

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held via MS Teams, on Wednesday 8th September 2021, at 7:30pm

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

The following incoming Community Council members were also present:

Andrew Davis (AD)

Chris Hardy (CH)

Gillian Thompson (GT)

Councillor Denis Coyne

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

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

JA welcomed members, new incoming Council 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 Matthew Pease (MP).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 2nd June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting of 2nd June 2021 were approved, proposed by SD, seconded by JJ.

4. Matters Arising

- Re item 4 Matters Arising, 27th January, 3rd bullet (Scheme of Establishment Consultation): MRW noted that an email, issued to members on 25th August, stated that Stage 2 of the public consultation on the CC Scheme of Establishment (SoE) had now started and was due to close on 27th October. MRW commented that

consultation deals with proposed changes to the SoE to encourage the use of digital and electronic methods of communication, for elections, communications and to hold meetings; the introduction of a formal Code of Conduct for all CCs; the adoption of a Complaints Procedure, formal or informal; and asks if anything is missing from the proposed Scheme or for ideas to enhance community participation and representation. MRW noted that the close date of 27th October gives very little time for comments to be submitted, discussed and agreed by members, as a whole. Further to earlier MCC web post, it was agreed that members should provide a response, as individuals. Further to a comment by SD, it was agreed to contact Lesley Baillie, at the Council, to see if there was any flexibility on extending the consultation period to allow the new MCC the opportunity to review and comment on the proposals.

ACTION: MRW

- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 2nd June, third bullet (Charging point): MRW noted that the EV car charging point by the Coronation Hall had still not been connected despite much correspondence on the issue. The latest reply from Lesley Deans (LD), at the Council, advised that she still hasn't received confirmation when the electricity supply will be connected by the power company. MRW quoted from a recent email from LD: *"I am awaiting an update from our contractor, as I chased them on all the outstanding issues last week. I will continue to chase this and let you know as soon as I hear anything back."*
- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 2nd June, fifth bullet (Green Canopy): JA observed that a Working Group had been set up in March and that Tim Allan had agreed to chair this group. A meeting was proposed for the near future and it was agreed this should be held at 7:00pm, on Wednesday 22nd September.
- Re Item 4 Matters Arising, 2nd June, First bullet (Dog noise): PL asked if there had been any progress made regarding the issue of dog noise from The Granary, noting that there still seemed to be howling and that puppies were being offered for sale on a regular, 7 month basis. PT noted that a local resident had recently sold her property, due to this issue, and that there was still dog noise coming from the property. JA agreed to follow up with Keith Johnstone, at the Council, to enquire if planning permission had been granted.

ACTION: JA

5. Police Report

According to the Police Report issued, since the last meeting, there had been a car theft in the Dunning Glen and road traffic offences by a female. Regarding the road traffic offenses there was no further information. Regarding the car theft, JB reported that the owner of the car had just left the vehicle to take a dog for a walk and was nearby when it was seized and driven off at speed. The lesson seemed to be to keep cars locked at all times.

The Report was accepted and JA thanked the officers for their input.

Further to the wild camping and littering issue, reported earlier, at Dunning Glen, JB noted that the police had been proactive in talking to campers. Not all campers left litter and there was no noise nuisance, but a minority were, unfortunately, leaving a lot of litter which was being tidied up and bagged by residents before being collected by P&K Council.

6. Burnfoot Hill Community Fund: Update

a. Christmas Lighting Contract

VW reported that three quotes had been received for the supply and installation of the Christmas light and that a decision needed to be made by 13th September. A meeting would be held tomorrow (9th September) to discuss the quotes. JA asked if any provision had been made for storing the lights and VW agreed to check this. DC asked whether the quotes included VAT, again, VW agreed to check this.

It was agreed that, given the short timescales to make a decision, approval was given for the Officers to approve the quotation, on behalf of MCC. JA will fix a date and a time for JA, DC, SD and PW to meet.

ACTION: JA

b. Micro-grant Applications approval

Three applications for MCC Micro-grants, each for the maximum of £500, had been received by MCC within the agreed deadline. These had been reviewed by the Advisory Panel and all three were agreed for approval by members (see the documentation previously distributed). Members agreed, unanimously, to approve these, proposed by PT, seconded by DC.

7. Muckhart Lend-a-Hand: Update

MRW had been in contact with Fran McNicoll, the MLaH Co-ordinator, who noted that no requests had been made for assistance since the last report. The funding to support those requiring Covid related assistance, provided by the CTSi, was still available and it is intended to keep the MLaH support initiative going post-Covid. The contact details remain the same, and are available via various media, including the Government's Covid pages, the CTSi Community Guide and the Council and MCC web-sites.

MRW also reported that emails relating to LFD test kilts had been issued.

8. H49 Planning Application: Update

SD gave a full and detailed update on developments since the last meeting. The Government Reporter granted the Appeal, on 15th June, despite earlier asking that Section 75 registration administrative processes had to be completed first. Work has now started, on the 9th August, initially, to allow access to the northern end of the site for SSE contractors to underground the power line. This involved creating an access ramp, from the A91, on the site of the former bowling green.

Meetings, between JA, MRW and SD with Springfield representatives, had been held on 14th July, 5th August and 1st September to discuss issues arising, including:

- Damage to the roots of trees, contrary to the conditions of permission to proceed
- Site security – initially the site was quite open but now fencing is being erected
- Siting of the bus stop

SD noted that communicating with Springfield had been difficult, as the community liaison officer promised by Springfield had not been appointed as a single point of contact. However, a telephone number and email address had now been provided and any calls made were being passed on to the appropriate person within Springfield.

GT requested that a member from the new MCC should attend any meetings with Springfield and the Council and volunteered to take on this role, once the new MCC was formed. She went on to note from past experience, that MCC would need to be quick to respond to any issues, as they arise, and pay close attention to the development at all times. CH suggested that a list of any issues raised, and any contraventions made, should be prepared and maintained, and made visible to the whole community, which should also include any responses from Springfield.

JA noted that there will be a need for Officers to update the new Council members on the H49 development.

JJ asked what recourse the Council has, if stipulated conditions are not met. PL also wanted to know this and agreed with GT that detailed records should be kept of infringements and communications with Springfield. Cllr Coyne was asked if he could comment on any possible actions that could be taken by the Council. He responded by noting that pressure should be kept on Planning, to ensure that policy was being followed, and that fines could be applied by the Council. He advised that the community should not allow Springfield to adopt the mindset that they think they can breach the rules and that any contraventions could be reported to him, if required.

GT echoed this advice and that the community should maintain a watching brief, at all times, even though this was likely to be exhausting. She noted that it was clear that when Springfield arrived on the site they did not understand it or the conditions in place that were required for them to proceed and cited the damage made to tree roots and issues with water and drainage, as examples. Resident Sarah Smart, whose property neighbours the site, agreed with GT. She had written to Paul Denham, the advised contact, re various issues. One of these was the constant shouting between workers on the site and use of bad language, however, she stated that the shouting still continues. Also, although Springfield had originally advised that a single point of contact would be appointed that this has yet to happen.

CH also agreed with Cllr Coyne, proposing that MCC needs to keep a continuous eye on Springfield and to document everything. He also suggested that weekly meetings should be held and documented and that it was essential to be in control of issues raised and not to be reactive.

MW raised the issue of drainage on the site which seems to have been a problem. PL noted there were drainage issues with the ditch in the field, to the east of Maudie's Loan, where the power cable was being located. It was also reported that sewerage pipes ran into the site and MW wondered if these were responsible for the unpleasant odours apparent earlier today.

JA raised the subject of Section 75 requirements and asked if any feedback had been received from the Parent Council (PC) regarding the proposals relating to the school. MRW confirmed that the PC had provided some feedback, for example, noting that the community we did not wish to see the foot path to the school tarred and lit and that a library extension was required at the school. He noted that the school and PC should engage with the Council's Education Department, as advised by Planning, and that MCC was prepared to remain engaged in this matter.

PL enquired whether anything had happened concerning landscaping. SD commented that, further to discussion with MCC, a future meeting with a representative of Springfield would take place regarding the landscaping of the site.

9. Muckhart Community Plan: Updates

JA introduced the need to update the Community Plan, noting that over the next few weeks he will be speaking with the various Leaders of the Action Plans about any updates and the handover to the incoming Community Council.

a. Image of the Village

PW reported that, now that the Coronation Hall was accessible again, he would assemble the volunteers for the establishment of the Nature Trail in the near future. Extra volunteers are always welcome and DC and JA offered their services. MRW noted that an update could be added to the web-site requesting further volunteers. He also noted that trees for planting could be provided by linking up with the Jubilee Green Canopy initiative and this was noted.

ACTION: PW/MRW

b. Flood Group

JB provided an update advising of on-going discussions and consultations, including a meeting with hydrological consultants, MVH. They are investigating ways to mitigate the risk of flooding and, following this, there may be a community meeting to discuss these. SD noted that the burn running through his garden, coming off Seamab via the west of Balliliesk, never dries up despite the upper stream sometimes running dry. Water must be coming from the intervening fields and this must be factored into plans.

JA noted that Plans need to be put in place and funding secured.

c. Infrastructure Working Group (IWG)

MRW noted that he has been in regular contact with Suzie Hynds, at the Council, throughout the whole period since MCC's last meeting regarding the completion of road safety works at the zebra crossing and at the gateway, at the eastern edge of the village. He reported that on Monday, SH had advised that the works "*... are still planned to go ahead. The issue we are having is the electrical contractors are still playing catch up from last year. In addition there is also a very high demand for all things electrical just now*". SH later advised, "*I've spoken to our electrical guy today... but we are just unfortunately stuck in this situation of essentially waiting our turn*".

10. Planning Sub-Group

a. Planning Applications

SD noted that, there had been no planning applications in the area since the last meeting. Cllr Coyne noted that one was expected soon regarding the telecoms mast behind Yetts 'o Muckhart.

11. Muckhart Primary School: Update

VW advised that there was nothing major to report to members. There had been a PC meeting at the school on the previous Monday and she was pleased to report that an extra teacher was available this year. The PC are looking into how best the community can support the school and what monies might be needed via fund raising activities.

12. Treasurer's Report

The balance of our account now stands at £10,592.01 which includes the BHCF grant funding plus funding for the Nature Trail. The report was accepted by members.

13. JCCF Update

DC reported that it was not clear when the next JCCF meeting would be held, given the imminent change in Community Council members, following the recent election.

14. Correspondence

MRW noted the following:

- The Council consultation (email: 23/06/2021) for suggestions for the names of the new streets within H49 had been responded to (response submitted: 13/07/21)
- MCC has been advised that the Coronation Hall now has an online booking system (email: 24/08/2021)
- A letter asking for support for the Clackmannan District Youth and Development Brass Band was noted (letter 01/09/2021). MRW to respond suggesting funding could be provided by the BHCF **ACTION: MRW**
- Emails relating to future MCC meetings, following the recent CC election, will be discussed in the next item

15. Community Council Elections: Update

MRW noted that the Deputy Returning Officer would chair the first meeting of the new, incoming MCC. In the light of the need for continuity, in particular, given the H49 development, he proposed that the inaugural meeting, during which the new Officers would be elected, should be arranged as soon as possible. The next MCC meeting could then take place, as scheduled, on 27th October with the new MCC being fully constituted and in place. Current and newly elected members agreed that this would be useful.

JJ further noted that there was no need to schedule the inaugural meeting on a Wednesday. MRW will follow up with Lesley Baillie. **ACTION: MRW**

16. AOCB

Nothing was noted.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC Meeting, is scheduled for on Wednesday 27th October 2021, at 7:30pm, via MS Teams, unless otherwise advised.

JA thanked all for their attendance and noted the AGM would follow immediately.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.