

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at 7:30 pm

<b>Present:</b>	John Anderson (JA)	Chair
	Patrick Thompson (PT)	Vice-Chair
	Mike Wilson (MRW)	Secretary
	Danny Conroy (DC)	Treasurer
	Philip Lord (PL)	Minute Secretary
	Jonathan Bacon (JB)	
	Stuart Dean (SD)	
	Jon Jordan (JJ)	
	Matthew Pease (MP)	
	Val Whyte (VW)	

Councillors Graham Lindsey and Bill Mason; PC Barry Reiter

**Status:**        **Approved**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Kathleen Martin and PC Barry Ritchie. Apologies were also received from MCC members Marlene White (MW) and Peter Wyatt (PW)

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Mathew Pease declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda regarding the Japanese Garden, Cowden.

### 3. Minutes of Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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

### 4. Matters Arising

- Re item 13 (AOCB – Scottish Water): MRW stated that MCC had received correspondence from Keith Brown MSP, stating that it may now be possible that the A823 will not need to be closed to complete works planned

- Re item 8c (Planning Sub-group – removal of comments from web site): SD reported that Planning would not be changing their policy regarding the removal of third party comments from the web-site. It is the Council's view that other Councils are not complying with current regulations. SD noted that Planning had agreed that if anyone wished to view past correspondence then a request could be placed to view it at their offices. PL queried how anyone would know if such correspondence existed, if it is not referenced on the web-site.

## **5. Police Report**

PC Reiter reported that there had been no recorded crime in the Muckhart area since the last report, though further houses in Dollar had been entered and goods stolen in April. The targeted properties were burgled when occupiers were absent from their properties and he advised taking simple precautions to make it appear that properties are occupied, such as leaving lights on when dark or closing curtains.

MP raised the subject of the proposed co-location of the police in Council offices in Alloa. PC Reiter noted that the move would bring the police into closer contact with related services and that their current buildings were underused and not in good condition.

JA thanked PC Reiter for his report.

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

### **A: Review of Action Plans**

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

MP: Progress is being made and the Amenity Society had been met to discuss what needed to be done. Another meeting will be held towards the end of June.

PW: MRW reported, on behalf of PW, that PW had met with representatives of the Amenity Society, in mid-April, to discuss entry into the Beautiful Scotland competition. Documents from Beautiful Scotland were shared and a discussion took place regarding a Horticultural Pillar entry and how this could be taken forward. A list of potential projects would be drawn up, by the end of June, drawing on suggested ideas and from reviewing previous entrant's submissions. These would be shared with the community for its agreement and to encourage volunteers to take part, by way of questionnaire (mail drop), consultation meeting, web site, etc..

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

SD: The Housing Development Working Group had met recently where it was decided that members would review the Local Development Plan (LDP) and identify issues of relevance to Muckhart, to prepare for a review of, and comment upon, the forthcoming Main Issues Report. It was recognised that there will be areas in the LDP which impinge on the workings of other Working Groups and their input will be requested, as appropriate.

PT: See below for H-2: update on Development Trust.

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

PL: Noted that he had examined the Scottish Water consultation and believed that neither he, nor MCC as a whole, would be able to answer on behalf of the community as a whole. It was agreed not to proceed with the consultation.

JJ: Arrangements have now been made with the Energy Savings Trust to give a presentation on 19<sup>th</sup> September, in the Coronation Hall, on energy saving and electric vehicles.

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

VW: Following the recent cuts in Council funding for education, it has now been confirmed that Muckhart Primary School will only have two classes next term, rather than the previous three. These classes will be formed by splitting P4 (by date of birth), to form one class for P1 to 4 and another to form P4 to 7. It was noted that some pupils were upset by this split, fearing loss of contact with siblings or friends. The parents' and school's biggest concern is that this will detract from the attractiveness of the school, potentially, leading to a fall in pupil numbers.

Members expressed their concern at this development and agreed to send a letter, on behalf of MCC, to the Council to express its concern and to ask how the Council would react should pupil numbers drop any further. Cllr Lindsay, who sits on the Council Education Committee, noted the concerns raised and that he sympathised with the views expressed, noting that he did not see the need for any further cuts.

**Action MRW, JA, VW**

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

MRW: Now that fibre broadband services are available, across most of the Muckhart area, the Working Group is focussed on delivering improved mobile services. A meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May during which various reports on 4G / 5G mobile service provision were discussed. The Group will review these further and produce a report on the number of small businesses in the area. The key points will then be summarised and a letter produced which will be sent to all of our elected representatives, requesting their support for the provision of improved mobile communication services. Mobile service providers will also be contacted to identify potential 'technology pilot projects' that may benefit our residents and community.

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

MRW: The Working Group has held two further meetings, to discuss road and path improvements, and various meetings and conversations have taken place between the interested parties and written correspondence exchanged. Progress with improvements to Drumburn Road is being made, albeit slowly, as issues relating to vehicular rights of access were still being determined with landowners, the Council and other interested parties. During discussion, MP requested that the vehicular access rights of Blairhill should be considered and it was agreed that the proposed improvements and associated road safety measures could only enhance the safe access to Drumburn Road both by members of the community, as well as visitors, wishing to walk and cycle this route.

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

JB: Reported on the web-site and noted that the Muckhart Welcome Pack had been removed from the site, as it was well outdated. MRW noted that he had recently requested an updated Pack. This has now received and will be forwarded to upload onto the web-site.

**ACTION: MRW**

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

PL: A meeting of the CCTA had taken place the previous week which PL had not attended as he had not received notice of it. He will follow-up on this matter and the outcome of the meeting.

**ACTION: PL**

**B: MCP Annual Review**

The MCP will be discussed and updated at a Special Meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> August, prior to its review at the MCC AGM to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> September [*note: see Appendix 2 (p.37) of the MCP for further detail*].

JA requested the Plan Leads to review and update their individual Plans with completed Actions and new key activity or Actions agreed. JA will arrange to hold individual review meetings, with each of the Leads, prior to the August meeting.

**C: Muckhart Community Development Trust**

*Re H-2 above:* PT reported that a successful community Open Meeting had been held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A further meeting took place, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, of members of the community who had agreed at the Open Meeting to form a Development Trust Working Group to further investigate setting up a Community Trust or Fund. Several action points were agreed (e.g. the creation of a Trust 'mission statement'; projects that could deliver benefits quickly to the community; methods of gauging the level of community support for a Trust or Fund; etc.). A further meeting has been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> June, to be followed by a meeting, on 26<sup>th</sup> September to which a DTAS representative will be invited. Progress will be reported back to all members.

**7. CC Scheme of Establishment (SoE):**

The draft of the proposed CC Complaints Procedure had been previously circulated to members for review and comment. SD noted that the proposal was for a "closed" system which did not allow for the involvement of any individual, or group, out with the CC dealing with the complaint. He suggested that the procedure in use by Moray Council is a better working example which includes an 'appeal process', discrete from the CC involved and that the Council should take this into consideration and discuss it further within the JCCF. It was agreed that MRW take this issue back to Lesley Baillie.

**ACTION: MRW**

**8. Planning Sub-Group**

**a) Local Development Plan (LDP):**

SD reported that he had been in contact with Graeme Finlay, from Planning, at the

Council. The Main Issues Report will be sent out in September with consultation taking place in October.

**b) Planning Applications**

SD reported that several applications had been responded to positively. An application had also been received relating to the Japanese Garden, at Cowden (see below) and, more recently, one relating to Rossarden, in Drumburn Road, which presents a number of issues and a response will be prepared.

**c) Japanese Garden, Cowden**

As advised in an earlier email to members, the Planning Sub-Group has submitted an objection to the recent Application to use Upper Hillfoot Road (the 'back road' to Dollar) as the main entrance to the Japanese Garden, at Cowden. Further, it was noted that work on the entrance to the Garden had started before Planning Permission has been granted.

Strong support was also expressed for the Japanese Garden initiative and members recognised that this enterprise will benefit both the community and Clackmannanshire, as a whole. Members wished the project every success and trust that the issues raised in our submission to Planning will be resolved for the safety of those visiting the Garden, as well as our residents.

It was also reported that the recent Garden Open Day had attracted some 600 visitors. The number of visitors arriving and departing during the day, combined with the use of Upper Hillfoot Road, caused considerable traffic management problems and raised further road safety concerns. Garden staff took the unilateral decision to re-route traffic, exiting the Garden, towards Dollar, to relieve traffic congestion down to the A91. This has resulted in complaints and serious concerns being raised by local residents, affected by the event, which have been forwarded to MCC and the Council.

The current application is being considered by Planning, however, in the light of recent events, it was agreed that MCC should consider further action.

**ACTION: JA / SD / MRW**

**9. Publicity: Update**

MRW noted, on PW's behalf, that there was nothing to report.

**10. Treasurer's Report**

DC reported there had been some minor disbursements, including one for the hire of the Church Hall, for the recent community Open Meeting, since the last Report. The balance of account was now £1198.37.

DC agreed to check an item, marked as a direct debit, for insurance cover for the Great Muckhart Get Together. It is believed this, in fact, covers general MCC insurance cover for public events. The report was otherwise accepted. **ACTION: DC**

## **11. Correspondence**

MRW had circulated a list of correspondence received in a summary format. Three items were noted and discussed, namely:

- A notification of a consultation regarding Police Scotland and Clacks Council sharing office space. The community is to be encouraged to respond to this. **ACTION: MRW**
- An email from Lesley Baillie, regarding the Democracy Matters initiative. This to be brought to the attention of local organisations to respond if they wish. **ACTION: MRW**
- An email from Lesley Baillie re community asset transfers of local centres. It was proposed to contact Dollar CC / Development Trust to signal our support for any planned acquisition of the CAP in Dollar, however, it was pointed out that current Housing Development plans include its replacement.

## **12. JCCF**

JA noted that at the last meeting of the JCCF the main discussion related to the Fire Service, in the light of recent funding cuts. The CC Scheme of Establishment was also discussed – see above.

## **13. AOCB**

- MRW noted the current vacancy on the Integrated Board & Strategic Planning Group, of Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health. JJ proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Muckhart's current representative, Marilyn Smith, which was supported by all present.
- MRW reminded members that Data Protection training will be available on 28<sup>th</sup> June, in Menstrie
- Cllrs Lindsay and Mason both welcomed the recent City deal agreed for Stirling and Clackmannanshire and stated that the area had done well out of the process

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next MCC meeting, and the AGM, will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, at 7:30pm in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.