

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 25<sup>h</sup> January 2017, at 7:30 pm

<b>Present:</b>	John Anderson (JA)	Chair
	Patrick Thompson (PT)	Vice-Chair
	Mike Wilson (MRW)	Secretary
	Danny Conroy (DC)	Treasurer
	Philip Lord (PL)	Minute Secretary
	Jonathan Bacon (JB)	
	Stuart Dean (SD)	
	Marlene White (MW)	
	Val Whyte (VW)	
	Peter Wyatt (PW)	
	PC Reggie Ryles (to agenda item 5)	
	PC Barry Reiter (to agenda item 5)	

**Status:**           **Approved**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Jon Jordan (JJ), Matthew Pease (MP), and Councillor Alastair Campbell.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

SD declared an interest in item 8b, Burnfoot Wind Farm.

VW declared an interest in item 7, Community Matters, as a member of both the Hall Committee and Parent Council.

### 3. Minutes of Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

The Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> November were accepted with an amendment to item 6, DC to attend JCCF meetings. Proposed by PT and seconded by SD.

### 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## **5. Police Report**

PCs Ryles and Reiter introduced themselves. They noted that there had been no reported crimes in the area since the last meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November.

PCs Ryles and Reiter drew attention to the Rural Watch scheme, similar to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme (see <http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk> ) and encouraged residents to join the scheme to receive free crime alerts and relevant information for the area. Both individuals and groups are entitled to join.

MRW noted an issue, previously reported, regarding the safety of pedestrians using the zebra crossing in the village and asked if the Police would maintain a watching brief. Residents should report any incidents to the Police on 101.

## **6. Muckhart Community Plan: Members Update – Questionnaire Results**

JA noted that the final draft of the Muckhart Community Plan (MCP) Working Document and the Questionnaire results had been distributed to members, and that Workshops had been arranged to finalise the Working Document and associated MCC priorities and plans:

- 1<sup>st</sup> February (to agree policies)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February (to finalise action plans and priorities)

**ACTION ALL**

PL and MRW provided an update on last year's on-line Survey Questionnaire results for the new Council, in advance of these meetings, noting, in particular, areas where there were subtleties in the results which would require further discussion.

## **7. Community Matters: Update – Muckhart Decision Event 28<sup>th</sup> January**

MCC is hosting this event during which all members of the community will be offered the opportunity to vote to determine how funds, from Clackmannanshire's £100,000 Community Matters fund, will be allocated across community projects based in Muckhart, as well as across the county. Doors to the event will open to members of the community at 10:30am, which is expected to complete around 13:15, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January, in Muckhart Parish Church.

The purpose of the meeting is to offer the community the opportunity to learn more about the various, local, projects applying for funding, as well as the Clackmannanshire-wide projects, doing the same. Members of the community will also be given the opportunity to vote, to determine how funds available to the Muckhart area should be prioritised. Any funding provided to projects, which are deemed to be eligible under Scottish Government and Council Community Matters decision criteria, must be spent by the end March (i.e. the Council's current financial year), in addition to meeting

Council capital and revenue guidelines.

Whilst there is some concern as to how the voting will actually work, this is the responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council. Muckhart Community Council is responsible for putting on the Community Matters Decision Event, for ensuring it is welcoming for all and that it provides the opportunity for members of the community to find out, from each of the applicants, details about the individual projects and then have the opportunity to vote.

Precisely how the funding, made available to Muckhart, is to be divided up between projects remains the subject of on-going discussion. SD proposed that the process should be clarified, if possible, during Saturday's event, by Council representatives in attendance. This was agreed.

Current Council Community Matters voting rules do not allow for absentee, or proxy, voting for this event. It was also suggested that voters should provide their postcode, to ensure that only people who are resident within the Muckhart area are allowed to vote.

JA encouraged all members to attend and participate. This was agreed. **ACTION AII**

## **8. Planning Sub-Group**

SD noted that no planning applications had been submitted in the Muckhart area since the last MCC meeting.

### **a) Development of Site H49: Update**

SD noted that no further communications have been received from either of the two landowners regarding the development of this site. He noted that there is no time limit on applicants to act after submittal of a PAN. MCC awaits further communication.

### **b) Burnfoot Wind Farm: Update**

It was noted that there will be a public exhibition on the wind farm development proposals on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, in Tillicoultry. It was agreed that DC would attend. **ACTION DC**

It was further noted that a contribution to Muckhart from the community fund, available from the development, will not be available. The reasons given were the village's distance from the development and the lack of visual intrusion from the turbines. However, the precise qualification criteria regarding funding eligibility are unclear.

JB noted that there would be disruption to, and an impact on, the village from construction vehicles transiting through the area, during the preparation and development of the site, and MCC needs to study this impact, factoring it into the Muckhart Community Plan. This disruption might affect the area's eligibility for a contribution.

SD noted that a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be produced by the Burnfoot project.

**ACTION AII**

### **c) Scottish Planning Consultation**

MRW received a letter, from Keith Brown, MSP, inviting all individuals and interested parties, to participate in a consultation on the Scottish Government's proposed changes to the Planning system in Scotland. A response to the on-line survey has to be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> April.

SD noted that the consultation poses significant questions – for example, the question of connecting the planning process with Community Plans and changing the appeals process. He suggested that the Planning Sub-Group respond on behalf of MCC. This was agreed unanimously and the Sub-Group will proceed to respond to the survey and will report back to the MCC, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, before submission of the final response.

SD agreed to arrange an initial Sub-Group meeting to act on this matter.

**ACTION SD**

## **9. Publicity**

PW noted that he had been unable to contact the local press (it seems the Alloa Advertiser contact has moved on). However, general enquiries had suggested that press items could still be submitted.

JA noted that MCC should plan to provide salient points, from the minutes and other activities and events in which we are engaged, to the press in a timely manner.

**ACTION PW, MRW, PL**

## **10. MCC Web-site and Facebook**

JB thanked MW for her help with this activity. He noted that the MCC web-site and Facebook presence serve different purposes and the MCC needs to define how each can be used to best effect. JB proposed that MCC should develop a strategy to help promote MCC, the Muckhart area and its community. This was agreed.

For example, it should be possible for MCC members to update the web-site with copies

of meeting minutes, or event notices (with suitable access controls in place), and that this, in turn, required an easy-to-use interface, allowing rapid and simple updating. JB agreed to discuss this further with Niall Simpson. He further noted that any re-design of the web-site may incur fees for the development.

Facebook is best utilised for more instant information – we need to open this up to the group but, again, in a controlled fashion.

JA agreed to arrange a workshop to discuss this.

**ACTION JA, JB**

### **11. Public Transport: Clackmannanshire Bus Summit Update**

PL was unable to attend the re-scheduled Bus Summit, in Alloa, on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, due to illness. MRW attended in his stead.

MRW reported that the key issue, discussed at the meeting, centred on the fact that the Forth Valley Hospital (FVH) and Clackmannanshire Council are looking to save money. Currently, FVH is investigating potential cuts to the bus transport services it provides to the hospital, in Larbert. Similarly, Clackmannanshire Council is cutting its Services budget, which may include cuts to - or the complete removal of - bus transport subsidies.

The current FVH proposal is to use Alloa as a feeder hub, for onward transport to the hospital, replacing the current FVH H1/H2 bus service by extending current Council subsidised bus services across Clackmannanshire. These services, in turn, are under threat, as they currently stand, from Council budget cuts.

To address these issues, Keith Brown, MSP, is trying to prepare a blueprint for all future bus services, by April.

MRW noted that there was no discussion of the DRT service (which is currently funded by the Council public transport budget). It was further noted that the only buses serving Muckhart are the number 23 and the number 331.

### **12. Roads Issues: Update**

MRW reported that he has been informed, by the Council, that contractors are due to start work on the new path between Pool and Yetts, the new village gateway, etc., on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

He has also received confirmation that the Council cannot undertake to grit School Road, as part of its Winter Maintenance Programme, as the road is unsuitable for the snow clearing / gritting vehicles that are in use in the Muckhart area, during the winter months.

The Council has agreed to supply salt and shovels and/or a salt spreader, under the Community Resilience Programme, should this be requested by the community.  
MRW agreed to examine this offer further. **ACTION MRW**

### **13. Treasurer's Report**

DC presented the Treasurer's Report, up to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The MCC has funds of £2596.32, exactly the same as in the previous report.

He noted that Clydesdale Bank has announced its intention to close its branch in Tillicoultry, on 30<sup>th</sup> May. This follows the recent closure of its branch in Dollar. As a consequence, action will be required to move the account. It was agreed to write a letter to comment on this proposed closure due to the impact it will have, not just in Muckhart, but in all of the surrounding Hillfoots communities. **ACTION DC**

### **14. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received was circulated to members.

MRW will explore further with Leslie Baillie her email of 09/01/2017, re Community Conference proposals. **ACTION MRW**

### **15. JCCF**

The next JCCF meeting is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> January. DC to attend. **ACTION DC**

### **16. AOCB**

- **CTSi – Community Services Directorate – Public Partnership Forum** notes (provided by Marilyn Smith) are available from MRW. MCC members are invited to attend the four meetings which are held each year. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, in Sauchie. Details are available from MRW should any member wish to attend
- It was noted that **Alex Stewart, MSP** will hold a constituency surgery in the Coronation Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, at 7.30 pm, in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm.