

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, at 7:30 pm

<b>Present:</b>	John Anderson (JA)	Chair and Acting Treasurer
	Patrick Thompson (PT)	Vice-Chair
	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)	
	PC Reggie Ryles (agenda item 5)	
	PC Barry Reiter (agenda item 5)	
	Lesley Baillie (Clackmannanshire Council, agenda item 11)	

**Status:**           **Approved**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Alastair Campbell and Kathleen Martin.

JA noted that Danny Conroy had been taken ill recently, but was now recovering, and would be standing down from the Council, and his role as Treasurer, temporarily, until he had recovered fully. All members conveyed their best wishes to him and for his speedy recovery.

JA agreed to take on the role of Treasurer in Danny's absence.

JA also noted that Councillor Alistair Campbell would be standing down from Clackmannanshire Council, at the forthcoming Council elections, and wished to express, on behalf of MCC, a large vote of thanks for all the work he has done, over many years, and the continuous non-partisan support he has given to our community, since 1999. All MCC members joined JA in a vote of thanks and wished Alastair well in his future retirement.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

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

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

The Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were accepted with no changes. Proposed by VW and seconded by SD.

## **4. Matters arising**

- Re item 11 (Public Transport): MRW noted that a further Bus Summit, to be hosted by Keith Brown, MSP, was proposed for April, date to be determined. PL will attend this, if available.

**ACTION: PL**

- MRW noted that a broadband service upgrade, for those premises located within the main village - i.e. properties with an "Exchange Only" (EO) telephone line - remain in the "In Scope" planning phase, on the Digital Scotland web-site. As yet, no date has been announced for the introduction of superfast fibre broadband to these premises which are connected directly to the Muckhart Exchange. He noted that it has been announced, recently, that some areas, located out with the village (e.g. in the Cowden area), are due to be offered a superfast fibre broadband connection, via a Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) solution. A fibre superfast broadband service is available already to those properties located in the Yetts, Upper Yetts and Naemoor areas, via an upgraded Cabinet. MRW agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue and report back when there are further developments.

**ACTION: MRW**

## **5. Police Report**

PC Ryles, accompanied by PC Reiter, noted that one reported crime had taken place in the Muckhart area, since the last meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January, namely, a case of Careless Driving, which took place during the early hours of 11<sup>th</sup> March. This incident resulted in severe damage being sustained to a house in the centre of the village. Following the incident, the driver presented himself to the Police, on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and he has been charged since with Careless Driving; Failure to Stop after an Accident; and Failure to Report an Accident. The incident is to be reported to the Court.

PCs Ryles also informed the meeting that Police Scotland has launched 'Policing 2026' – a collaborative and strategic programme of work to establish a strategy for policing in Scotland, over the next decade, which will be subject to a Public Consultation.

MRW will check if Community Councils can respond to this consultation, as well as individuals (<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/policing-2026/take-part-in-the-conversation>)

**ACTION: MRW**

A resident present reported that the Police Scotland automated telephone system does not seem to recognise the town of “Alloa”. The PCs noted this and will investigate, but also noted that under the revised Police Scotland framework, calls are dealt with by Police Scotland, rather than necessarily being directed to the local police station.

## **6. Muckhart Community Plan: Update & Members’ Approval of Plan**

JA reported that the Muckhart Community Plan (MCP) had now been completed (except for a final edit of the village profile section) and had been distributed to MCC members.

SD raised a point, suggesting that, ideally, the listed Objectives be prioritised. JA noted that, to a certain extent, this has already been done but that it would not be possible for all related actions to proceed at once, as this would depend on the willingness of individual members to take ‘ownership’ of the Objectives and that, therefore, their prioritisation remains under consideration.

MCC members were then asked to approve the MCP, as presented, and this was agreed unanimously (proposed by PT, seconded by JB).

It was also agreed that the separate Report, detailing the results of the community questionnaire, be published, and made available to the community, via the community mailing list and MCC web site. MRW will act as “gatekeeper” to any changes or updates to the plan, once it has been published.

**ACTION: MRW & JB**

JA then outlined the next steps:

- The next MCP Workgroup meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> April. All MCC members are welcome to attend this meeting, should they wish to take part
- A draft, “glossy”, summary Plan document will now be produced for review at the next MCC meeting
- The formal launch of the approved MCP is planned to take place at this year’s MCC AGM, scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> September

**ACTION: JA, MRW & PL**

JJ asked that the MCP be reviewed before future AGMs to bring it up to date and get the views of any retiring members of the Council. This was agreed, noting that any amendments or updates, to any element of the MCP, could be made also at intervening MCC meetings.

Subject to confirmation, members indicated that they would volunteer to act as lead on the various Objectives, and associated Action Plans, and these were noted (*note: MRW to distribute a list of member names against the Objectives for agreement*).

**ACTION: MRW**

## **7. Community Matters: Update**

MRW reported a feedback form, issued by Clackmannanshire Council, covering the recent Community Matters process and lessons learned, had been completed and returned.

It was noted that, though the process may not have been ideal, funding for projects that would benefit the community had been received, that would otherwise not have been available. It was also noted that Alva had reported similar issues to Muckhart relating to the allocation of funds to successful applicants. MRW reported that the Chair of the Coronation Hall Committee had also provided feedback on the overall process and outcome.

A meeting is to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March for interested parties to discuss the learning and feedback, gathered to date, which will be used as input for the Participatory Budgeting Workshops, to be held at the forthcoming CTSi Community Conference. MRW will attend.

**ACTION: MRW**

JA thanked those who were involved in helping to arrange and conduct the Community Matters event for all of their work and enthusiasm.

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

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

SD noted that this was proceeding slowly. One landowner (Tim Allan) has met with the agent appointed by the other landowner (Izat and Partners) but that the outcome was unknown. Mr Allan is reported to be preparing to hold a pre-application consultation in the village, possibly in April or May. Based on the application submitted to Clackmannanshire Council, this would be for 35 houses, of mixed type, across the whole H49 site.

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

SD noted that the proposal was for three further turbines (to the existing 21). Due to these being sited lower than the existing turbines their proposed height is 135m, with correspondingly larger blades. Their proposed siting is close to an existing right of way.

There is some uncertainty about a neighbouring farm, which may have been sold, and from which residents have relocated. It was agreed that the Office bearers look further into this proposal and decide whether an MCC response is appropriate (consultation closes: 3<sup>rd</sup> April).

**ACTION: JA**

#### **c) Current Planning Applications**

The Planning Sub-Group has prepared a response to an application to upgrade an existing garage with a small one-bedroomed holiday flat, at Rowberrow, in Drumburn Lane. The response approves the development but suggests: a) that a condition is agreed that the garage and flat cannot be sold separately; b) that this development should not set a precedent for further such developments on the site; and c) that building should not begin until at least one of the current three building projects in the road is completed.

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

#### **d) Scottish Planning Consultation: Update**

Each member of the Planning Sub-Group has drafted a response to one of four separate sections of the Consultation questionnaire. These proposed responses have been distributed to all members, for review, with any suggested changes or additions to be provided, by the end of the week (survey closes: 4<sup>th</sup> April)

MRW will upload the final Consultation response to the on-line questionnaire.

**ACTION: MRW**

### **9. Publicity**

PW noted that there was no news to report.

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

JB noted that all minutes from the previous meetings, etc., have been uploaded onto the web-site and that he was now able to update the news column. JA agreed to contact the MCC web-site provider for JB to discuss the resolution of some administrative issues, relating to the site, and to set-up additional administrative rights, so that more features could be established.

**ACTION: JA & JB**

JB said he would concentrate on the web-site and would then look further at MCC's use of Facebook.

MRW noted that MCC also might wish to consider setting up a Twitter account, at some point in the future, so that MCC could become engaged in Government-led Twitter events and discussions, relating to Community Councils in Scotland.

## **11. Scheme of Establishment**

This consultation, currently underway, relates to revision of the framework of Community Councils, in Clackmannanshire, which focuses on their establishment, their governance and their methods of working.

Lesley Baillie, Clacks Council, reported that the Council is seeking feedback on the framework from members of all of the communities across Clackmannanshire. The consultation is a three-stage process – stage one is out now for comment and focuses on existing Community Council boundaries and the number of council members that each established Community Council has currently. Stage two will later look at elections, meetings, etc..

Lesley urged all members of the Muckhart community to respond to the consultation (see <https://clackmannanshire.citizenspace.com>) and for MCC to assist in this effort.

To this end, MRW confirmed that posters relating to the current consultation has been put on display on the notice boards, throughout the village, and that all members, as well as everyone on the community mailing distribution list, had been sent details of the consultations, encouraging all to take part. A reminder will be sent out, to everyone, 1 week to 10 days prior to the consultation end date (consultation closes: 13<sup>th</sup> April).

**ACTION: MRW**

JA noted that the main issue may be establishing flexible arrangements to represent people and communities, while at the same time, maintaining some kind of legal structure.

It was noted that the Napier University survey, relating to Community Councillor 'information literacy', was due to close next week. MRW agreed to issue an email to remind members to undertake the survey.

**ACTION: MRW**

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

MRW noted that construction work has started on improvements to the foot and cycle path between the Pool and the Yetts. The only issue arising relates to the re-location of the speed limit signs. Further information is awaited, on this issue, from the Council.

MRW confirmed that the Fossaway Bridge, across the Devon, on the A91 is now closed, for approximately 2 weeks, to allow P&K Council to undertake necessary repairs to the parapet and bridge structure. Several other Dollar-related TROs, currently in force, were covered.

### **13. Edinburgh Airport: Consultation on Flight Paths**

In the context of a consultation from Edinburgh Airport, SD noted that Muckhart lies on the edge of the northern flight paths into Edinburgh Airport (which represent only 8% of the total flights into and out of Edinburgh). Flights taking off, heading north, do not present any issue, as they are above 7000ft, when over the Muckhart area, a height at which the authorities do not regard noise as an issue. Incoming, southerly flights are few, so it is judged that these should not pose any problem either.

However, the Airport is adopting a new, but widely used, air traffic management system, in 2018 - RNAV (aRea NAVigation) - which operates by concentrating air traffic (and, therefore, noise) along a preferred, closely defined, route. It is not yet clear whether this is likely to cause any issues for Muckhart, in the future.

It was agreed that SD will tender the prepared response to the consultation, on behalf of MCC.

**ACTION: SD**

### **14. CTSi Community Conference: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

It was noted that this event is free of charge, although registration is required. Anyone wishing to attend, should register by 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **15. Treasurer's Report**

JA presented the Treasurer's Report, up to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. Currently, MCC has available funds of £2137.32. The report was passed with no further comment.

### **16. Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to members. MRW asked whether the amount of correspondence, currently being circulated to members, was considered to be too much and if it was deemed to be relevant to members. It was agreed that the present policy was satisfactory.

MRW agreed to look into how to improve the circulation of community-related correspondence, to a wider community audience, perhaps, through the improved use of the MCC web-site and notice board

**ACTION: MRW**

## **17. JCCF**

JJ attended the last JCCF meeting, the last at which he acted as Chair. He noted that they had received various reports from the police, fire and rescue services. The police noted that, in Clackmannanshire, the detection rate was 44% higher than the national average.

The next meeting is to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, at 7:00pm, at Alloa Academy. Both JA and JJ plan to attend.

**ACTION: JA & JJ**

## **18. AOCB**

- MRW noted that a Government-led Consultation process on Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction (which includes the process commonly referred to as 'fracking') was now underway. Community Councils, in areas that could be affected by such activity, are being encouraged to arrange and host public events, to encourage discussion within communities potentially affected by this issue. A 'discussion kit' has been prepared and made available by the Government, to assist Community Councils to conduct an event. Alternatively, a third-party organisation could be engaged to facilitate an event. The deadline for the Consultation is 31st May.

MRW will conduct an on-line poll, amongst members, to ascertain whether this issue is deemed to be of concern to residents in the Muckhart area and as to whether MCC would wish to arrange and/or host a public event.

**ACTION: MRW**

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

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.