

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council held in the Coronation Hall on Wednesday 27th March 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Jon Jordan, Chair (JJ)
Marlene White, Vice-chair (MW)
Stuart Dean, Secretary (SD)
Terry Hollis, Treasurer (TH)
Danny Conroy (DC)
Douglas Fisher (DF)
Margot McKerrell (MM)
Matthew Pease (MEP)
Mireille Pouget (MP)
Niall Simpson (NS)

In attendance: Carlyn Fraser, Traffic Management Officer, Clackmannanshire; PC James Miller, Community Constable ; Sgt Kevin Chase, Interventions Sergeant Stirling and Clackmannanshire; and four members of the community.

1. Apologies for Absence/Introductions

Apologies were received from John Anderson, Marilyn Smith (Community Health Representative) and from Cllr. Kathleen Martin

2. Declarations of conflict of interest

None

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd January 2013 were accepted as an accurate record.
Proposer: Terry Hollis. Secoder: Douglas Fisher.

4. Matters Arising

The following notes on Matters Arising from the meeting of 23rd January 2013 were distributed prior to the meeting:

Item 9. Planning application for house and restoration of Japanese Garden at Cowden – ref: 12/00283/FULL The planning application has been withdrawn pending a formal assessment by Historic Scotland. Meanwhile the opportunity will be taken by the

applicant to address a number of emerging issues, including those raised by the Community Council.

Item 10. Muckhart Nature Park – Hydrologist’s Report. Liability issues relating to the MNP will be discussed with the Woodland Trust Scotland at the next MNP Committee meeting in April.

Item 15. AOCB. (Extraction of Coal Bed Methane by Dart Energy in the Forth Valley area and related Fracking issues). Mireille Pouget attended the meeting in Stirling called by the Friends of the Earth on 28th January and will report back at the MCC meeting on the issues raised.

It was agreed that the issue of gas extraction and possible fracking in the Forth Valley area would be discussed under Agenda Item 7.

Item 15. AOCB (Church Maintenance). Rendering work on the gable ends of the Church should be going out to tender in April for the work to be undertaken in the summer. Work on the elevations may happen in a few years. Meanwhile discussions are taking place within the church community on the options available to modernise the interior of the building following the removal of the pews and the fitting of a new floor. An opportunity will be given to secure the views of MCC members on any such proposals.

5. Police Report

PC Miller and Sgt Chase spoke to the previously circulated Police Report. There was further discussion on the complaints received by the Police from Muckhart residents on speeding in the village. This matter was dealt with at length under Agenda Item 6.

Details were given of the changes taking place in Scottish policing with the formation of the Scottish Police Service on 1st April 2013 under Chief Constable, Stephen House who will be based in Stirling. The Forth Valley Division which replaces Central Scotland Police is under the command of Chief Superintendent Davie Flynn, with Chief Inspector Stephen Sneddon as the Clackmannanshire Area Commander. The new service has recently published the Clackmannanshire Local Policing Plan supported by 5 Multi-member Ward Plans including one for Clackmannanshire East. The importance of community policing was emphasised by Sgt Chase.

6. Speed Limits and Road Management issues – Carlyn Fraser, Traffic Management Officer, Clackmannanshire Council in attendance.

Carlyn Fraser outlined the speed limit changes that have taken place in the Muckhart area since 2011, in particular the introduction of the 20 mph limit in Muckhart village. She also detailed the planned introduction of a 40 mph limit on Golf Course Road and its designation as a ‘walking and cycling friendly’ road, and the speeding problems on the A823 north of the Yetts junction.

However she indicated that the 20 mph limit has resulted in problems such as the increased speed of vehicles leaving the village, particularly at the west end. Speeds by the Play Park are on average 4 mph higher than when the speed limit was at 30 mph. This is probably stems from the frustration felt by drivers with the 20 mph restriction which in turn has resulted in vehicles accelerating excessively once they reach the straight after the Coronation Hall. Vehicles have also been observed overtaking slower vehicles before the end of the restricted zone but the width of the road severely limits the options for traffic calming. As a result of the increased risk to pedestrians, particularly children outside the Play Park, and the higher speeds of vehicles exiting the village, the Council has decided to change the limit back to 30 mph.

There followed a long discussion on a number of issues relating to speed limits, road traffic management, speeding etc. The Police Officers attending the meeting also participated in the discussions.

The discussions and points raised focussed on the need to enforce the 30 mph limit once limit has reverted back from the 20 mph limit; the desirability of retaining the 20 mph limit on Muckhart's side streets and installing the attendant speed restriction signs; the building of a pedestrian crossing in the village – something the Council would be prepared to look at; the inability to introduce graduated speed limits at the exit of the village due to national regulations; the problems of parking at the school; the inability of the Council to reduce the limit on Golf Course Road to 30 mph; the opportunities to improve cycling and walking routes with funds from (e.g) Sustrans and the Climate Challenge Fund; the road layout at the west end of the village and the need to look at moving the bollard to a point opposite the Hall footpath; the possibility of linking road management changes at the west end of the village to the 'Village Square' idea; and the importance of ensuring that additional road markings do not damage the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

There was further discussion on a number of other speed enforcement/ speed management issues. These included the need to control overtaking outside the Play Park even when the limit reverts to 30 mph; the possibility of creating 'one way' barriers at the exits to the village (not possible due to the width of the road); the problem of vehicles speeding at the exit of the 40 mph limit on the A823 in Glen Devon and the position of the 40 mph signs; the selection of sites for camera vans – the A823 in Glen Devon could be such a site; the poor positioning by PKC of the 30 mph signs north of Rumbling Bridge and the need to move them to the north of the junction with Golf Course Road.

Finally a vote was taken amongst members of the Community Council on the following issues:

- The desirability of changing the 20 mph limit back to 30 mph – 8 to 2 in favour of reverting to the 30 mph limit.
- The desirability of retaining the 20 mph limit on Muckhart side streets along with the necessary speed restriction signs – unanimously against retaining the 20 mph

- limit on side streets.
- The desirability of placing a pedestrian crossing in the village – unanimously in favour

Carlyn Fraser and the Police Officers were thanked for their contribution to the discussion.

7. Reports on JCCF and from the MCC sub-groups – Travel and Transport, Planning, and Publicity.

JCCF – SD detailed the key issues discussed at the JCCF. They included Emergency Planning, the finalisation of the Protocol document, the changes to the Scottish Police Service on 1st April, and the introduction of Area and Ward Police Plans for Clackmannanshire.

Travel and Transport – Mireille Pouget detailed the correspondence with Clackmannanshire Council on the need for an upgrade to the footpath between Yetts and Pool of Muckhart. There was discussion on what the community might do to improve the path but it was recognised that drainage problems required to be addressed by the Council. Communication would be maintained with the Council in anticipation that improvements would be forthcoming when budgets allowed.

Planning – Douglas Fisher gave details of the planning applications for interpretation boards to be erected in and around the village for the Ochils Landscape Partnership. There were no objections.

Publicity – Neill Simpson indicated that for a modest sum plus an annual fee of £95, a Muckhart resident with professional experience in website design has offered to create a new website for the Muckhart community. It would be kept simple, easy to use and update, and be available to those groups wishing to place content on it. If well used it could generate an income from advertising. NS would act as webmaster and tutorials would be provided for those taking responsibility for the content of individual community groups. There was unanimous agreement that we should proceed with this proposal and a sum of £300 should be made available for the project from the MCC funds earmarked for IT.

The Chair thanked Paul Boyce for the work he has undertaken in maintaining the present website.

There followed a discussion on how best to keep contact with those in the community who do not have access to the internet and it was agreed that leaflets and newsletters would still be needed. A leaflet about the new website would also be helpful. It was also mentioned that it would be important to ensure that the website content was compliant with the Data Protection Act under which MCC is registered.

Following the reports from the sub groups, Mireille Pouget spoke to the report that she

had prepared on a Friends of the Earth meeting that she had attended on the extraction of coal based methane and possible fracking in the Central Scotland area. Many concerns are expressed about the dangers that might result. It was agreed that a watching brief would be maintained on developments in the Forth Valley/Fife areas and that further decisions may be required in relation to MCC's position on these developments. It was noted that one of the licence areas, PEDL 163, extended into the southern part of the MCC area.

The Chair thanked Mireille for her comprehensive report.

8. Climate Challenge Fund

Jon Jordan suggested two possible projects – the Drumburn Road footpath and that between Yetts and Pool of Muckhart. However it was noted that the CCF does not fund local authority footpaths. Groups are required to come up with the basic work on a proposal prior to further discussions with the CCF and it was agreed that this would be undertaken. Final applications are required by 31st July 2013. **ACTION MP**

9. Conservation Area Appraisal update

SD explained that comments by the Muckhart Conservation Area Group on the draft CAA prepared by the Scottish Civic Trust were forwarded to Clackmannanshire Council. The Council has responded that that they will be taken into account when finalising the CAA but that MCC would get a further opportunity to comment on the final draft before it goes out formal public consultation. **ACTION SD**

10. Glenquey quarry applications – update.

Jon Jordan outlined the telephone communications with Perth and Kinross Council which confirmed that, once the additional information requested by the Development Management Committee at the planning meeting in March 2012 was obtained, there would be further consultation on that material. MCC, along with other community councils in the area and Clackmannanshire Council, would have the opportunity to make further representations. .

11. Burnfoot Wind Farm planning applications – update

SD outlined the latest position in relation to the three planning applications for extensions to the existing BFH windfarm. The application for Frandy Hill (7 turbines) has been appealed on grounds of non-determination by PKC, the Burnfoot Hill Extension (2 turbines) has still to be determined by PKC whilst the Rhodders application for 9 turbines is being revised to 6 turbines. Further consultation will be carried out by Clackmannanshire Council once the revised documentation has been submitted.

12. Demand Responsive Transport for Muckhart - update

TH detailed the latest developments with a DRT service for Muckhart. The taxi firm which originally agreed to take on the contract has withdrawn which now leaves Muckhart with a serious reduction in subsidised bus services and no DRT. At a meeting with representatives from the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Transport Coordination Group and Clackmannanshire Council the following options were identified:

1. All parties, including MCC, should continue to look for a taxi firm willing to take on the contract.
2. Explore the idea of a Community Transport Option, with perhaps a contribution from the DRT budget towards running costs.

Both options to be explored; MP to research further the Community Transport option.

ACTION MP

Details of a local taxi firm which may be interested in taking on the DRT contract to be passed to the Transport Coordination Group.

ACTION TH

13. Complaint about dog waste on footpath to the Muckhart Nature Park

A complaint has been received about the dog waste on the path to the MNP. It was agreed that the MNP committee would be advised of the problem as it was linked to the access route to the Nature Park.

ACTION JJ

Meanwhile the Green Dog Walkers Initiative that has been discussed at the JCCF will be investigated further.

ACTION SD

14. Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership meeting

The report prepared by Marilyn Smith on the Public Partnership Forum (PPF) meeting on 6th March was noted. It dealt with two key presentations – one on the Primary and Secondary Care Interface by Dr James King GP, and the other on hospital provision in Forth Valley at The Forth Valley Royal Hospital (FVRH), Stirling Community Hospital and Falkirk Community Hospital, given by Ian Aitken, General Manager, Emergency and in-patient Services Organisation of Care. Marilyn was thanked for her report and attendance as community representative at the PPF.

The next meeting, planned for 11th June, will deal with transport issues in relation to the FVRH.

15. Treasurer's Report

The following report was distributed prior to the meeting:

BALANCE AT LAST MEETING

£2027.26

Expenditure:

Renewal of Data Protection Registration £35.00

Income:
Nil

CURRENT BALANCE

£1992.26

The Report was noted.

16. Correspondence

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

17. AOCB

No matters were raised.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th May 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall.