

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 25th October 2017, at 7:30 pm

Present: 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)

Huw Sherrard (Clackmannanshire Youth Council)
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Bill Mason

Status: Approved

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: PCs Reggie Ryles and Barry Reiter and from MCC members John Anderson ((JA) - PT took the chair), Jon Jordan (JJ) and Matthew Pease (MP).

2. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were declared:

- SD re agenda item 8 (Burnfoot Wind Farm): as Chair of Friends of the Ochils he could provide a factual update on the current planning application
- JB re Item 8 (Mutts of Muckhart): as neighbour to the proposed development
- Cllr Mason re item 8: as member of the Planning Committee (absenting himself from this part of the meeting)

3. Minutes of Meeting on September 31st May 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendment, proposed by JB and seconded by SD.

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Broadband): MRW reported that the 6 - 9 month period, previously advised by Digital Scotland (DS), estimated to complete the installation of a fibre infrastructure within the Pool appears to have been incorrect. DS is now stating that the new, faster broadband service is available now and that orders can be placed by residents with their preferred suppliers. It was agreed that a notice informing residents of this development would be sent to those on the community email lists and posted on the MCC web-site and Facebook page (note: advice on which supplier to choose is available from a range of price comparison web-sites)
- Re item 4 (Coronation Hall (CH) Small Business Rate): VW noted that the CH Committee had now applied for a discretionary allowance on business rates. Meanwhile, CH does not have to pay any further rates

5. Police Report

The Police Report had been received, noting that no incidents had been reported since the last meeting. MRW advised there had been no further progress regarding the previously reported incident of a car colliding with a bollard.

6. Muckhart Community Plan: Update

On behalf of MCC, MRW thanked the Councillors and residents who attended the successful launch of the new Muckhart Community Plan (MCP), on 12th September, in particular, those who had volunteered to support the Working Groups.

MRW also noted that printed copies of the Plan had been distributed to all of those present and also had now been delivered to all of the households in Muckhart area. Any spare copies should be returned to him for future use.

MRW reviewed some of the active items from the current Action Plans, noting initial communications had been established to set-up new Working Groups and requesting that Plan Leaders engage with their volunteers, if this activity was not already underway.

It was agreed that the Scottish Government's consultation on Low Emission Zones (LEZs) would come under the Sustainability & Environment Action Plan. JJ had prepared some briefing notes on this (which had been previously distributed).

Further to discussion as to whether this issue was relevant to Muckhart, and if members were fully aware of the views of the community on this subject, it was agreed that this should not stop members or residents responding as individuals. It was proposed and agreed that JJ and PL would meet to prepare a response.

ACTION: PL / JJ

The following was also proposed and agreed:

- A permanent item would be added to the agenda for future MCC meetings, to cover MCP updates, including: progress with Action Plans, issues, etc.
ACTION: MRW / All
- A 'Progress' meeting will be held late February / early March 2018 to review current progress / any issues with the Plan
ACTION: MRW
- Action Plans will be collated and stored 'centrally' following updates to be submitted by the Action Plan Leaders every 6 months
ACTION: Action Plan Leaders

7. CC Scheme of Establishment (SoE): Stage 2 consultation

MRW noted that further to the 6th September meeting, and following various Officers meetings, phone calls and emails, a formal MCC response was prepared and submitted on 29th September. A meeting took place, in Alva Academy, on 4th October, which was attended by representatives of various CCs. At this meeting, on behalf of MCC, SD and MRW proposed that Co-option be re-introduced; consideration be given to adding Associate Membership; and MCC support was expressed for a Complaints Procedure to be added to the SoE.

The draft SoE is to be discussed at the JCCF, on 9th November, and will go before the Council, at its December meeting, for approval.

8. Planning Sub-Group

a) Development of Site H49: Update

SD reported there had been no new developments regarding H49.

b) Mutts of Muckhart

SD reported that the Planning Sub-Group had carefully considered this application which was partially retrospective (17/00209/FULL). The Sub-Group recommended objecting to this application on the grounds that it lacks sufficient information, leaves many questions unanswered and raises a number of concerns which the Planners will need to resolve.

For example: little information has been provided as to the precise nature of the business; the opening hours are long and extended (7:00am to 8:00pm, 7 days a week); the presence of floodlighting in an a designated Special Landscape Area; there is no indication as to whether the installed lighting meets relevant regulations; the noise nuisance to neighbours, especially in the light of the extended business hours; issues around the disposal of dog waste, as a private property rather than as a business; it is believed this application may fall under Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Scotland) 2008; parking and road safety issues; catering and toileting facilities;

licensing issues; and neighbours have already complained and expressed concerns.

The proposal to object was agreed. SD will submit a letter as soon as possible, including a description of the full range of issues raised.

ACTION: SD

c) Rowberrow

The application relates to a new build in the grounds of Rowberrow, Drumburn Lane (17/00235/FULL). SD noted that this was the third application relating to this site, since 2013, the previous two having been granted but not yet acted upon. The land concerned is located outside of the current Muckhart Settlement Boundary, as defined in the Local Development Plan (LDP) and, therefore, technically, this application falls under the Development in the Countryside policy which is generally supported by MCC. As such, it was recommended that MCC objects to this application noting the Settlement Boundary issue. However, it was also noted that we may wish to re-examine the line of the Settlement Boundary when reviewing the next LDP.

ACTION: SD

d) Burnfoot Wind Farm: Update

SD advised that the application to install three new additional turbines would go before the Council's Planning Committee, the next day (26th October).

MRW noted that large amounts of community funding were available from wind farm projects and proposed that MCC should look into applying for such funding. This was agreed.

ACTION: JA / PT

e) Local Development Plan (LDP)

SD stated that the Council is asking for proposals to be submitted on potential development sites and site issues for the next LDP, by 7th January. It was agreed that the Planning Sub-Group would seek other members of the community to help prepare a response.

ACTION: SD

9. Publicity: Update

PW noted that the Alloa Advertiser had contacted MCC requesting comments about hospital bus services and that he had provided an agreed response.

10. MCC Web-site and Facebook: Update

JB noted that the website is being regularly updated but more needs to be done to encourage organisations and groups to update their web content. JB / MW noted also that the Facebook page should be used for 'instant' stories and event postings, of which, more would be welcome.

JB agreed to contact the web supplier to request usage statistics. **ACTION: JB**

11. Roads: Update

MRW reported that he had been in contact with the Council who had advised that the current works, between the Pool and Yetts, would be complete by January (the works manager involved has been absent from work, due to an illness in the family, since April).

MRW advised he is currently arranging the first Infrastructure Working Group meetings. These will take place before a meeting, which has been agreed with the Council managers responsible for Road and Paths, to discuss the MCP Action Plans. **ACTION: MRW**

12. Public Transport: Update

PL described the reasons behind activities that are underway to maintain and improve bus services. These included the withdrawal of places for pupils on school bus services, taking local children to Kinross High School; the reduction in the 23 service through Muckhart; and the ending (and possible renewal) of the H1/H2 contracts to serve the Forth Valley Hospital.

PL outlined a number of initiatives under way in which he is engaged: the Clackmannanshire Community Transport Association (CCTA); the private solution to the Kinross school bus problem; and the Bus Summits being held by Keith Brown. A number of consultations on bus services are underway, including: the CCTA - aimed at local organisations; Citizens Advice Scotland – aimed at individuals; and from the Scottish Government - aimed at service providers and other public transport professionals.

PL agreed to produce a Muckhart 'Needs Assessment' report, by collating the views and needs of residents, for example, by polling local organisations. Any volunteers to assist with the Public Services Action Plan should contact PL. **ACTION: PL**

13. Treasurer's Report

DC presented the Treasurer's Report, up to 25th October 2017. Currently, MCC has available funds of £1884.57. Recent items of expenditure had been the printing of the MCP brochure and hosting the MCP Launch meeting (£474.05). There has been funding income of £856.00 from the Council. The report as accepted with no comments.

14. Correspondence

MRW had circulated a full list of correspondence received and drew attention to: the various training initiatives underway for community councillors; the Fire and Rescue Local Plan consultation; and the Single Outcome Agreement consultation and meeting (JA previously advised that he would attend on 30th November). **ACTION: JA**

15. JCCF

DC had attended the last JCCF meeting with nothing further to report. The next meeting will be on 9th November. DC to attend.

ACTION: DC

The JCCF conference is taking place, on 28th October, in Sauchie, focussed on putting Community Action Plans into action. DC to attend.

ACTION: DC

16. AOCB

- Huw Sherrard noted the Youth Council will be will be launching a model plan soon
- SD reported that timber clearance, from Glen Sherrup, could result in increased lorry activity, noting that A-class roads may be used but other roads may require local council permission. MRW to follow-up
ACTION: MRW
- VW discussed the Christmas “Light up Muckhart” event to be held on 26th November, 4:00 – 7:00pm in the Coronation Hall. The organisers are looking for volunteers to help set up lights, etc.. Last year’s event raised £700 for charity
- MRW noted that the next CTSi Community Breakfast and AGM will be held on Monday 30th October, at the Coronation Hall
- MRW advised that the Remembrance Day Service will be held on the 12th November, at 9:30am, in the Church, followed by a ceremony at the War Memorial, at 10:50am
- A resident raised the issue of the poor condition of the path from Drumburn Lane to the Golf Club, suggesting a team of volunteers could improve it. SD noted caution regarding any specific action, as there are uncertainties over the path’s ownership and Right of Way status. It also a Core Path and, therefore, any discussions on improving the path should involve Clackmannanshire Council. It was noted that this issue would be dealt with by Infrastructure Action Plan group
ACTION: MRW
- A resident raised the issue of the overgrown, unsafe condition of the triangle of land at the A91 / A823 junction. Again, ownership of this ground is unknown. It was agreed that MRW should contact the Council to try to address this
ACTION: MRW

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2017, at 7:30pm in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm