

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Patrick Thompson (PT) Vice-Chair  
Mike Wilson (MRW) Secretary  
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary  
Danny Conroy (DC) Treasurer  
Jonathan Bacon (JB)  
Stuart Dean (SD)  
Matthew Pease (MP)  
Marlene White (MW)  
Val Whyte (VW)  
Peter Wyatt (PW)

Councillors Bill Mason and Graham Lindsay

**Status:** **Approved**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

In John Anderson's absence Patrick Thompson took the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Kathleen Martin, PC Barry Reiter and Huw Sherrard. Apologies were also received from MCC members John Anderson (JA) and Jon Jordan (JJ).

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

### 3. Minutes of Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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

### 4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising - Broadband): responding to a query from a member of the public, regarding the on-going lack of superfast broadband provision in some areas of the village, MRW noted that this issue has been progressed as far as it could by MCC.

Improved service provision would be dependent on further funding for the Digital Scotland (DS) programme and by resolving the technical constraints of the solutions being deployed, though MCC will continue to exert what pressure it can on DS and others who could influence future decisions. He noted, as previously recorded, that DS had stated further improvements were planned around the Muckhart area during 2018.

MW reported that since contracting for the supply of superfast fibre broadband, she and a neighbour had both suffered from sudden loss of connectivity. This issue had not been experienced by others present. An engineer was due to investigate this issue the following day.

- Re item 8 (Council Budget 2018-2019 Consultation): MRW reminded those present that this consultation ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. It was noted that savings of circa £29M needed to be made over the next three years. Cllr Mason noted that this year's target saving was some £8M to £10M. The consultation has generated a great deal of interest, with over 700 public responses submitted to date, and budget consultation public meetings have been very well attended.

SD commented that the total of the savings proposed in the budget consultation barely reaches the target amount to be saved.

## **5. Police Report**

Following the recent re-organisation of Policing resources in Clackmannanshire, PC Ritchie is to replace PC Reggie Ryles, within Clackmannanshire East, and was attending his first MCC meeting. He noted that PC Reiter also remains within Clackmannanshire East.

PC Ritchie noted that there had been no recorded crime in the Muckhart area, since the last report, though two building sites had been broken into, in Glendevon, with thieves cutting through the metal structure of containers. He noted that frequent speeding checks were being made within the village and that these would continue.

PT thanked PC Ritchie for his report.

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

Progress being made on Action Plans was reported briefly by the leaders of the various Working Groups. MRW reminded members of the scheduled MCP Review Meeting, on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**ACTION: All**

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

PW - V1: a meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December at which the key strategy points were determined. 'Beautiful Scotland' is the body running the competition for towns and villages. PW reported that it is possible that Muckhart might qualify as a 'Wee Village', if it has an electoral roll of 300 or less.

MP - V2: MP has been in contact with JA regarding the car park initiative at the Glebe Field. JA will be in contact with Kirk representatives to progress this action.

MP - V3: MP has also discussed the village square initiative with JA. MP had prepared a proposed plan for the village square concept and will discuss this with the Coronation Hall Committee. It was noted that funding was available from Sustrans that could help with proposed improvements but the application deadline is 2 March 2018.

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

SD: the Planning Sub-Group has met on several occasions and has exchanged various communications. A further meeting is arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> February to discuss progress, in advance of the MCP Review.

PT: nothing to report

A member of the public noted that Muthill had established a Village Trust. Amongst other things, it organises bulk oil purchases for village residents. She noted that the word 'development' was not included in the name.

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

PL: PL and JJ have further discussed holding a community meeting with an invited speaker from the Energy Saving Trust. A meeting of all members of the Working Group is being planned for the end February.

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

VW: MCP activity has been impacted by Council budget issues with the possibility of cuts in music and sporting activities, as well as classroom assistants.

A skills database has been created, including environment expertise.

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

MRW: following the establishment of a three member Working Group in November, their initial meeting was held in December. Community Questionnaire feedback was reviewed and, given the current broadband service improvements being delivered via the DS fibre programme, the Action Plan will be updated. Fibre broadband and 4G government and industry reports, etc. will be investigated, along with other information sources, and a further meeting will be arranged, if possible, before 21<sup>st</sup> February.

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

MRW: following the establishment of a nine member Working Group in November, they held their first meeting in December. It was agreed to merge the Group looking at Paths and the Group looking into Road Safety together to form a single Working Group.

The Group reviewed the feedback from the Community Questionnaire and agreed the priorities to be raised with the Council and landowners. A further meeting was held and various pieces of information collated and reviewed.

MRW had arranged a meeting, held earlier this month, with Carlyn Fraser (Traffic Management & Road Safety Officer) and Martin Dean (Access and Countryside Projects Officer) from the Council. Both the Council and the Working Group representatives found the meeting to be informative and productive and, despite Council budget constraints, several options were discussed positively. A further Working Group meeting is to be arranged, prior to 21<sup>st</sup> February Review meeting.

A member of the public noted the synergies, and cross-over in interests and activities, between some of the Working Groups. For instance, work on paths would help improve the Image of the Village and could support Active Community activities. The same was true with recognised linkage between Environment & Sustainability and Education activities.

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

JB: a productive first meeting of the Working Group had been held earlier in the week. The meeting had discussed:

- a web-site based Community Notice Board and the promotion of other groups / organisations on the MCC site
- how best to identify potential community volunteers, to help prepare a list
- a Muckhart “Yellows Pages” (e.g. to advertise the services of a plumber, joiner, babysitter, etc.)
- setting up a calendar for Community Events (it was noted that perhaps this could include a project to tidy up the Nature Park)

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

PL: the CCTA is in the process of re-organising itself. Two previous community surveys, undertaken in Dollar, were not encouraging, showing that people wanted more frequent bus services but were not using those available currently. MCC needs to be aware of this in relation to improving services for Muckhart.

#### ***Other***

MRW reminded members that a review of progress / issues with the MCP Action Plans was scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February, in the Coronation Hall. **ACTION: MRW**

MRW noted that there were many funding opportunities available to help fulfil the plans.

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

MRW reported that the Council had met in December to discuss the outcome of the recent Stage 2 consultation and had accepted most of the recommendations arising. Cllr Mason reported that he had discussed MCC's concerns, in particular, with regard to Co-option, with Lesley Baillie and Cllr Martin. However, there had not been enough support for further amendments.

The process is now in Stage 3 and the final consultation is on the Clackmannanshire web-site. The question was raised as to whether MCC should supply further input, particularly, with regard to the proposals for elections for co-opted Community Councillors, in the light of the significant costs for the Council that these would entail. It was agreed that the Group looking at this previously should meet to discuss this and make any further proposals, possibly also flagging MCC's concerns to other Community Councils, via the JCCF. **ACTION: MRW / SD**

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

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

SD reported that, regarding the Call for Sites, he had now spoken to representatives of the Hall Committee and the Church who had both indicated that they needed to make further progress with their own plans before any proposals could be made to the Council. Regarding Issues, five responses had been prepared and submitted by the Sub-Group, as follows: Development in the Countryside; Foot and Cycle Routes; the Settlement Boundary; SLA Designation; and Sustainability.

### **b) Planning Applications**

SD reported that decisions had been made on two recent applications upon which MCC had commented, namely, proposed developments next to Gairlaw (at Yetts) and at Rowberrow (in Drumburn Lane). Both applications had been approved. The proposed development at Mellbreak, also in Drumburn Lane, was under consideration.

### **c) Planning and LDP Training**

Members of the Planning Sub-Group had attended a Planning and LDP training session on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Whilst interesting and informative, it was felt it had not adequately covered the role of CClrs in the planning process. After feedback from those present, a further training session will be requested. **ACTION: MRW**

### **d) Removal of Comments from the Planning Website**

SD stated that he had noted that once a decision had been made by the Council on planning applications, comments submitted by interested parties were now being removed from the web-site. MCC agreed there was no good reason to do this and, conversely, there were many reasons why these comments should remain visible. A member of the public noted that this may contravene records-keeping provisions and that she would check on this and feedback. It was agreed that MCC concerns regarding this issue should be raised in a letter to the Council. **ACTION: SD**

MP noted that there seemed to be a pattern emerging that planning decisions were being made contrary to Council policies, citing recent examples. He felt that it is important that the community can have confidence that the Council is making decisions based upon its policies within the LDP. This point has been covered in the Call for Issues responses referred to earlier.

## 9. Publicity: Update

PW noted there was nothing to report.

## 10. Treasurer's Report

DC reported there had been no transactions since the last report and the balance of account remained at £1,884.57. The report was accepted without comment or amendment.

## 11. Correspondence

MRW had circulated a list of correspondence received, in a summary format. There were no issues arising from this.

## 12. JCCF

DC reported that the next meeting of the JCCF had not been set yet. He will request that CCs are properly engaged during the LDP process and propose a JCCF group discussion of SoE issues at the next JCCF meeting.

**ACTION: DC**

## 13. AOCB

- MRW reminded all present that volunteers had been requested to assist in the event of a local emergency, as noted in the email circulated from Lesley Baillie
- SD reported that regarding previously reported timber clearance from Glen Sherrup the company doing this had gone into liquidation. He also noted that the car park was being used by youths for anti-social driving and that measures were being introduced to prevent this from happening, moving forward, include fitting a chain, to restrict access at night, and a possible re-design of the parking area itself
- An accounting training event, for all CCs, is set for 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March. DC to attend and other members are also welcome
- MRW noted that the annual Policing Plan survey has been released and feedback is requested. MRW and DC agreed to draft a response on the road safety and acquisitive crime sections, relevant to the Muckhart area

**ACTION: DC**

**ACTION: MRW / DC**

## 14. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at 7:30pm in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.