

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, at 7:30 pm

**Present:** John Anderson (JA) Chairman  
Mike Wilson (MRW) Secretary  
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary  
Jonathan Bacon (JB)  
Stuart Dean (SD)  
Jon Jordan (JJ)  
Matthew Pease (MP)  
Val Whyte (VW)  
Peter Wyatt (PW)

Councillor Bill Mason

**Status:** **Approved Draft: to be accepted at next MCC Meeting**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: PC Barry Reiter, Councillors (Cllrs) Graham Lindsey and Kathleen Martin, and Huw Sherrard. Apologies were also received from MCC members Patrick Thompson (PT) and Danny Conroy (DC).

### 2. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

- JB (in advance of) item 8 (Mutts of Muckhart): as neighbour to the proposed development

### 3. Minutes of Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

### 4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising from the previous meeting - Broadband): MRW noted that the vast majority of the properties in Muckhart were now connected to fibre broadband cabinets and that several properties in the Cowden area and around School Road will

benefit from a direct fibre connection. MRW has also been in communication with Digital Scotland (DS) regarding some nine properties, along Golf Course Road, to whom superfast broadband is not available, due to their distance from the new fibre cabinet.

Members of the community present raised concerns regarding the exclusion of these nine properties by DS, which all have a FK14 7JH postcode, from the current improved broadband service roll-out.

It was suggested that the only solution for these properties would be for a fibre cable to be run from Muckhart Exchange, to a location close to the Golf Club, where another fibre cabinet could be installed. It was suggested that this solution might also benefit residents in the Blairhill area who currently have a very poor broadband service.

MRW will remain in contact with DS to further investigate the provision of an improved service to those unable to benefit from the current roll-out. **ACTION: MRW**

## **5. Police Report**

In the absence of PC Reiter, the Police Report was noted. It indicated that since the last meeting there had been only one crime in the area: an attempted break-in in Cairns Place.

MRW reported there had been no further progress regarding tracing the driver, or owner, of the car involved in the previously reported collision with a bollard on the main road.

JB reported that four trailers had been stolen, from the Yetts area, over the last four weeks.

A vote of thanks was expressed by all MCC members, and on behalf of the whole community, to PC Reggie Ryles for the work he has done in the Muckhart area, as he returns to other duties.

## **6. Muckhart Community Plan: Update**

Brief updates regarding the formation of various Working Groups, and progress made with their associated activities, were provided by the Action Plan Leaders. These are recorded below under the relevant Community Plan heading together with the Action Plan identifier (NB: agenda items 11 to 13 were also covered under this heading).

### ***Image of the Village: V-1 Lead PW; V-2 & V-3 Lead MP***

PW: a meeting has been arranged for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at which the key strategy points and contacts are to be agreed.

MP: plans which have been drafted will be developed further (see the meeting above).

### ***Housing Development: H-1 Lead SD; H-2 Lead PT***

SD: the Planning Sub-Group has met on various occasions (see item 9 below). This is an on-going activity.

***Sustainability and Environment: S-1 & S-3 Lead PL; S-2 Lead JJ***

PL: initial contacts have been made and planning is in progress.

JJ: various issues have been discussed and plans are in progress to hold a public meeting, in January / February, with an invited speaker from the Energy Saving Trust.

PL: further members of the community to support this objective are being actively sought.

***Education: E-1, E-2 & E-3 Lead VW***

VW: three meetings have been held, to date, focussed on the proposed Council budget cuts to school funding.

***Business Development: B-1 Lead MRW; B-2 Lead JB***

MRW: actions relating to superfast fibre broadband are already partially complete (see item 4 above). A Working Group of three members has been established. A meeting is being arranged for w/c 18<sup>th</sup> December to progress further broadband and mobile communications improvements.

JB: a Working Group has now been established. Further meetings are to be held.

***Infrastructure: I-1 & I-2 Lead MRW***

MRW: a Working Group of eight members has been established. An initial meeting is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> December. A further meeting with Council Roads and Paths officials is being arranged for w/c 8<sup>th</sup> January.

***Active Community: A-1 & A-2 Lead JB; A-3 Lead JA***

JB: the web-site is being regularly updated. This is an on-going activity.

JA: sources of potential funding have been noted and others are being investigated.

***Public Services: P-1 Lead PL***

PL: a planned CCTA Meeting has been cancelled. A new date is awaited (as is the current status of the CCTA).

Two transport surveys, undertaken in Dollar, did not yield encouraging results. They indicated that whilst more frequent bus services were requested, those currently available were not being used. One of these questionnaires has been obtained from Dollar Community Trust and will be used as input for a planned survey in Muckhart.

***Other***

An MCP meeting, to be attended by all members, to review progress made to date, including any issues, was previously agreed to take place in February / March. Members agreed to meet on 21<sup>st</sup> February, in the Coronation Hall (TBC).

**ACTION: MRW**

MRW noted that there were many sources of funds to help fulfil the Action Plans.

## **7. CC Scheme of Establishment (SoE): Stage 2 Consultation**

MRW reported that many of the suggestions put forward by MCC for the revised SoE have been adopted in the current draft which will go before Councillors. However, this draft continues to recommend that co-opted members be subject to Top-up Elections.

MCC believes this to be counter-productive as: a) it would be viewed as a barrier to individuals considering co-option; b) there would be unreasonable resource implications for the Council, especially, if a full election were to be held for one individual; and c) this may result in the demise of some community councils (CCs). It was noted that other Councils allow co-opted members to remain in place until the end of a CCs' 4-year life. These points were agreed and MRW will write to our local Cllrs to make MCC views known prior to the next Council meeting. Cllr Mason noted he would speak to Lesley Baillie on the issue. **ACTION: MRW**

The SoE proposals, when approved, will be subject to a further 8 week public consultation, scheduled to start in February 2018.

## **8. Council Budget 2018-2019 Consultation**

It was noted that very serious cuts will have to be proposed as part of the next Council Budget with potentially serious cutbacks in staffing and/or services. A public consultation is under way and members agreed both to respond as individuals and to publicise the consultation to the community to encourage a wide local response.

## **9. Planning Sub-Group**

### **a) Local Development Plan (LDP): Call for Sites and Call for Issues**

SD reported that the Sub-Group (supported by two residents) had met to discuss the completion of the Council's Call for Sites and Call for Issues documents. Responses will assist the completion of the Clackmannanshire Council Main Issues Report, due to be published in May 2018, prior to the drafting of the next LDP. It was agreed that the Call for Sites is aimed, primarily, at landowners. However, there is scope for other land use suggestions, such as the development of a village square and a visitor area, near the Glebe. Regarding Issues, the following could be raised: extending the Ochils Special Landscape Area, south of the village; strengthening policies regarding Development in the Countryside (including retaining a green space between Yetts and the Pool); path improvements; road safety issues; the re-instatement of 'The Pool'; and adjusting the scope of the Settlement Boundary.

JJ noted that the current LDP lacked issues relating to sustainability and noted, as examples, emissions from vehicles and houses and the aging electricity grid which is not

able to accept locally generated power. This was noted and would be considered as input by the Group.

**ACTION: SD**

## **b) Planning Applications**

Ref: 17/00264/FULL - Cairns Place, a house extension: the Group recommends a 'No Comment' reply to this.

Ref: 17/00269/FULL - Gairlaw, Yetts o' Muckhart, a new build in the countryside: two previous planning decisions have approved similar proposed developments (one which went through on appeal).

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that SD would respond indicating that were it not for the earlier decisions made approving this development, that MCC would register an objection on the grounds that this application contravenes Council Development in the Countryside policy. However, given the history of the site MCC would not object but explain its position in the MCC representation.

**ACTION: SD**

## **10. Publicity: Update**

There have been no press contacts since the last meeting.

## **11. MCC Web-site and Facebook: Update**

See item 6 above.

## **12. Roads: Update**

See item 6 above.

## **13. Public Transport: Update**

See item 6 above.

## **14. Treasurer's Report**

In DC's absence, the Treasurer's Report, up to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, was presented. There had been no transactions since the last Report with the account balance standing at £1,884.57. The Report was accepted without comment.

## **15. Correspondence**

MRW had circulated a full list of correspondence received. He drew attention to an item dated 21/11/17, re a 'Planning and LDP' session on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. All members should attend,

if possible. Names of attendees are required by 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**ACTION: MRW**

## **16. Review of the Clackmannanshire Alliance Single Outcome Agreement**

JA had attended a meeting, the previous evening. There was little news to report, however, the focus is now on the outcomes generated by Improvement Plan activities.

## **17. JCCF**

In DC's absence, MRW reported, as well as the SoE, a few points were covered in relation to training.

## **18. AOCB**

- The membership of the Clackmannanshire Youth Councillors and MSYP's was circulated
- The Primary School is raising funds from the sale of a linen shopping bag. These may be purchased from VW
- JA thanked members, and those from the community, that had helped at, and attended, the recent successful "Light up Muckhart" event
- Cllr Mason noted that the current Westminster constituency boundaries were under review and comments on the proposals could be submitted via the Boundary Commission website
- NHS Public Partnership Forum: it was suggested MCC could invite the Head of Nursing to a future MCC meeting. This was agreed **ACTION: MRW**
- MRW confirmed that the unsafe, overgrown, triangle of land at the A91 / A823 junction, reported by a concerned resident, at the previous meeting, had now been cleared
- Fran McNicoll can be contacted ([fmcnicoll2014@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fmcnicoll2014@hotmail.co.uk) or Mob: 07732 232694) re a Church-led initiative to improve contact with the lonely and the elderly. A poster describing this work will be displayed in the village.

## **19. Date of Next Meeting**

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm