

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 29th May 2019, at 7:30pm

Present:	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)	
	Marlene White (MW)	
	Peter Wyatt (PW)	

Status: **Approved**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bill Mason, Graham Lindsay and Kathleen Martin and PCs Barry Reiter and Barry Ritchie. Apologies were also received from CC member Val Whyte (VW).

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 20th March 2019

The revised minutes (issued 20th May) of the meeting of 20th March were accepted, without amendment, proposed by SD, seconded by PW.

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 6 (Planning Sub-Group: Other planning applications): SD noted that all six applications had now been approved by the Council
- Re item 12 (Governance Documents: Approval): MRW reported that the governance documents, approved at the meeting, had been sent to the Council who, subsequently, requested a couple of minor amendments to the MCC Constitution. These amendments were accepted by the Officers and an approved, signed version of the updated MCC Constitution had now been received from the Council. The approved versions of all of the documents were circulated to members (14th May) as final working copies. The MCC

web-site has been updated to include the approved MCC Complaints Procedure

- Re item 14 (AOCB: 4th bullet): MRW noted that the Golf Club had clarified the situation regarding the removal of fallen trees and the potential impact this might have on Drumburn Road. It has been confirmed that this work is likely to take place in October – November and Drumburn Road will not be used as an extraction route. Also replanting will take place and there will be no development on the cleared areas of land

5. Police Report

In PC Reiter's absence, JA presented the Police Report for the period since the last meeting, noting there had been no reported crimes in the area. No comments were arising and the Report was accepted.

JA thanked PC Reiter for his Report.

6. Community Trust Report

PT noted that the latest Working Group meeting had been held just a few days earlier and the final Report was, therefore, not yet complete. He will report back at the Annual MCP Review meeting.

ACTION: PT

7. Muckhart Community Plan: Update

A: Review of Action Plans

A few updates to specific items in the MCP were reported:

Image of the Village, I-1 Lead PW

PW gave an update on the application for £2,500 funding from the Calor Rural Community Fund to turn the path to the primary school into a nature trail. More votes are needed to be successful. Members and the community are urged to cast their votes via the Calor web-site (details of which had been previously issued, by MRW, to members and the community mailing lists via email).

JA reported that plans to improve the area around the Church Glebe has been progressed by MP who has prepared an outline design for discussion and consideration, which will be discussed by the Church Kirk Session at their next meeting.

It is envisaged that a consultation working group, made up of interested persons and neighbours, will be set up in the autumn to consider the best arrangement and, once agreed, the proposal will come to MCC for agreement.

Permission has been sought from the General Trustees (who own the land) to progress with the initiative. The following members of the community Council volunteered to be part of the consultation group: John Anderson, Peter Wyatt and Danny Conroy

JJ noted that EPIC may be able to help with this project.

ACTION: JA

Infrastructure: I-1/2, Lead MRW

Drumburn Road: MRW provided more detail on the plan to remove felled trees by the Golf Club which will be removed from MGC land without disturbance to the path. As a result, Mr. Tim Allan, the owner of Drumburn Road, had confirmed that he would arrange for the path to be cleared and improved using Type 1 path construction material. JA, with the support of all of the members, expressed his appreciation and thanks to Tim, on behalf of the whole community.

MRW, together with JB, met with the Council's Head of Roads, Alan Murray (AM), on 4th April, on behalf of the Working Group. Together, they reviewed the results and outcome of the community survey; the Muckhart Community Plan and its Aims and Objectives; the proposals, agreed at the last Annual MCP Review, to improve road safety and to improve and develop the path infrastructure, across the wider Muckhart area; and issues relating to the development of site H49.

The MCP proposals were discussed, in some detail, and AM agreed to investigate those elements which he believed the Council might be able to support. A follow-up meeting will be arranged with the Council.

ACTION: MRW

Re site H49, AM agreed that the Council would be prepared to discuss any proposals or issues raised by MCC, regarding site access, traffic management, parking, etc., relating to the proposed housing development at site H49, following the submission of a Planning Application by Springfield Properties.

An update meeting will be arranged with the Working Group to discuss the above, in detail, and to prepare for the Annual MCP Review meeting.

ACTION: MRW

Sustainability: S-2 Lead JJ

JJ drew attention to the Government's recent declaration of a climate emergency, noting that the Climate Change Committee had stated that unless action was taken the UK would not reach the target of zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. He also noted the commitment to prohibit burning fossil fuel in new homes by 2025. The latter may conceivably affect the proposed Springfield development and any similar proposals which may arise. JJ asked members how MCC might help our community to meet climate change obligations, e.g. by encouraging the uptake of home energy efficiency surveys.

JJ also noted that an Officer with environmental responsibilities had been appointed by the Council. Discussions are currently underway to arrange a community event to showcase the services available under the Home Energy Efficiency programme, to be arranged on either a Wednesday evening or on a Saturday. It was decided that JJ would prepare a proposal and, subsequently, email members with the details. A Wednesday evening, after the summer break, was preferred but this would be confirmed in the light of possibly using this event to hold other

presentations, e.g. a Fire Service / British Heart Foundation session on resuscitation, together with advice on fire safety or home fire safety visits.

ACTION: JJ

JJ went on to suggest other actions could be undertaken, e.g. encouraging the installation of a community wind turbine or a solar panel array. He noted that the Climate Change Report suggested the planting of some 1 billion trees in the UK and that perhaps MCC should talk to the Woodland Trust.

ACTION: JJ

B Preparing the 2019-2020 MCP

An Annual MCP Review meeting is to be arranged for the 28th August to review and up-date the MCP. JA will arrange one-to-one meetings with the Plan Leaders, over the summer, to discuss progress to date and presentations for the Review meeting.

ACTION: JA

8. Planning Sub-Group

A: Development of forestry – Arndean Estates

JA welcomed Mr Johnny Stewart, of Arndean Estates, to the meeting. JS outlined an application that had been made to Scottish Forestry, to establish commercial woodland on a site near Blairhill Farm, south of Muckhart. The bulk of the proposed 70Ha site is currently used as pasture land (for sheep) with a very poor water supply and which is very difficult to farm. Some 80% of the land will be planted with Sitka spruce (58Ha), surrounded by native hardwoods (7Ha). Adjacent SSSIs will be unaffected and will be protected. No hardwoods would be removed, however, established beech trees, which are classed as a non-native species, within the SSSI areas will need to be removed because of their canopy. There will be very little fencing. Comments on this proposal can be sent to the agents, Tilhill Forestry Ltd., before 18th June.

SD suggested that a Sub-Group be formed to review the application and to prepare comments, on behalf of MCC and our community. SD, PL, MP, PW and JJ agreed to make up this Sub-Group and will meet to discuss the application.

ACTION: SD

B: H49 and Springfield properties update

SD brought members up-to-date with developments since our March meeting. Following the last meeting, the Planning Sub-Group had written to Springfield and a meeting was held with them on 24th April to review progress with proposals for the development of H49. Further to this meeting, the Sub-Group had contacted the Planning team at the Council to request an initial meeting to discuss the proposed development. This request was received positively and a meeting has been arranged for the following Friday (31st May). Additionally, a further meeting has been arranged with Springfield, at their offices, in Larbert, on 7th June (described by the developer as an information meeting) to discuss how they plan to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the community and the Sub-Group during the consultation process. MCC understands that some 2 weeks after the meeting, Springfield plans to submit its Planning Application, at which point the Pre-Application Consulting process will end. SD noted the community's and the Sub-Group's disappointment with the level of detail received from Springfield during the consultation process.

JJ noted that it was necessary to engage with our MP, MSP and other elected representatives to gain their support, as developers often exceed the number of houses specified in Local Development Plans, as is being witnessed here, in Kinross and nationally. He noted that this sits within the need for a wider campaign regarding excessive development and warned that an application of this nature will not be the last to affect Muckhart. It was decided to keep all of our elected representatives informed and engaged.

ACTION: SD

C: MCC Proposals re H49

MRW introduced the document, previously circulated to members, which sets out proposals for discussion which are intended to address the key issues and concerns raised in relation to the development of H49 and which were to be adopted by the MCC. Further to discussion, the proposals outlined in the paper were agreed, together with one amendment (to replace the wording proposing a Zebra or Toucan crossing with that for a safe pedestrian crossing (item 3. b), fourth bullet).

JJ noted that we may be reaching the point that housing growth in the area will lead to severe pressures on local services.

D: Planning Democracy Conference

SD noted that he and PL had attended a Planning Democracy conference on 11th May. This organisation is essentially a pressure group which aims to inject more democracy into the planning process, in particular, to extending the right of third party appeals in the planning system. Plenary presentations were held together with a series of workshops which he and PL had shared attendance. A report had been circulated (however, links to reference papers did not appear to be working).

E: Revised Local Development Plan

SD reported that this will now be put before the full Council, without a School Estate Management plan (on which agreement has yet to be reached), at a meeting to be held on 27th June, as the overall Plan cannot be delayed further. Consultation will take place over the summer months and it is likely that MCC will need to work on this during the holiday period.

9. Muckhart Primary School: Update

In VW's absence MRW gave a summary of news received:

- The recent school BBQ had been well supported and raised £1,486
- The school would like to adopt the telephone box within the village and set it up as a library (SD noted that the box was still a working public phone, and that it was also a listed building, and that the school should be informed of this before proceeding further)
- The school Sports Afternoon is scheduled for 6th June, starting 1pm. All residents are invited to attend
- A former pupils' Facebook page has been launched for those who would like to keep up with how past pupils are faring. Past pupils are encouraged to share any memorable stories or photographs

- It was noted that the school should be advised of the proposed forestry works by Arndean (item 8 A. above) in case it affects activities or access **ACTION: MRW**

10. Treasurer's Report

DC presented the Treasurer's Report, for the period to 28th May 2019. The balance of the account stood at £1520.17.

Expenses to PL and SD for the Planning Conference had still to be reimbursed.

11. JCCF

DC noted that the last scheduled JCCF meeting had been postponed until 6th June, as it fell on the same day as the recent European Parliamentary Elections.

12. Correspondence

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

- Email (15/04/2019) re a Government survey on the value of local roads. MRW had been completed this, circulated it for approval and uploaded the submission on behalf of MCC
- Email (23/04/19) re the introduction of a new electric vehicle charging infrastructure from Lesley Deans. LD had confirmed that potential charging points would be located in public areas with a reliable mobile communications signal. It was agreed that the Council owned parking area, opposite the Coronation Hall, would be proposed as the preferred site for an initial charging point for the village with future consideration given to the proposed visitor area at the Church
- Communication (13/05/19) from the Kirk Session. An invitation for MCC to provide an arrangement for the Community Flower Festival to be held at the Church on 15 and 16th June

ACTION: JA

13. AOCB

Nothing arising.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC Meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th September 2019, at 7:30pm, in the Coronation Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.