

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 31st May 2017, at 7:30 pm

Present: John Anderson (JA) Chair and Acting Treasurer
Patrick Thompson (PT) Vice-Chair
Mike Wilson (MRW) Secretary
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary
Stuart Dean (SD)
Matthew Pease (MP)
Marlene White (MW)
Peter Wyatt (PW)

PC Reggie Ryles (agenda item 5)
Hugh Sherrard (Clackmannanshire Youth Council)

Status: **Approved**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Graham Lindsay and Kathleen Martin; PC Barry Reiter; and Members Jonathan Bacon and Val Whyte (by email).

JA welcomed Hugh Sherrard, who attended the meeting on behalf of Clackmannanshire Youth Council, and Councillor Bill Mason, recently elected to Clackmannanshire Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

SD declared an interest in item 7b, Burnfoot Wind Farm: Update, as Chair of the Friends of the Ochils, but stated that he would provide the meeting with a factual update.

JA declared an interest in item 7c, Current Planning Applications (in relation to an application to remove trees, by Muckhart Church), as the representative of the Church who had submitted the application.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 22nd March 2017

The Minutes of 22nd March 2017 were approved with no changes. Proposed by PT and seconded by PL.

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising from the previous meeting, Public Transport): PL noted that the Bus Summit had been postponed a second time and that a new date, in June, is awaited. PL to attend, if available. A meeting of the Clacks Community Transport Association is planned for the 15th June. PL to attend.

ACTION: PL

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising from the previous meeting, Broadband): MRW noted that he had been advised that the FTTP broadband service being deployed in the Cowden area will not cover all of the households in this location. MRW agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue.

ACTION: MRW

- Re item 11 (Scheme of Establishment): MRW noted that feedback on Stage 1 of the Consultation had been provided to Lesley Bailie. Further discussions, relating to Stage 2, will be conducted by the MCC Officers, prior to the next full MCC Meeting, if required.

ACTION: Officers

- Re item 13 (Edinburgh Airport: Consultation on Flight Paths): SD noted press reports of public concern, in relation to the consultation that had taken place. The findings of the second consultation are due to be published in July 2017.

5. Police Report

PC Ryles noted that two reported crimes had taken place in the Muckhart area, since the last meeting of 22nd March, namely:

1. Vandalism between 17th and 23rd March, where someone forced an entry to a house on the A91, slept and washed in the house and then left! The intruder is still being sought. There was no theft involved.
2. On 13th April, an assault took place in the Pool of Muckhart involving a male and his father; police at the scene were also assaulted. The male was arrested to appear in court and was subsequently bailed.

MRW noted that an incident of wild camping, including unacceptable levels of noise, that had taken place in Dunning Glen, had been reported to the Police and, on behalf of the resident concerned, thanked them for following up on this.

MRW also noted the Police response in relation to The Great Muckhart Get Together to be held on the 17th June.

6. Muckhart Community Plan: Update

a) Approval of the Muckhart Community Plan

JA reported that the Muckhart Community Plan (MCP) had now been completed, with some minor updates, and had been distributed to MCC members for final, formal, approval. PW proposed that the plan now be accepted and signed off, seconded by PT. This was agreed unanimously. JA thanked all those involved in the development of the plan.

b) Community Edition of the Plan

As previously discussed, JA proposed that a “glossy” Community edition of the detailed MCP should now be produced. Examples of Community Plans, produced for New Cumnock and Ballachulish, were shown to the meeting. A draft of the text proposed, for the Community edition of the MCP, together with some sample imagery, had been distributed to members. JA asked for any comments on the text, to be fed back to the Working Group, prior to the content being supplied to a designer / printer. JA also asked if members or residents could supply any further good-quality photographs to be used in the printed version of the Plan (noting that the Golf Club have agreed to supply some already).

Three graphic designers are to produce sample layouts and pricing quotations for production. It is estimated that some 300 copies require to be printed, at a total cost of approximately £650 (funds which MCC has reserved). The printed copies of the Community edition will be released at the MCP launch meeting.

PW asked that the proposed, final, design should be agreed by MCC members before an order is placed. This was agreed. It was further agreed to proceed and to “get the job done properly” (PT).

ACTION: JA

The formal launch of the approved MCP is scheduled for 13th September, following this year’s MCC AGM.

ACTION: JA, MRW & PL

7. Planning Sub-Group

a) Development of Site H49: Update

SD noted that he had written to the two landowners, in advance of the meeting, requesting any updates. No replies had been received.

b) Burnfoot Wind Farm: Update

SD noted that no decision had been made by Clackmannanshire Council on the application for three additional turbines at Burnfoot Hill. However, MRW reported that Wind Prospect was winding up and that EDF would take on direct responsibility for managing the project.

SD also reported that the application to Perth and Kinross Council, by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR), for five additional turbines, at the Green Knowes site, has been withdrawn.

c) Current Planning Applications

SD distributed a list of recent applications made to Clackmannanshire Council and their status. The application to erect a garage/workshop at Pathend Cottage was accepted, with a 'No Comment' recommended. This was agreed. SD stated that MCC policy was to respond to all applications, even if only to record a 'No Comment', to avoid MCC being seen to submit only Planning 'Objections'.

(Note: JA stood down for the duration of the next application).

Ref No: 17/00115/TREE proposes to fell two sycamore trees at Muckhart Church. It was noted that a letter regarding a survey of the trees, undertaken by Scottish Woodlands and recommending their removal, was missing from Clacks Council web-site but had been distributed by JA. Some members of the Planning Sub-Group felt that the case had not been made adequately for removal of the trees, noting only that that it stated they were in 'poor condition' but not dangerous. A discussion followed and the following points were made: a removal decision should be made on safety grounds only; the trees were in the Conservation Area and should not be removed unnecessarily but noting one of the trees was near a power line and its removal may avoid a power cut were it to fall; should the trees be removed, they should be replaced by fairly mature replacements.

It was agreed that SD send a letter to the Planning Officers, agreed by the Planning Sub-group, making these points and asking that an appraisal be made of the safety of the trees by a professional arborist. **ACTION: SD**

8. Publicity

MRW stated that contact had been made by a journalist from the Alloa Advertiser, who had been tasked with an article on Community Councils once a week and that he may attend future Council meetings. PW agreed to be the main contact point.

ACTION: PW

MRW noted MCC should agree a protocol to handle future press enquiries. It was suggested that if the opinion of MCC was being sought, on a particular topic or issue, that PW would advise that MCC would respond to the enquiry and contact the MCC Officers for an agreed response. This was agreed.

9. MCC Web-site and Facebook: Update

In JB's absence, MRW noted that much new material had been added to the MCC website - including a photo of MCC members - noting that this needed updating. MRW and JB were now approaching community groups to encourage further updates to existing content to encourage increased community use of the web site.

ACTION: JB & MRW

There was no further update on the Facebook site.

10. Roads Issues: Update

MRW reported that the path between the Pool and Yetts had been completed to a high standard. The new LED lighting requires to be connected but the bulk of the work has been completed. JA thanked all those who had pushed for this improvement.

MRW noted there two Government consultations were under way: one relating to Parking (ends 30st June) and the other to a standardised 20MPH speed limit in restricted areas (ends 7th August). It was agreed to form two groups to prepare MCC responses. The following members agreed to participate:

Parking: PW, VW, JB and MRW

20MPH Speed Limit: PT, SD, PL, JB and MRW

ACTION: MRW

11. Treasurer's Report

JA presented the Treasurer's Report, up to 31st May 2017. Currently, MCC has available funds of £1991.62. It was noted that insurance has been taken out to cover the Great Muckhart Get Together on 17th June.

Acting treasurer JA would be meeting with DC to finalise the accounts for the year and establish when he may be able to resume the role of Treasurer.

12. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to members.

MRW highlighted an email, dated 12th May, from Lesley Baillie re Community Council training. Members should forward any suggested topics to JA for submission at the next JCCF meeting.

ACTION: All

MRW requested any issues for discussion at the CTSi Community Services Directorate NHS Public Partnership Forum (7th June) be forwarded to him. **ACTION: All**

13. JCCF

JA and JJ attended the last JCCF meeting in April which had not been well attended. Issues discussed included insurance and Community Plans.

The next meeting date is awaited.

ACTION: JA

14. AOCB

- The Amenity Society has requested MCC support to help with the Great Muckhart Get Together, on 17th June, in particular, to help hang bunting, on the 12th or 13th June and to be stewards on the 17th. The following agreed to assist:

Hang Bunting: JA, JB and MRW

Stewarding: JA (if available), PT, JB, PL, PW and MRW

ACTION: MRW

- The Chair of the Coronation Hall Committee (CHC) had contacted MCC to draw attention to the negative effects of new small business rate regime. The business rate for the Hall has increased from £0 (the rate was previously under the payment limit) to £600 per month. This will have a huge impact on Hall funding and all of its users. The new rate is being appealed and the CHC has requested help from anyone in the community who can assist in supporting an appeal. It was further noted that appeals can take up to three years to be resolved, during which the rates have to be paid.

It was agreed that a letter outlining the concerns of MCC, on behalf of the whole community, should be sent to Clacks Council, as well as local MSPs and our MP, due to the detrimental impact this will have across our community. SD noted that this seems contrary to Government's objective of encouraging local involvement in communities. This was agreed by all. **ACTION: MRW**

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th September 2017, at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall. This will be followed by the MCC Annual General Meeting.

(Note: an event will be held on Wednesday 13th September to launch the new Muckhart Community Plan)

The Meeting closed at 9:25pm.