.

It was noted by a resident, Alison Macdonald, that this was the second collision to take place on the A91, within the village, this year and asked if the crimes had been reported to the Council. PC Ryles confirmed that this was the case.

6. Muckhart Community Plan: Update

JA noted that the Launch of the Muckhart Community Plan would take place on the following Tuesday (12th September), at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall. Wine and cheese will be provided. He hoped to see a good turnout from the Councillors and the community and asked for volunteers to come early, at 6:45pm, to help set up the Hall. There will be three short presentations, on various aspects of the Plan, and an opportunity for the various MCP Action Plan Leaders to gather further information and encourage feedback.

Some leaflets advertising the launch meeting have still to be distributed and these were assigned to various members to deliver.

A sample of the shorter, “glossy” version of the Plan was shown to Councillors. These will be distributed to all members of the community, to our Councillors, the JCCF and our local MSP, following the launch of the Plan.

JA thanked all those who had worked on the Plan: Mike Wilson, Philip Lord, Jon Jordan, Mireille Pouget, and Margot McKerrell.

7. CC Scheme of Establishment: Stage 2 consultation

JA noted that the Council has agreed to extend the date for submission of the MCC response to 6th October in relation to the Council’s consultation on a revised Scheme of Establishment (SoE) for Community Councils (CCs).

Points, drafted during an MCC Officers meeting, which are proposed to be included in the MCC response, were distributed to members. SD commented on some of the points raised in the draft, followed by Lesley Baillie and Annette McEnaney, who outlined some of the Council’s thoughts.

First, LB thanked DC for his work on the JCCF and MCC for sharing its thoughts on the proposed SoE. LB added that comments for the consultation could be submitted by individuals as well as organisations. In drafting the SoE, the Council had in mind the objective of encouraging people, not the Council, to set up a CC which meant that clear guidelines to support this had to be in place. The intent is to deliver the best possible set of outcomes, namely: that a CC was wanted and was fully subscribed to; that the guidelines should be the minimum necessary; an assumption that not much would change quickly; that CCs are controlled by local people; and an acknowledgement that life-styles have changed since the current SoE was established in the 1970’s.

A long discussion followed around the points drafted by the Officers. Major items were: new methods of election; the merits of top-up elections or co-option to fill CC vacancies; the prevention of the dominance of a CC by any one group, perceived or actual; maintaining CC credibility; and whether it is necessary to set aside a specific amount of time at meetings to ascertain the views of the community.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that a group of the Officers will prepare a draft submission to the consultation, in the light of the discussion, and submit it, on behalf of MCC, to Clackmannanshire Council. **ACTION: SD**

LB noted MCC's view that the issue should be discussed at a joint forum where representatives, preferably, from all of the CCs would be present and would consider how this could best be achieved within the remaining consultation timescale.

8. Planning Subgroup

a) Development of Site H49: Update

SD noted that there had been no new developments.

b) Current Planning Applications

SD reported that two applications had been received and approved. MCC had submitted a "No Comment" response to these.

Re. Ref No: 17/00115/TREE: a proposal to fell two sycamore trees by Muckhart Church. Following comments from MCC, the proposal to remove two trees, from in front of the Church, had been modified to remove only one. The other will be re-examined, on-site, by the Council, after pruning by SSE has taken place, and a decision taken regarding permission to remove the tree.

c) Mutts of Muckhart

This new business has been set up at the Yetts but concerns have been raised by residents. Clackmannanshire Council has asked the owners to apply for retrospective planning permission which has been submitted (Note: the application is not yet visible on the Council web-site as the Council is awaiting some clarification).

d) Local Development Plan (LDP)

SD noted that the Council's Planning Department Newsletter mentions a review of the Local Development Plan which is likely to include a new "Main Issues Report". The article also notes a call for issues to be raised for consideration and

a call for sites which could be developed (Note: both of these are broadly defined, thus, the former could include, for example, a regional park idea, the latter, a community woodland). Submissions are to be received by December.

It was proposed that a Group be established to look at the next LDP, built around the Planning Sub-Group and involving other individuals and/or organisations. Proposals are to be put to the next Meeting. **ACTION: SD**

e) The Planning Bill by the Scottish Government

SD reminded the meeting that MCC had responded to a Planning consultation earlier in the year and that a position paper from the Government was published, in June, after the consultation. One issue not taken up was the equal right of appeal to planning decisions. An email has been received from the group Planning Democracy questioning this. An event, in Glasgow, organised by the 'Campaign for a fair and inclusive planning system in Scotland' is to be held on 22nd of September.

9. MCC Web-site and Facebook: Update

JB noted that the revised web-site was now up and running. There was nothing further to report concerning the Facebook site.

10. Publicity

PW noted there was nothing new to report.

11. Roads Issues: Update

JA, reporting on behalf of MRW, noted that the path from the Pool to the Yetts was now complete and was a great improvement. The old lamp posts have now been removed and the new ones are fully operational.

12. Public Transport: Update

PL noted that he had attended two meetings of the Clackmannanshire Community Transport Association which was exploring transport solutions for the area. Useful presentations had been delivered on examples of setting up such schemes in Clydeside and Bo'ness and on the legal frameworks under which they must work. PL will stay in touch with this group.

An issue arose, over the summer, concerning the lack of available places on the school bus to Kinross High School. This affected about 12 Muckhart children and a further 20 from Dollar. Concerted and rapid action by parents resulted in setting up a private bus

hire arrangement in time for the new school term, though not all parents of children were able or willing to join the scheme.

PL intends to attend a “Bus Summit” organised by Keith Brown MSP on the 25th September.

ACTION: PL

13. Treasurer’s Report

DC presented the Treasurer’s Report, up to 6th September 2017. Currently, MCC has available funds of £1502.62. The major recent item of expenditure had been the graphic design of the MCP (£456.00). The report was accepted with no comments.

14. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received has been circulated. There were no actions or comments resulting from this.

15. JCCF

DC had attended the last meeting, where statistics on the Fire Service, and the occurrence of fires, were presented and reviewed. The next meeting date is on the 19th November, in Alva.

ACTION: DC

16. AOCB

- Councillor Bill Mason congratulated the community for the successful Great Muckhart Get Together, held on 17th June
- JJ noted the work on Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire (EPIC). There is an AGM, towards the end of September, at which Council funding for its work will be an issue. Anyone who knew of a particular need to improve or develop new paths should speak to Jon Jordan
- Alison Peden gave notice that there would be a Macmillan Cancer Support “Have Your Cake and Eat It” Coffee Morning, at the Coronation Hall, on Friday 29th September, from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th October 2017, at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm and was immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting.