

Strathard Community Council AGM
1st June 2017 Kinlochard Village Hall

- 1. Sederunt:** Michelle Colquhoun, Ros Dingwall, Michelle Flynn (Stirling Council), Trevor Gerhaty, Councillor Jeremy McDonald, Toto McLellan (Minute Secretary), Jimmy Quinn, Geraint Short, Colin Smith, Stuart Stephen, Fergus Wood, two Police Officers
- 2. Apologies:** Fiona McEwan, Evelyn Tweed, Meg Wright
- 3. Chairperson's Report:** Attached. Approved JQ seconded TG
- 4. Annual Statement of Accounts::** Attached. Approved GS seconded TG

At this point Councillor McDonald took the Chair for election of Office Bearers

5. Appointment of Office Bearers: the following were elected:

- **Chair:** Trevor Gerhaty. Proposed by RD, seconded by AG
- **Vice Chair:** Colin Smith: Proposed by RD, seconded by SS
- **Secretary:** No members present came forward for election. Meg Wright will be approached by JQ, and the matter will be taken forward accordingly at the next meeting.
- **Treasurer:** Stuart Stephen: Proposed by CS, seconded by RD.
- **Planning & Licencing Officer:** Colin Smith. Proposed by SS, seconded by MC.

NB: Trevor Gerhaty has agreed to stand as interim chair, Michelle Flynn having assured the meeting that training for office bearers will be provided by Stirling Council.

Next meeting 6th July 2017 at Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.

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A warm welcome was extended to new Officebearers.

3.Previous Minutes: Minutes for May 2017 were approved by CS and seconded by SS, with the following two amendments: At item 5, the building referred to measures one and a half storey, wrongly noted as two storey. Michelle Colquhoun was mistakenly detailed as Michelle Rankin.

It was noted that previous minutes were circulated by email, and that Stirling Council did not receive them, suggesting omissions in the relevant distribution list.

4.Police Report: As a courtesy to the Police Officers present, this item is held as first business. (Report Attached)

5.Matters Arising: Camping Byelaws: Following the recent incident at Loch Chon, a update was requested on procedure for dealing with offenders. Police Officers present gave assurance that procedures were in place, and that there is an Allocated Officer for LL&TNP, PC Barr. Concern was expressed that the web site now in place following the new laws may be drawing more people, and consequently the potential of more trouble. Clarity was sought on how Officers would effect access to the island of Eilean Gorm in the event of a disturbance. Officers present will make PC Barr aware of these queries, and will provide feedback at the next meeting, The following points were noted: Police Officers will use discretion, and will not necessarily disturb peaceable campers. Those causing disruption or identified as a potential threat will be removed. National Park Rangers are authorised to charge campers as needed. **Braeval Speed Limit:** An article will appear shortly in the Stirling Observer on this topic. Councillor

McDonald gave assurance that the push for a speed limit in this area is moving forward. **Mobile Mast:** Following enquiries, assurance has been given that the mast proposed at the Memorial Hall will be too high to cause health concerns. **Road Closure at Ballat:** The meeting scheduled in connection with this issue has not yet taken place. **LL&TNP Partnership Plan:** Consultation is ongoing, with a 3rd July deadline for response, which CS will co-ordinate. Feedback for this was requested. The document was commended as a worthy body of work, but drew the following several concerns from the floor: the emphasis in the document falls heavily towards tourism. Large swathes of our locality are left without mention of their existence. Residents, their employment, infrastructure and sustainability are never mentioned. This gives the impression that the area is being viewed primarily as a cash cow. Grave concern at this attitude was expressed in light of the acknowledgement that the National Park is under extreme pressure to open the Park up, and that this, coupled with the fact that few if any Permanent Officers live within the Park area, is leading to a marginalisation of residents' requirements for sustainability.

The point was also raised that all advances seem to involve destruction of the natural environment, and discommodation of residents. FCS, RSPB, and SW are continually laying down tracks and erecting poles through the natural countryside involving thousands of tons of hardcore which is never removed, and never challenged. The fact that FCS needs only to give advance notification of these activities, and requires no planning or consultation process, gives rise to great concern.

It was strongly felt that infrastructure should be put in place for camping in advance of encouragement of greater numbers of visitors through advertisement of new camping bylaws.

Community Development Trust: It was felt that the CDT should liaise more with the Community Council. **Meeting Attendance:** Also, it was felt that representatives from the main bodies active in the area (FCS, SW, NP, RSPB, LL&TNP) should attend Community Council meetings. A Planning representative from LL&TNP would be particularly useful. It was agreed to invite relevant parties to September meeting. TG will approach Scottish Water, and SS will approach FCS.

6.Planning: It was noted that LL&TNP planning website has changed. **Altskeith Hotel:** This application was returned to committee, and approved. **Creag Mhor View Aberfoyle:** Application for a single storey extension. **FCS:** Notifications of track formation at Blairvaich (90m), South of Blairvaich (distance unspecified) and at aqueduct (unspecified). **Altskeith Cottage:** Conservatory approved. **Ledard:** Current proposal withdrawn. **Loch Arklet:** Re-establishment of penstock

approved. This term was clarified as referring to the down pipe from loch to turbines. **Aberfoyle Co-operative:** Application for change of signage and branding. **Questions and comments from the floor:** **FCS** should be requested to provide a projection of their track-laying intentions. **Braeval:** There seems to be some construction activity - was permission sought? **Camping Management** signage- was permission sought? More information on these signs would be useful.

7. Correspondance: Most discussed as above. A report has been received from FCS regarding goats and rhododendrons.

8. Stirling Council Issues: A821: Notification has been received of possible closure to the A821 in October for one week. Disruption to deliveries, post and medical access in addition to commuter and residential problems are to be expected and will cause concern. A public meeting was suggested, to raise awareness and give the people most affected time to make arrangements accordingly. The possibility of work being done in the evening is unlikely, as a specific temperature range is required for the works. Use of a smaller machine has already been requested historically, and is not a viable proposal in the provision of superior road surfacing. The question was asked if the compromise of standard surfacing, and therefore smaller machines was possible? The provision of a Roads Department vehicle to convey people to the Rob Roy to meet buses was suggested. **Lochard Rd:** The recurring problem of slippage on the B829 near Laraich was noted and will be raised with Stirling Council. **Aberfoyle Cemetery:** Complaints were heard re upkeep. Grass cutters are inconsiderate, and have caused breakages with trimmers. **Tree-lopping:** Concern was expressed that this is happening within nesting season. SC will be asked what their policy is on this subject, and if a better time could be sought.

9. Finances: No inputs or outputs. It was confirmed that the Strathard Community Trust is available to assist the Community Council with applications for and receipt of funding.

10. Reports: Councillors: Councillor Martin Earl is progressing the issue of speed limits at Braeval. **Flood defences:** Reassurance is being sought from the Scottish Government on the continuing availability of funding. **Rural Hub:** Attention was drawn to the fact that Rural Hub has resource available to help projects, such as signage and pods for events. Suggestion was made to invite a representative to meeting to gain more information. A Heritage Trail project was mentioned, and the possibility of signage detailing history of our various areas.

11. Meetings Attended: CS and SS met with National Park Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations, the delegated Police Officer, and Ranger Team Leader. Discussion included procedure for dealing with infractions, as

detailed above. It was felt that people who reported an incident or concern should be shown the courtesy of a follow-up call to let them know that the matter had been dealt with. Councillor McDonald agreed to contact other Parks for discussion to gain the benefit of their experiences.

12.AOCB: Vodafone: have been testing on Ledard land- details will be forwarded to Stirling Council. **Tree Preservation Order Review:** it was thought that highlighting trees of note in the area would be worthwhile. Suggestion was raised to include an article on significant trees in the September edition of the Strathard News. **Funding Procedure:** During discussion on funding, CS raised the point that not all communities have a person or persons adept at accessing funding, or skilled in maintaining the sometimes lengthy momentum necessary to bring their requirements to light with the relevant funding bodies. Suggestion was made that some manner of outreach programme should be instigated by the funding bodies to identify such communities, and ascertain their needs. **Bridge at Balfron Station:** This will be closed for a three-week investigation, following which a decision will be made as to the way forward. **Outgoing Office Bearers:** A vote of thanks was extended to Fiona McEwan and Ros Dingwall for their hard and worthwhile work as Chair and Secretary to the Community Council over many years.

Next Meeting 6th July 2017 at Aberfoyle Memorial Hall