

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 28th March 2018, at 7:30 pm

Present: John Anderson (JA) Chairman
Mike Wilson (MRW) Secretary
Danny Conroy (DC) Treasurer
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary
Stuart Dean (SD)
Jon Jordan (JJ)
Peter Wyatt (PW)

Councillor Bill Mason and PC Barry Reiter

Status: **Approved**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Graham Lindsey and Kathleen Martin and PC Barry Ritchie. Apologies were also received from MCC members Patrick Thompson (PT), Jonathan Bacon (JB), Val Whyte (VW), Marlene White (MW) and Matthew Pease (MP).

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 31st January 2018

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

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 (Matters Arising - Broadband): JJ noted he had seen a substantial rise in the internet speed with the introduction of superfast broadband but warned that changing provider in the wake of the change may result in a substantial increase in costs.

There was no further information available on the problem, reported at the last meeting by MW, relating to loss of connectivity for her and a neighbour's property.

5. Police Report

PC Reiter reported that there had been no recorded crime in the Muckhart area since the last report, though two houses in Dollar had been entered and goods stolen. A buzzard carcass had been found and though there is no indication of criminal activity it had been sent for forensic analysis.

JA thanked PC Reiter for his report.

6. Muckhart Community Plan: Updates

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

PW: awaiting feed-back following a recent meeting.

MP: absent - *see A-3 below for an update on the Village Square concept.*

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

SD: the Planning Sub-Group continues to meet and monitor progress.

PT: absent - *see below for H-2: update on Development Trust.*

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

PL: no report

JJ: contact established with the Energy Savings Trust and will report further progress.

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

VW: absent – no report.

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

MRW: the focus of the Working Group has now moved towards improving 4G mobile / cellular communications. A further meeting is to be arranged for w/c 16th April.

Infrastructure: I-1 & I-2 Lead MRW

MRW: More information had been gathered on local adopted roads, core paths and public access rights, to help deliver road safety and core path improvements. A Muckhart area-wide 'Infrastructure Map' is being produced.

The Working Group has now been in contact with local landowners and businesses regarding Drumburn Road improvements. A resident has raised questions regarding vehicular rights of way, slowing up progress with improvements. These are being addressed with the support of the Council and Scotways. EPIC (formerly the OLP) has also been contacted and on-going support offered. The next meeting is to be held on 2nd April.

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

JB: absent – no report.

JA: attempts have been made to contact Tim Turner to arrange a discussion around proposed improvements to the Nature Park. Contact has also been established with EPIC.

Re V-2 above: any proposed work regarding the Village Square concept and the Coronation Hall has been placed on hold pending progress with the H49 development.

Public Services: P-1 Lead PL

PL: further discussions have taken place regarding the provision of bus services along the line of the Hillfoot towns / villages.

Muckhart Community Development Trust

Re H-2 above: a detailed Progress Report has been produced by PT regarding the possibility of setting up a Development Trust. An open community meeting has been arranged for 3rd May, at 7:00pm, in the Muckhart Parish Church, at which Catherine McWilliam, from the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS), will speak and discuss this subject further. MCC members, and all interested members of the community, were encouraged to attend.

JJ commented that tensions can sometimes arise between Community Councils and Development Trusts when organisations within the same community have different priorities or objectives. It was agreed that all efforts should be made to avoid this happening in Muckhart. JJ raised concerns around competition between different organisations to access available funds. SD noted that at this stage the objective is merely to explore possibilities of setting up a Trust and to examine the pros and cons.

MRW suggested that additional speakers, who could share their experience of setting up and running Trusts, could be invited to attend the meeting on the 3rd May. **ACTION: PT / JA**

7. CC Scheme of Establishment (SoE): Stage 3 consultation

MRW reported that further representation had been made as part of the MCC Stage 3 Consultation submission, uploaded on 27th February.

At the last JCCF meeting, MRW raised MCC proposals regarding the re-introduction of Co-option and that further examination of the proposed Top-up Election process was required. The JCCF agreed that the MCC proposals should be discussed further and this took place at the first JCCF Short Life Working Group (SLWG) meeting, held in Muckhart, on 5th March. As a result, the current SoE 'final' draft is now being reviewed by the Council team and the expectation is that the proposals and updates agreed will be applied. The resulting updated SoE will be approved at the next full Council meeting, to be held in April.

MRW also reported that the introduction of a Complaints Procedure is being progressed. The JCCF SLWG has now been established to look at this. Two meetings have already taken place and the next meeting is scheduled for 18th April.

MRW will source, and distribute to members, the existing Code of Conduct in force for community councillors.

ACTION: MRW

SD noted that when the new SoE is complete MCC will be required to undertake a review of our Constitution and Standing Orders.

8. Planning Sub-Group

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

SD reported that the Main Issues Report for the revised LDP will now be published after the summer recess, in order that the Council can assess the impact of the School Estate Plan, which goes before the Council in June, on a number of things in the LDP review.

b) Planning Applications

SD reported that the Mellbreak application had now been approved, on condition that a vehicle passing place is provided on Drumburn Road outside the property. The existing hedge would need to be removed but a condition has been placed that a replacement wall and hedge on the property boundary should be formed.

There are two current applications. The first concerns the reduction in height of two trees at properties bordering Kirkhill and the other an extension to the rear of Pool Cottage. The Planning group recommend that a “no comment” response be sent in both cases but noting that the works should be in keeping with the Conservation Area.

JA noted that following the earlier application to reduce two trees at the front of the Church, a specialist had now assessed the needs and one tree will be reduced in height and a report is still awaited on the other.

c) Removal of Comments from the Planning Website

SD has written to Graeme Finlay, at Planning, to raise the issue of the removal of third party comments from the Council web-site. His reply has caused some concern and has raised additional questions.

SD has also been in contact with Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) who confirmed that the Council may have the right to remove published comments, to comply with the Data Protection Act, as personal data should not be kept longer than is necessary. However, it is not clear that all of the information being removed constitutes Personal Data, as defined by the Act. SD agreed to follow-up on this issue.

ACTION: SD

9. Publicity: Update

PW noted there was nothing to report.

10. Treasurer's Report

DC reported there had been one transaction since the last report (hire of the Church Hall) and the balance of account was £1,848.57. The report was accepted without comment or amendment.

11. Correspondence

MRW had circulated a list of correspondence received, in a summary format.

Five items were noted and discussed, namely:

- An email from the Council, re Community Learning and Development. To be drawn to the attention of VW. **ACTION: VW**
- An email from Scottish Water, regarding the future of water and waste water services. PL and JJ to investigate. **ACTION: JJ / PL**
- An email from Scottish Community Councils re bank closures. To be reviewed by the Business Development Working Group. **ACTION: MRW**
- An email from Scottish Community Councils re Licensing Procedures. MRW noted that there is a statutory duty for Community Councils regarding Licensing Procedures. MCC Officers to prepare a draft response. **ACTION: Officers**
- An email from Luke Graham, MP offering a Community Council Report. Members discussed whether reports of this kind should be distributed by MCC, as they could be construed as being politically biased. It was agreed that the elected representative contact details already provided on the MCC web-site were sufficient (e.g. address, telephone, email, web, Facebook and Twitter where available). MRW to review and refresh existing contact details for all Muckhart area elected representatives (MP, MEPs, MSPs (constituency and list) and Councillors). **ACTION: MRW**

12. JCCF

MRW reported that the next meeting of the JCCF will take place on 10th May.

The last meeting discussed the Council budget, SoE and Complaints Procedure (see above), Gala and Fun Day dates, LDP engagement and CC Insurance.

Subsequent to this meeting, the Council has no plans to re-run Planning training. However, Lesley Baillie has provided details of training provided by Planning Aid for Scotland. Members agreed to request that the Council should arrange a CC specific event. To be raised at the next JCCF meeting. **ACTION: DC**

It was also noted that the Council recommended attendance at CTSi Data Protection training events to be held in April, however, places are no longer available. MCC to request Council provided training at the next JCCF meeting. **ACTION: DC**

13. AOCB

- SD noted that work on the A823 by Scottish Water will not now take place until the works have been reassessed and the communities affected, including Muckhart, have been properly consulted. It was noted that Muckhart residents use the A823 to commute to work and Glendevon residents transport children to school in Muckhart. MRW to contact Scottish Water to request MCC is kept fully informed and engaged, moving forward. **ACTION: MRW**

- MRW, on behalf of VW, expressed the thanks of the Parent Council to all those who took part in the recent School Quiz night which raised £2,200. Donations were still coming in and the hope is that the £3,000 target will be met.

Attention was also drawn to the Friends of the Coronation Hall draw, to win the hire of the Hall for 24 hours.

- Councillor Mason reminded the meeting that the Council awaits the City Deal outcome which is due soon. There will be a meeting next week in advance of the announcement.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2018, at 7:30pm in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.