

# MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Muckhart Community Council, held via MS Teams, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, at 9:00

<b>Present:</b>	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 AGM Meeting**

### 1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence

JA welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Matthew Pease (MP).

### 2. Minutes of Meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted, with an agreed amendment to item 7, corrected to 2021. Proposed by DC, seconded by JJ.

### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Chairman's Report – by John Anderson

JA presented his report for the year, outlining MCC's achievements over the last twelve months, noting that members had served the community well, despite the difficulties imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and that significant achievements had been made over the last year.

JA went on to highlight specific areas of work which are outlined in the Chair's Report for 2020-21 which is appended below, for information.

JA thanked all members of MCC and the community who had continued to work on through the current crisis on the various action items in the Community Plan, on responding to the H49 development and other development proposals, and, in particular, SD for his expertise and dedication. He thanked especially MRW for all of his dedication to the MCC over the year as Secretary. Likewise, he thanked all of the Officers and Convenors for their hard work over the last year and all of the members of MCC.

Lastly, JA wished the new incoming Community Council every success in the years to come.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The audited MCC Accounts for the year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were presented to members. These showed the balance brought forward, from 2020, at £1,798. During the year, there had been expenditure of £329 and income of £400, leaving a balance carried forward of £1,869.

The Accounts were accepted, proposed by PL, seconded by MRW and passed unanimously.

JA thanked Alastair Cowan for his work in auditing the accounts.

## **6. Election of Office Bearers**

JA suggested that as the current Community Council has only five more weeks to run before the newly elected Council takes over, on 15<sup>th</sup> October, all current Officers and Convenors should remain in place. This was agreed to unanimously.

The office bearers, therefore, remain as:

<b>Chair:</b>	John Anderson
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Patrick Thompson
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mike Wilson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Danny Conroy
<b>Web-site Convenor:</b>	Jonathan Bacon
<b>Facebook Convenor:</b>	Marlene White
<b>Publicity Convenor:</b>	Peter Wyatt
<b>Minute Secretary:</b>	Philip Lord
<b>Planning Convenor:</b>	Stuart Dean
<b>JCCF Representative:</b>	Danny Conroy

## **7. MCC Meeting Dates for 2022**

The following dates were proposed by MRW and accepted:

- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Wednesday 23<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (*Note: Meeting to be followed by the AGM*)
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

MRW noted that the Coronation Hall has introduced a new on-line booking system and proposed that the new MCC, once in place, can determine when face-to-face meetings can resume. In the meantime, MRW will reserve the dates for future meetings, if it is agreed that these can take place, once again, in the Coronation Hall.

All meetings will start at 7:30pm and will continue to be held, via MS Teams, unless otherwise agreed.

#### **8. AOCB**

Commenting on the incoming Community Council having fewer members than the maximum twelve allowed under Council rules, DC noted that there was scope to co-opt further members to the new MCC, if appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**(The Chairman's Report 2020 - 21 is appended below, for information)**

# Muckhart Community Council

## Chair's Report 2020-21

### **1 Introduction**

It is my privilege to give the Chair 's report for the Muckhart Community Council for the last 12 months, a time which has been quite a challenge for us all as we and our community cope with COVID 19, each one of us, and our families will have different experiences in dealing with it.

An impact of Covid 19 for us as Community Councillors is that all our meetings for the last 18 months have been on MS teams which worked surprisingly well, albeit never as effective as face to face meetings.

Even though life has not been easy, where perhaps working and sub-groups groups have not been able to meet, the Muckhart Community Council has made significant achievements over the last 12 months, much of which has been around continuing to deliver the Muckhart Community Plan.

### **2 Planning and Development**

One of the main functions of the community council is to respond to Planning Applications, those have been scrutinised by our Planning Subgroup led by Stuart.

The group have also been involved in taking the lead in MCC responding to a limited review of the current Local Development Plan (LDP) and submitting comments on the local authority's Main Issues Report (MIR)

#### **Responding to planning Applications**

During the past 12 months, Muckhart Community Council has commented on all 11 planning applications submitted for the MCC area. In the vast majority of applications, MCC has supported the development proposal.

#### **H49 Development**

During the past year Muckhart Community Council has continued to deal with the H49 planning application for 50 houses in Pool of Muckhart. Following the refusal of the planning application (Ref: 19/00148/FULL) by Clackmannanshire Council in January 2020, the developer, Springfield Plc, appealed the decision.

In October 2020 the DPEA Reporter issued a Notice of Intention which stated that he was minded to grant planning permission subject to the signing and registering of a planning obligation under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. In June 2021 the Reporter subsequently issued a Decision Notice granting planning permission subject to 15 conditions being met. Work on the development finally started in August 2021 and it is anticipated that it will be completed by August 2023.

MCC is maintaining a watching brief over the development and is in regular contact with the developer over matters affecting the local community.

### **Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan**

Clackmannanshire Council continues to work on a review of the current Local Development Plan (LDP) but, during the past year, MCC has been involved with the review only to a very limited extent. No further consultation has taken place on the comments that MCC submitted in March 2020 on the Main Issues Report dealing with such matters as Development in the Countryside, the Muckhart Settlement Boundary, Housing Land Supply and Core Path/Active Travel Routes but it is anticipated that such consultation will take place over the coming months. The Council has reviewed the timescales for the next LDP and has determined that it will be adopted as quickly as possible after the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is approved. It is anticipated that NPF4 will be finalised in spring 2022 following 'extensive public consultation'. Meanwhile planning decisions etc are determined against the current LDP.

### **Local Place Plan (LPP)**

MCC also anticipates that it will be involved with drawing up a Local Place Plan (LPP) for the MCC area, as introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. LPPs give communities the opportunity to develop proposals for the development and use of land in their local area.

## **3. Improving the attractiveness of the village**

### **Nature Trail**

Following Muckhart's inclusion into the EDF Renewables Burnfoot Hill Community Fund for Clackmannanshire, a successful application was made in Q2 2021 for a grant for £2,500 to finance the development of a Nature Trail between Muckhart Village and Muckhart Primary School.

The Nature Trail is primarily intended for the benefit of the many young school children of today and for the generations to come. It will also make a valuable contribution to the MCP objective of preparing the village for an entry into the Beautiful Scotland competition.

Since the Trail is along a Core Path it is also hoped the peaceful rural setting will become a local attraction to all those seeking a stress-free and restful location to visit.

The grant will be used to purchase, for example, native trees, wild flowers and bulbs, nesting boxes, interpretation boards and a picnic table and bench.

Now that many Covid related restrictions have been lifted, it is hoped that the volunteers can be regrouped and firm plans agreed for the design and execution of all works within the next 9 months.

## **4. Muckhart Flood Group**

Muckhart Community Council, in response to the extensive flooding in Kirkhill, and working in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council and other agencies set up a Flood Group within the community, and incorporated their activities into the Muckhart Community Plan.

The Flood Group continues to engage with Clackmannanshire Council and the Hillfoots Flood Forum in the development of the flood action plan and first response strategies for

and when flooding concerns arise within the village. The flood group has recruited community members, who are also engaging with training and briefs on the use of the flood protection equipment provided by Clackmannanshire Council within the flood pod.

The group is also liaising with MNV (consultants) who have been engaged by the Clackmannanshire Council, (following the flood in Kirkhill in August 2020) to prepare a flood report, which will propose longer term remedial measures and actions that can protect Muckhart and the surrounding areas from extreme weather patterns. The report is nearing completion and on receipt, the Flood Group will share the information with local residents and the community council.

It is anticipated that the proposed measures and actions will require some partnership working between, Clackmannanshire Council, Muckhart Community Council, members of the community and local land owners to working together to reduce the risk of future flooding.

## **5. Muckhart Community Council Web Platform and Facebook**

A web platform and Facebook has been established over recent years by Jonathan Bacon and Marlene White, and this year it has incorporated the following;

### **Business development - skills register**

The adoption of the skills register has developed into the inclusion of the Yellow Pages list of local suppliers and trades who can help others within the area. The Muckhart Yellow Pages can be found on the website (follow link below) and is understood to be a great reference directory for existing and new residents. [MCC 'Yellow Pages'](#)

### **Active Community - web platform**

The website is continually being updated and we are encouraged that its use has grown over the last year or so, as more residents engage with the online content available. The Community Council has also adopted a shift to publishing all notices and reference documents onto the website, developing content and further prompting interactive online engagement.

### **Active Community - list of volunteers**

It was noted a volunteer support schemes are successfully operating within the community and that there was nervousness about online publishing of volunteering services, which may detract from other great work undertaken within the community. MCC continue to engage and support these schemes and will review requirements to strengthen any volunteer services as and when required.

## **6. Sustainability and Environment**

### **Invasive species**

A biodiversity group was set up many years ago, and one of their priorities of this group is to raise awareness of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed and explore actions which might be taken, working with specialists and landowners to facilitate removal of the species.

Meantime the issue has been discussed with landowners and further research into the issue indicates that to deal effectively with those invasive weeds the use of herbicides at the appropriate time seems to be effective.

### **Low Carbon Energy**

This year, Low carbon Energy and energy Efficiency became a section within the Muckhart Community Plan (MCP) to give more priority to that area within our community.

Low carbon and energy transition events had been held every September Prior to Covid for the previous 2 years, where partner organisations presented various forms of renewable initiatives, and discussed benefits of low carbon energy generation in homes through solar panels and heat pumps. These events have also looked at transport in the form of electric cars and electric bikes, and an important part of these events has been an explanation of the grants & loans that are available to support them.

It is believed those initiatives are having a positive impact within the Muckhart Community where residents are taking advantage of the financial opportunities available, and it is believed that there are now at least;

- 7 electric vehicles (EV), 2 plug in Hybrids (PHEV) and a large number of electric bikes
- 5 homes heated by heat pumps and several have Photo voltaic panels (PVs) on roofs

An electric car charging point has now been installed outside the Coronation Hall.

## **7. Transport**

Philip Lord has been representing Muckhart Community Council on the Kinross shire Community Transportation group, which considers the effectiveness of the X53 bus service through Muckhart.

The group were instrumental in recently encouraging First bus to increase the number of buses running through the village each way to Stirling and Kinross (now 9 buses each way per day).

The group have recently made a proposal to First Bus and the relevant local authorities to extend the X53 bus service to Halbeath Park and Ride, which would give direct access to an excellent transport Hub

One of the community council priorities is to find ways of encouraging residents to make more use of the current bus service. If we don't use the bus service we will lose it.

## **8. Infrastructure**

### **Broadband and communication**

Significant progress has been made in the improvement of the broadband service within the local community, thanks to the hard work and persistence of Mike, who has worked closely with the Clackmannanshire Council, the primary school and other partners;

- Briskona fixed wireless superfast broadband solution have been made available to outlying properties, who were struggling to get a reasonable broadband speed, and for whom BT Openreach were unable to improve their service.
- Briskona fixed wireless solution has vastly improved performance of the broadband service within the primary school and has also contributed to a much more efficient communication service during home working in times of Covid.
- As an alternative to R100 cable, voucher schemes identified; cellular / mobile broadband alternatives to fibre and options will be communicated to residents on on-going basis.

The Community Council's Business Development Working Group (BDWG) will continue to monitor developments with R100 cable broadband and help address specific infrastructure issues.

### **Improving Road Safety**

The Community Council has worked tirelessly with the Clackmannanshire Council to improve road safety, including the re-painting of the Yetts road junction, the installation of village gateway signs, together with other improvements, at the zebra crossing, the installation of deer warning signs along Golf Course Road and has liaised with the Council on the road safety initiatives being installed as planning gain from the H49 housing development.

### **Develop and Improving Path network**

The Community Council has worked with the Clackmannanshire Council and other partners to develop and maintain the path network in the vicinity of Muckhart, including proposals for a new path at Naemoor, along the A823, and to develop new recreational and Active Travel routes, between Muckhart and Dollar, utilising the planning gain from the H49 housing development.

Mike, with the support of a growing number of Infrastructure Working Group members, continues to push for a wide range of road safety and path improvement measures across the whole Muckhart area, as we await the appointment of a new Council Traffic Management and Road Safety Officer.

## **9. Education**

The Community Council have provided significant support to the primary school throughout the last 12 months

### **Road safety**

- Organised "pop up" policemen to assist the parents with the children's road safety At crossing points and slow down speeding traffic throughout the village.
- Liaised with Clackmannanshire Council on behalf of the school to improve and Maintain the zebra crossing (repaint road markings etc).

### **Internet connectivity at school**

- Worked closely with Clackmannanshire Council and Briskona to provide a fixed wireless



Solution which has vastly improved the performance of broadband in the primary school, contributing to a much more efficient communication service during home working in times of Covid.

- Worked with the School and Parent Council to assist in establishing the planning gain initiatives from H49 housing developments.

#### **10. Burnfoot wind Farm Community Fund**

At the Advisory Panel meeting of the **EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund**, held in October 2020, the panel members voted unanimously to support MCC's request for Muckhart to join this fund and, subsequently, to take a seat on the Fund's Advisory Panel.

As a result, Muckhart organisations and groups are now able to apply for grant funding – up to £5,000, per application – for a wide range of projects, which can be demonstrated will bring clear benefit to our community.

MCC have also being given two further grants (a Winter and an Event grant), on an on-going, annual basis, which this year Foundation Scotland have agreed that both grants can be put to Christmas lighting within the village. We are grateful for light Up Muckhart (LUM) for agreeing to undertake this initiative (as a sub group of the community council) on behalf of our community.

MCC are also be able to access and award individual Micro-grants, worth up to £500 each, (a total of £1500 per annum) designed to fund local, small-scale projects, again, which can be demonstrated to benefit our community. Those grants (for year 2021) will be awarded shortly to the successful applicants. Grant applications are invited for next year's allocation (2022) of EDF Micro Grants to be submitted before the first deadline expected in May 2022.

Three Panel members, comprising of two members from Muckhart Community Council (John Anderson and Peter Wyatt) and one member appointed from the wider community, (Andy Davies) represent Muckhart on the wider Clackmannanshire Advisory Panel, which decides upon the larger grant awards, based on entitlement and the benefits to be gained, as described in the grant application.

#### **11. Acknowledgements**

Despite the challenges set by Covid, it is clear that Muckhart Community Council has had another very busy and successful year, involving a lot of hard work by members and others.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the office bearers in the Community Council for their hard work over the last 12 months;

<i>Vice Chair;</i>	<i>Patrick Thomson</i>
<i>Secretary;</i>	<i>Mike Wilson</i>
<i>Treasurer;</i>	<i>Danny Conroy</i>
<i>Planning Convener;</i>	<i>Stuart Dean</i>

And those very important convener positions;

*Web site Convener: Jonathan Bacon*  
*Facebook Convener: Marlene White*  
*Publicity Convener: Peter Wyatt*  
*Minute Secretary: Philip Lord*

I wish to thank those who are standing down after many years of service for their commitment to the community council;

*Mike Wilson, Stuart Dean, Pater Wyatt, Philip Lord, Val Whyte*

Also wish to thank our Councillors for all of their support throughout the year;

*Graham Lindsay, Kathleen Martin and Denis Coyne*

*Our MSP, Keith Brown*

*Our auditor, Alastair Cowan*

And our thanks to *Lesley Baillie of Clackmannanshire Council* for all her valuable support and guidance, and also thanks to other offices from the local authority.

Thanks to you, the members of the MCC for your valuable contributions and commitment to the community.

Thanks to members of the community for your support of the MCC

Thanks to Light Up Muckhart (LUM) for their valuable support in organising our community Christmas Lighting, not an easy task, and we wish them every success in bringing this initiative to a successful conclusion.

**Sincere thanks to all those who have stood for election to the new MCC and finally, we wish the new Muckhart Community Council every success in the years to come.**

***John Anderson***  
***Chair***  
***Muckhart Community Council***

*8<sup>th</sup> September 2021*