

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held via MS Teams, on Wednesday 2nd June 2021, at 7:30pm

Present: John Anderson (JA) Chair
Mike Wilson (MRW) Secretary
Danny Conroy (DC) Treasurer
Philip Lord (PL) Minute Secretary
Stuart Dean (SD)
Jon Jordan (JJ)
Marlene White (MW)
Val Whyte (VW)
Peter Wyatt (PW)

Councillor Denis Coyne

Status: **Approved Draft: to be accepted at next MCC Meeting**

1. Apologies for Absence

JA welcomed members, Cllr Coyne and several residents to the meeting which was being held via MS Teams due to the current Coronavirus situation.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Kathleen Martin, PCs Barry Ritchie and Barry Reiter and members Matthew Pease (MP) and Patrick Thompson (PT).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 24th March 2021

The Minutes of the meeting of 24th March 2021 were approved, proposed by PW, seconded by JJ.

4. Matters Arising

- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 24th March, first bullet (Dog noise): JA drew attention to an update from Keith Johnstone, Principal Planner at the Council, circulated earlier, noting that the owners of the dog breeding business at The Granary had been asked to supply a retrospective application for planning permission or a Certificate of Lawfulness for commercial dog breeding use to clarify the regulatory planning position. At the time of the meeting no application had been received.
- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 24th March, second bullet (Muckhart Primary School broadband): MRW was pleased to report that the school's broadband service has now been fully upgraded. It has been reported that the service is now working extremely well and is already making a big difference. MCC's thanks go to John Allan, Head of IT at the Council, for the time and effort spent in delivering this solution.

- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 24th March, fourth bullet (Charging point): MRW reported that as the EV charging point has still not been connected, he had contacted Lesley Deans, at the Council, once again, who advised that she would contact the contractor to find out when the power supply, to be provided by SSE, would be connected. JJ noted this was a shocking waste of resources for it to be left idle for so long.
- Re item 10a, 24th March (Infrastructure Working Group): JJ noted that the zebra crossing now seems to have been renovated.
- Re Item 15, Correspondence, first bullet (Jubilee Green Canopy): JA noted that Tim Allan had been advised that a Working Group had been agreed, at our last Meeting, to support this initiative and that he had been invited Chair this group. It was noted that now the scheme had been officially announced, MCC should publicise the initiative on our web-site and Facebook page. **ACTION: MRW/MW**

5. Police Report

According to the Police Report issued, one crime had been reported since the last meeting, namely, a failure to stop after a collision involving vehicles which appeared to be racing on the A9. This incident continues to be investigated. The Report was accepted by all and JA thanked the officers for their input.

Resident Alison Macdonald (AM) noted increased volumes of traffic speeding through the village and wondered whether the Metrocount speed measuring system could be deployed again. JA noted this could be suggested to the Council. DC also noted that, as reported at the recent JCCF meeting, this month the police are to focus on road safety issues.

AM also noted, with regard to the dogs at The Granary, that they never seem to be exercised outdoors and are still howling. She also noted that cross bred puppies are being advertised for sale by the owners. AM would be mentioning this to the Police.

6. Burnfoot Hill Community Fund: Update

JA reported that MCC had now received all of the grants awarded earlier from the EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund (BHCF) - see Treasurer's Report, item 13. He also noted that Andy Davis has now been confirmed as the Muckhart community representative on the BHCF Panel and thanks were extended to him for taking on this role.

MCC also thanked all those members of the community who had applied for the position of advisory panel representative for Muckhart.

JA proposed that both the Event and Winter grants (worth £2,500 each) will be combined and go towards this year's Light up Muckhart (LUM) event. The LUM committee, acting as a Sub-Group of MCC, had organised a community event to gather views on proposals for Christmas lighting options in the village and the draft proposals had been circulated to members. Quotes are being obtained from two suppliers for equipment and local electricians were being approached to provide installation costs.

VW, who is representing MCC on the LUM group, noted that the group is a little behind with these approaches but they hoped to catch up soon. It was also noted that a Health and

Safety assessment was required and that documentation would be required to be prepared and retained for audit purposes.

VW also noted that MCC may need to agree and accept the quotation recommended by LUM before the next MCC meeting, scheduled for September, due to the lead in time presently required by lighting suppliers. It was confirmed that MCC will find a way to consider the quotations earlier, if required.

JA asked members to approve the proposed LUM expenditure of £5,000 which received the unanimous support of members.

Members also expressed their support for the progress being made by LUM and the group's approach to deciding on the appropriate Christmas lighting scheme for Muckhart.

Regarding the £1,500 available from the BHCF Micro-Grant fund (worth up to £500 per grant), JA noted that one application was in the pipeline. JJ, who had submitted the application on behalf of the Nature Park, pointed out that the application requested a grant to cover on-going seasonal maintenance costs at the Nature Park. He further noted that, due to the timing of the work involved, there was some urgency required for a decision. JA acknowledged the urgency and agreed to see what could be done regarding an early decision.

ACTION: JA

The next deadline for Micro-Grant applications is 18th August and it was agreed to further publicise these funds on the MCC web-site and Facebook page.

JJ also commented that the PDF form available on the web-site could not be completed online (MRW has since supplied the MS Word original). MRW proposed that, due to web-site limitations which mean that only PDF forms can be uploaded, he would update the supporting text on the BHCF page, accordingly.

ACTION: MRW

7. Muckhart Lend-a-Hand: Update

MRW reported that everything was going well with the MLaH initiative and that no further calls for support had been received, since our last meeting. He reported that a few Covid related emails from the Council, re the re-opening of library, payment and leisure services, etc., had been circulated to members and the community.

MRW also noted that it is possible that the MLaH initiative may be established on a permanent basis, beyond the COVID pandemic, to allow it to continue to offer the wide range of support which has been very much welcomed and appreciated, in particular, by those members of our community MLaH has been supporting.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent from our Chair to the organisers of this initiative for all the work undertaken in supporting our community throughout the pandemic.

ACTION: MRW/JA

8. H49 Planning Application: Section 75 Update

SD reported that the Section 75 agreement between the Council and Springfield had recently been agreed and signed and was now available on the DPEA website. However, although the agreement has been lodged with the Keeper of Registers of Scotland, it has not been formerly registered, a process that could take several months. Meantime, the Reporter is minded not to issue a decision notice until the S75 has been formerly registered, thereby resulting in a possible delay to the granting of planning permission for H49.

However, both Springfield and Clackmannanshire Council are of the view that, now that the S75 agreement has been lodged with the Keeper, a decision notice could be issued by the Reporter prior to formal registration. This matter has yet to be resolved but if the Reporter does not change his position on issuing a decision notice, it could be sometime before he does so, thereby delaying any start to the development.

PL asked about the results of the archaeological survey that was undertaken earlier this year. SD understands that nothing had been found that would prevent, or delay, the proposed development taking place. The publication and final archiving of the archaeological fieldwork, conducted by GUARD Archaeology Ltd., is likely to be completed in December 2021.

PL also noted the unsatisfactory answer that was received from the DPEA, early in April, in response to MCC's letter of complaint, submitted at the end of March. Based on the comments received from members, following the circulation of the response, it was agreed that no further response to the DPEA was to be made.

Resident Sarah Smart (SS) advised members of an unsatisfactory meeting that she and her neighbours, whose properties adjoin the H49 site and the proposed access road, which had been held with Springfield on the 12th April.

SS reported that Springfield was offering only a very basic wire fence, as a border between H49 and existing properties, which would offer very little protection and privacy. Concerns had been raised about the treatment of sewage and foul water and the proposed access road layout. SS was also concerned that the proposed re-located bus-stop would encroach on her land. Lastly, there were concerns regarding the welfare of elderly residents at the bottom of Green Loan due to proposals to build a show house very close to their property. Further to some discussion, members agreed that these concerns should be raised directly with the Council's Planners and it was recognised that residents living close to the proposed development are fully entitled to engage directly with the developer, and the Council, to ensure that their concerns are adequately addressed.

SD also requested that all residents, including those most directly affected, continue to inform MCC of any concerns they may have, moving forward, to ensure that MCC is able to continue to represent all of our community in any future meetings and discussions, both with the Council and the developer, regarding site H49.

MW thanked SS for keeping MCC informed, commenting that MCC needs to be continue to support our residents.

PL noted the need to provide a detailed briefing on the proposed H49 development to the incoming Community Council, later this year, as it will have to deal with this development as it progresses. This was also agreed.

DC noted that he had full size, printed copies of the proposed site layout should anyone require them.

9. Muckhart Community Plan: Updates

a. Image of the Village

PW reported that funding of £2,500 has been now awarded by the BHCF, based on a successful application submitted on behalf of our community, for the proposed Muckhart Nature Trail which is intended to support Muckhart's entry into the Beautiful Scotland competition, as outlined in the MCP. The Trail is based on plans submitted for school lane and is expected to take around 12 months to complete.

PW believes that perhaps half of the existing team of 12 volunteers, supporting the Beautiful Scotland entry, may sign-up to help with the Nature Trail and that further community volunteers, and input from the school, would be welcome. MRW will post an announcement, following the Meeting, and volunteers should contact PW if they wish to be involved.

ACTION: MRW

b. Infrastructure Working Group (IWG)

MRW noted that, further to JJ's earlier comment, although the zebra crossing features had been re-painted, the supporting electrical works remain outstanding, both at the crossing and at the eastern village gateway. He will follow-up with the Council, as earlier advice suggested that all of these works would be completed in April.

ACTION: MRW

c. Public Services

PL reported that there had been a further two meetings of the Kinross-shire Community Transport Group (KTCG). At these meetings, a proposal was made, by a group member with experience of working on the buses, to have the X53 service extended to Halbeath which would allow local communities to connect to a major transport hub, at a modest cost to First Group. This proposal may be attractive not only to Muckhart residents but also to Dollar and other Hillfoots communities. The group will be contacting the other Councils served by the X53 to see if they could support this idea. It was suggested by the KTCG that a letter of support from MCC (and from Dollar CC) would be helpful. This was agreed.

ACTION: PL/MRW

Resident Marion Robertson (MR) enquired if there had been any discussion of the X53 service at the recent JCCF meeting. DC replied that, so far, nothing meaningful had been discussed, however, he would propose this subject be added to the agenda for the next meeting. MR also noted that, very soon, the under 22's bus passes will become available and that this should increase demand for bus services.

It was agreed that publicity about the services should be posted on the MCC web-site and on our Facebook page.

ACTION: JB/MW

JJ noted the increasing number of bad potholes in the roads, which were extremely dangerous to cyclists, and that their repair needs to be prioritised.

10. Planning Sub-Group

a. Local Place Plan

SD outlined an email that had been sent to members recently, suggesting that the current consultation on Local Place Plans requires so much specialist knowledge, to enable a reasoned response to be made, that we should hold back on preparing and submitting a response. Further, there were many unknowns regarding how these Plans would operate and what they may contain. He suggested that the group set up should first receive more support on the matter from the Planning team at the Council. This was agreed.

ACTION: SD

PL asked if we knew the legal status of these Plans, as he feared that they might simply be a vehicle in which communities would express their wishes which, subsequently, would be ignored and, consequently, that their preparation would be a futile exercise. SD replied the legal status of these documents was still unclear.

b. Planning Applications

SD noted that, since our last meeting, MCC has commented on two planning applications, the erection of a new summer house at the Manse and an extension to a property in Kirkhill. MCC supported both applications and both have received approval by the Council.

11. Kirkhill Flooding

In JB's absence, JA advised that a consultant report, which was being funded by the Council, was being prepared and that volunteers from the Muckhart Flood Group were going to assist the consultant by monitoring and recording the results of the local burn water and rainfall levels. The report, with recommendations, will be submitted on its completion to the Council.

12. Muckhart Primary School: Update

VW noted that the school was now in countdown for the summer holidays and stated that the new, improved broadband service is now operating successfully at the school and the effect has been wonderful. VW thanked MRW and others for all their efforts in helping to deliver this new and improved service.

VW also noted that school role numbers were increasing and asked if any funding would be available from the proposed H49 development, for example, to establish the proposed outdoor nursery. SD stated that, overall, through the S75 agreement, it was expected that £295,000 would become available to the Council, to spend on Muckhart Primary but that it is not yet clear what influence MCC and the community might have on how this is spent.

13. Treasurer's Report

The balance of our account, on 30th May 2021, now stands at £8,399.11 following the receipt of £5,000, for Event and Winter project awards from the BHCF, plus £1,500 for Micro-Grants. The report was accepted by members.

On the question of setting up bank accounts to manage the BHCF grants, after some discussion, members agreed unanimously that:

- Up to 4 additional MCC accounts should be opened to enable proper management of all the grants, separately, and that the Treasurer will decide on the most appropriate account names
- The current MCC bank account has to be transferred to become an electronic bank account

ACTION: DC

JJ confirmed that, in his experience, it was best to establish one bank account, per grant.

14. JCCF Update

DC reported that there had been a very good meeting of the JCCF during which the new Area Commander for Police Scotland gave an overview of the work being conducted across Clackmannanshire, noting that the Police planned to conduct road safety operations in the area this month.

15. Correspondence

MRW noted that all of the issues highlighted in the Correspondence List, circulated earlier, had either been addressed already or would be covered in the next agenda item. He noted that, further to the consolidation of comments submitted by members, the SEStrans Regional Transport Strategy response (item 16/4/2021) had been completed and submitted prior to the survey close date.

16. Community Council Elections: Succession Planning

MRW noted the proposed timetable for CC elections, discussed at the recent JCCF meeting, which was accepted by members. MRW to advise Lesley Baillie. **ACTION: MRW**

JA advised that he had spoken individually with members re the forthcoming election and that, currently, four members have stated their intent to stand down and will not be putting themselves forward for nomination at the next election.

MCC, therefore, needs to ensure that at least five new candidates are nominated so that an election can be held. JA proposed that an event be held in the summer, which would be used to share information on MCC's projects and the work being undertaken by members, to help encourage members of our community to put themselves forward for nomination. MRW, DC and JJ volunteered to help organise this event.

After discussion, it was proposed to hold a morning event on Saturday 31st July, together with a further event, if required, on the evening of Wednesday 4th August, as prospective candidates are required to submit their nomination forms one week later.

The availability of these dates will be confirmed with the Coronation Hall and a risk assessment may be required, given the COVID situation. **ACTION: JA/MRW/DC/JJ**

Both JA and SD advised members that they would not be standing for re-election, and that, consequently, some thought would be required regarding future MCC positions and the continuance of MCC's work on planning issues together with oversight of the proposed H49 development.

17. AOCB

JJ noted that MCC could invite EDF to participate in an information evening regarding sustainability opportunities. Members agreed that this was a good suggestion and that other organisations should also be invited in the interests of openness and fairness.

MRW noted that he had recently received an email from residents stating that timber felling and extraction was due to start on Hillfoots Hill, at Dollar Forest, to the west of the village, and that the timber extracted will be transported east, along Upper Hillfoots Road, past the Japanese Garden, down to the A91. This work is due to commence in mid-July and timber movements lasting at least a 20 - 24 week period, including over the winter period.

MRW will contact the Council to ensure that appropriate signage is in place, that winter salting and gritting should take place and that residents will be advised of this activity, via the web-site and Facebook. He also noted that lorry movements are planned to be timed to avoid the Japanese Garden opening times.

ACTION: MRW

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC Meeting, to be followed by the AGM, will be held on Wednesday 8th September 2021, at 7:30pm, via MS Teams, unless otherwise advised.

JA thanked all for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9:27 pm.