

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council held in the Coronation Hall on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Jon Jordan, Chair
Marlene White, Vice-chair
Stuart Dean, Secretary
Terry Hollis, Treasurer
John Anderson
Douglas Fisher
Margot McKerrell
Matthew Pease
Niall Simpson

In attendance: Cllr Alastair Campbell, PC Louise Harding and six members of the community.

1. Apologies for Absence/Introductions

Apologies were received from Mireille Pouget, Danny Conroy and from Cllr. Kathleen Martin

2. Declarations of conflict of interest

Matthew Pease declared a conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 9.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2012 were accepted as an accurate record.
Proposer: Terry Hollis. Seconder: Douglas Fisher.

4. Matters Arising

The following notes on Matters Arising from the meeting of 28th November were distributed prior to the meeting:

Item 7. MCC subgroups and their operation, including selection of representatives for NHS matters and the Ochils Landscape Partnership. Marilyn Smith has agreed to represent the Community Council at meetings of the Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership: Public Partnership Forum and will keep MCC informed of any relevant matters.

Item 9. Consultation on proposed closure of Alloa Sheriff Court. The concerns of MCC were emailed to Lesley Baillie who compiled a report on behalf of the JCCF. The

comments in that report were included in Clackmannanshire Council's formal response to the Scottish Court Service. A twenty page report on the closure went to the full Council on 20th December 2012 and it can be viewed on

www.clacksweb.org.uk/document/meeting/1/464/3908.pdf

Item 10. Recent closure of A977 at Crook of Devon – response from PKC. A letter was sent on 7th January 2013 to the Executive Director of PKC Environment Services complaining about the lack of communication from PKC on the closure of the A977 in November 2012 and the impact of the diversion on the Muckhart area. A reply has been received which indicates that PKC's contact details for Clackmannanshire Council had been incorrect and therefore Clackmannanshire Council did not receive the usual amount of advance notice. It also stated that it would normally be the responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council to inform MCC, not PKC.

SD further indicated that Carlyn Fraser of Clackmannanshire Council suggested that MCC asks that it is added to the organisations informed by PKC of road closures etc in the Kinross area.

ACTION SD

Item 12. Treasurer's Report. The grant of £300 from Clackmannanshire for IT developments has been lodged in the MCC account. Recommendations from the Publicity Group for expenditure on improvements to publicity, communications with residents, the community website etc can now follow.

5. Police Report

Pc Louise Harding spoke to the previously circulated Police Report. The issue of speeding in the village was discussed further but SD indicated that he had been assured that no action would be taken by Clackmannanshire Council to review the 20 mph limit until all traffic calming measures are in place, the evidence from speed surveys was available, and further discussion on the limit has taken place at the next MCC meeting which Carlyn Fraser, Traffic Management Officer, Clackmannanshire Council, will attend.

PC Harding also gave information about a missing Alloa man who may be in the Muckhart/Glen Devon area and required help with medication etc. Residents were requested to check outbuilding, sheds etc as the person may be sleeping rough. Notices have been posted in the area and the police asked to be notified if he is sighted.

6. Conservation Area Appraisal – update

SD reported that the Scottish Civic Trust (SCT) had submitted its first draft of the CAA to Clackmannanshire Council just before Christmas and that it was now being reworked by the SCT. An exchange of emails between the MCC Secretary and the Council followed in which SD asked how MCC would be further involved with the drafting of the document. It was finally confirmed on the day of the MCC meeting that the Council will welcome community feedback on the draft document and that it would likely to be

available in early February 2013 with any comments required by the end of the month.

7. MCC sub groups – titles and remits

SD spoke to the most recent drafts of the sub group remits and titles. Apart from minor changes, which were agreed, to the remits of the Planning Group and Publicity Group, the key outstanding matter was the wording of the Title and Remit of the group involved with travel and transport issues. This related to the use of the word ‘sustainability’ in relation to transport. The view was expressed that to apply the term sustainability to all transport issues might be too limiting. After discussion, it was proposed that the first bullet point should read : “To lead in all matters concerning road traffic, public transport, parking, paths, access and travel in all it forms, with particular emphasis on safety for all users *and taking into account sustainability.*” This was agreed as was the proposal that the title of the group should be Travel and Transport.

It was also agreed that the bullet point regarding the proposal of a strategy etc for the local path network was redundant as that role is covered by the first bullet point.

8. Climate Challenge Fund grants for community councils

Jon Jordan spoke to a previously circulated email from Tim Mullens, Marketing and Community Action Support Officer, in Keep Scotland Beautiful which administers the Climate Challenge Fund. Grants are available for energy efficiency, production and consumption of local food, and transport. There may be opportunities to develop energy efficiency grants applications, particularly in the Conservation Area. Possible uses of the fund to improve paths in and around Muckhart were discussed. These include the very muddy section of Drumburn Road through to the Golf Club, and the footpaths between Muckhart and Dollar and between the Pool and Yetts of Muckhart along the A91. JJ to contact Tim Mullens to discuss such proposals and to invite him to the next meeting of MCC. **ACTION JJ**

9. Planning application for house and restoration of Japanese Garden at Cowden – ref: 12/00283/FULL

The Planning Group had considered the Cowden application and John Anderson, Convenor of the group spoke to the draft letter of representation from MCC to Clackmannanshire Council. A number of issues were discussed including those relating to the standard of restoration of the garden, its future maintenance and management, arrangements for visitor viewing, curtilage issues, and the possible impact of any future sale of the house etc. It was proposed by Terry Hollis that the letter should be submitted on behalf of MCC but with the inclusion of a statement that MCC support in principle should be dependent on the concerns detailed in the letter being appropriately addressed by Clackmannanshire Council planners. This was agreed. **ACTION JA**

A draft representation from MCC in relation to a second planning application for the partial demolition of a link extension and the erection of an extension at the rear of the

Toll House, Yetts of Muckhart, was also discussed. (Refs: 13/00004(&5)/FULL). It was agreed that MCC should support the extension in principle but debate centred around the proposal in the draft letter that 'the extension be built with a sensitively designed flat roof' It was agreed that the letter from MCC to Clackmannanshire Council should not contain that proposal. **ACTION JA**

10. Muckhart Nature Park – Hydrologists Report

Jon Jordan outlined the reasons for and the content of the hydrologists report, commissioned by the Ochils Landscape Partnership, into the impact of the recently dug pond in the Muckhart Nature Park on the hydrology of the burn into which the pond flows. The Community Council noted that the report stated “.. *that the nature pond is unlikely to be contributing to the level of flood risk at the properties in the housing estate downstream. Furthermore it is considered that the nature pond may have a beneficial effect on the local hydrology by slowing the flow of floodwater from the hillside to the north...*” The report also proposed a number of measures that might reduce the flooding issues downstream of the MNP such as the creation of a wetland in the glebe field and the planting of willow at appropriate points.

The report recommended that a geotechnical survey be carried out to assess the strength of the embankment surrounding the pond to determine whether or not it will be in danger of breaching when full. After consultations with Clackmannanshire Council officials, the OLP has decided that this study will not be commissioned. The Nature Park Committee intend to plant the embankment as this should strengthen it.

There was a discussion about liability issues and it was decided to raise these issues with the Nature Park Committee. **ACTION SD**

11. Glenquey quarry applications – update.

SD outlined the concerns that have arisen over the actions being taken by PKC planning in relation to the quarry applications, following the meeting in March 2012 at which the PKC Development Management Committee (DMC) deferred a decision until additional information on a number of matters had been obtained. The concerns centred on whether or not such additional information has been sought and whether or not it will be subject to further public consultation. A letter from MCC was sent in December requesting clarification on this matter. Whilst no written response has yet been received, a phone call to the clerk to the PKC DMC confirmed that additional information has been and will continue to be obtained and that it will be subject to full public consultation before the matter is considered again by the DMC.

12. Consultation by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils on Cold Calling

SD detailed the survey that is being carried out by the Clackmannanshire Alliance Doorstep Crime Partnership into Cold Calling. Survey forms were distributed for

completion.

ACTION ALL

13. Treasurer's Report

The following report was distributed prior to the meeting:

BALANCE AT LAST MEETING **£1727.26**

Expenditure:

Nil

Income:

IT Grant from Clacks. Council £300.00

CURRENT BALANCE **£2027.26**

NB. There is also £314.77 ring fenced monies for IT in the "balance at last meeting"

The Report was noted.

14. Correspondence

Details of correspondence were distributed prior to the meeting and copies were available to view.

15. AOCB

A number of matters were raised.

- The T in the Park Local Community Forum will meet on Tuesday 19th February 2013. SD, who attends the forum, requested that any issues which MCC members would want raised are brought to his attention before the meeting.
- SD reported that, due to Council budget cuts, reductions may be introduced to the C69 and C70 service to Muckhart. MCC will continue to monitor and respond as necessary to such developments.

ACTIONS SD

- SD reported that MCC has been asked to respond to a consultation on Redesigning the Community Justice System in Scotland. MCC members to contact SD if they wish to lead on this consultation.
- SD indicated that additional funds have been made available by the Scottish Government for the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund. The fund helps pay for the upgrade and maintenance of memorials in towns, villages and cities in Scotland.
- JJ gave details of a Public Meeting called by Friends of the Earth for Monday 28th January 2013 in Stirling about Dart Energy proposals for

Extracting Coal Bed Methane in the Forth Valley area. A short discussion took place on whether the extraction method used is 'fracking' or not. It was requested that a member of MCC attends the meeting. SD to email members about their possible attendance.

ACTION SD

- JA gave details of the proposed maintenance to the exterior of the Church which would involve new rendering, possibly of a different colour to the existing finish, being applied to the exterior walls. Changes may also be made to the interior of the church which could involve the removal of the pews. Meanwhile both dry and wet rot requires to be tackled in the building. As the church is a listed building and in the Conservation Area, conditions may apply to this work. JA to keep MCC appraised of developments. **ACTION JA**
- SD reported that the Community Council Protocol document is being finalised. The draft will be discussed at the next meeting of the JCCF. SD to coordinate discussion on any changes that MCC might wish to propose to the document. **ACTION SD**

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th March 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall.