

Strathard Community Council

Minutes of meeting: Thursday 7th March 2019 at Kinlochard Village Hall

Community Councillors.. Trevor Geraghty, Michelle Colquhoun Joyce Kennedy. Lynda McColl. Jimmy Quinn

Attending:. John Hair (FCS). Cllr Evelyn Tweed, Police Scotland,
Billy Ronald (NP). Toto McLellan (Minute Secretary). 4 members of the public

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>1. Opening 2. Apologies 3. Prev Min</p>	<p>T. Geraghty chaired the meeting and introduced John Hare of FCS Gillian McEwan, Stuart Stephen</p> <p>Proposed: JQ Seconded; JK. With the following amendments: Police: Break-ins reported were not multiple. Nine sheep were lost to a dog attack at Kirkton Farm. Duke's Pass: Cllr Tweed and PC McKerracher have both also raised the topic of the Duke's Pass with Stirling Council.</p>	
<p>4. John Hare FCS</p>	<p>John Hair of FCS gave a presentation on haulage activity in the area, FCS methods of engaging with the public, and forward planning strategy. Planning: Each area has a specific 10yr Forest Plan, which commences with internal and external consultation, dialogue with stakeholders (NP, SC Roads, SNH, SEPA, Community Councils and adjacent neighbours), and public drop-in sessions where appropriate. The recent involvement in Management Planning of 6 volunteers from the local community is viewed as constructive by FCS, with excellent multi-purpose outcome, and this will be implemented next in Loch Achray forest, with 4 volunteers. Following completion, the management plan goes to formal public consultation, with a 28 day period for comments to Conservancy Office. Any issues or objections come back to FCS, in the absence of objections the plan is rubber stamped and published on the web. Mr Hair was asked how specific the plans are when published, particularly with regard to load statistics, and answered that points of exit plus total volume of timber will be detailed, but it is difficult to forecast when timber will start moving. Annual updates in the Strathard News are more specific. Mr Hair was asked if appeal could be made against details in the specific update, or just within the original 28 days, but conversation moved on without this point being answered. Haulage: A map of harvesting areas was displayed. Over a 10 month period, A total of 70 loads out of 870 will come through Aberfoyle. The preferred exit from the forest is at the Hoisch, taking 80% of total extraction. Only extreme financial considerations due to distance override this option. The example of Castleburn was given, which is 15km from the Hoisch, as opposed to 4.5 km from Aberfoyle. Cost to the Hoisch, excluding road repairs, is £6.50 per ton, and 30,000 tons will be extracted. Mr Hair was asked about the Timber Fund which can contribute 70% towards costs incurred by Local Authorities for repair to roads used by FCS traffic, as there is a question as to whether the B829 and Manse Rd bridge, although technically and legally accessible, are fit for purpose to carry such traffic, and it was thought that improvement to passing places and road surfacing would be in order. Restriction signs used to be in place on the B829 and were</p>	

	<p>removed. The application period for the Timber Fund has just opened, to be inspected by FCS in October, and the following points were clarified: Costs must be future projection, not historical. Application must be lodged by Local Authority. Work must be completed and invoiced within the financial year. Local Authority 30% contribution may be made up of funds already allocated internally for road repairs. Application must be supported by the landowners who are providing the timber. Unfortunately, as regards the B829 west of Kinlochard, no further timber will be extracted on this route, so it would not qualify for future projection. Cllr Tweed was asked to work with her fellow Councillors towards ensuring that Stirling Council applies to the scheme, Mr Hair will forward his contact details. Billy Ronald (NP) was asked to gain support from the National Park.</p> <p>The meeting acknowledged the voluntary lengths gone to by FCS to avoid inconveniencing residents and to respect school timetables. TG thanked Mr Hair for his very informative presentation.</p>	<p>Cllr Tweed J Hair</p> <p>BR</p>
<p>5.Transport Update & Ride-share</p>	<p>DRT: The service has improved greatly. TG has contacted Community Engagement and DRT regarding the possibility of a 7day service. Car-share: Public funding is available to set up car-share schemes.</p>	
<p>6.NHSFV & Surgery Update</p>	<p>TG proposed election of a new Associate Member to the Community Council; Isobel Madden, former Assistant Director of NHS Education for Scotland, specialising in Rural Dentistry. Isobel is also a member of the Friends of Aberfoyle & Buchlyvie Medical Practices group. Seconded by JQ and approved. Frustration is felt at the lack of progress with the recruitments promised by FVHB, and the Board's retention over the past year of the £100k earmarked for medical support to the area. It was reported that Practice Manager John McLeod has heard nothing from the Board either. No response has been received to multiple queries regarding where the promised posts are being advertised. IM set out the following points which must be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NHS have a national 'Return to Work' initiative, the board must be asked if they are adhering to this. 2. NHS have a commitment to develop Health Hubs with health workers working in local areas, for which Aberfoyle would be perfect, as 80% of residents live closer to Aberfoyle than Buchlyvie: they must be held to account on policy. 3. New graduates tend not to want to go into General Practice, primary care workers to support the doctors we already have should be the aim. The Health Board must be advised that the current centralisation of these services does not work. 4. An impasse exists regarding who should manage the Aberfoyle building, as it is owned by the doctors. This must not be allowed to delay placement of staff. It was noted by TG that a fund exists to facilitate selling such premises back to the government; as a community asset, all of the building could be used, rendering it more sustainable. At the moment FVHB fund the running costs for the building, but do not fund the staff in it. <p>IM recommended persistence of direct, non-emotional questions towards FVHB, and with an AGM approaching, appealed for residents to join as members of the Friends of Aberfoyle & Buchlyvie Medical Practice, which supports the surgeries. The group began as a fundraising body, evolving into a support group during the crisis generated by FVHB's forcible closure of pharmacy provision within the practice. The group now requires a chairperson and may fold without support. In this event, it was suggested that Community Councils band together to create a replacement.</p>	

7. Broadband Available	No change. Aberfoyle has started a WI-fi scheme..	
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8. Kinlochard Vision Plan Update	An excellent day was held at the Pier Café, Stronachlachar, to launch consultation into a Vision Plan Statement for Inversnaid and Stronachlachar, following the warm and enthusiastic support the process has experienced in Kinlochard. Economic development, housing and infrastructure needs were discussed, with wholehearted engagement across the community. A further briefing session will be held in 2 weeks time, comments online are encouraged, and all comments will be assembled into a document for submission to the National Park's 5 year Development Plan. JK and Jamie were thanked for their hard work on the Vision Plans, comment was made that this new feed into existing infrastructure may help with doctor provision in the area. Cllr Tweed commented that such consultations are helpful, as holiday homes, 2 nd homes, school mothballing/closure and lack of building within communities are problems which need to be looked at as a whole, and the National Park and Stirling Council must listen to what the people want. One member of the public said that the Kinlochard Vision Statement was a fairy tale wish list with no legs, which had no room for the entrepreneur.	
9. Treasurer Report	Treasurer not present..	
10. Planning	Shore of Ard: Permission has been granted retrospectively for fences taken down at the lochside with neither planning permission nor change of use. 3 complaints were received. Pre-planning Applications: Mast: Mast at Stronachlachar. Holiday Homes: 12 units on the site of Stronachlachar stores. Cllr Tweed will look at plans.	Cllr Tweed
11. Correspondence	SC Business Development Officer: Promote your Business: A Makers Market will be held in Strathard on 22 nd to 24 th March, posters have been distributed listing the events.	
12. S. C. Issues & Councillors Report	Housing: Cllr Tweed gave statistics on current building: At the moment SC Housing Department is actually split over a number of departments, with 230 housing staff. A Chief Housing Officer has been taken on, with workshops to improve communication. Stirling Council are looking at a local points structure; a cycle has been identified whereby a generation desperate for houses has moved on by the time the houses are built, which are then filled by people from other areas. SC has a target of 700 homes to be built in the area. The National Park has been asked by SC for a presentation on their housing plans, to facilitate working together. Resurfacing: The A870 and the A81 are to be resurfaced early in the new financial year. Liaison with Port of Menteith was encouraged, to agree on best dates.	Contact
13. Reports	Police: Report provided. National Park: Litter: The National Park has taken someone on to identify the litter problem in the area. BR was asked to convey a request for signage informing people of locations for rubbish disposal and recycling, and opening times thereof.	BR
14. Flood Forum	No movement. It was reported that Stirling Council will submit a bid with detailed plans in December 2019 for funding for the Aberfoyle flood works. An answer is expected from Scottish Government in 2020 as to whether they will fund this. Following approval, work would be completed in 2024. The new	

	scheme was reported as much improved, and covering a bigger area.	
15Resilience	There is a great deal of work which needs done now.	
16.AOCB	<p>Wee Blue Book: A time limit was agreed of one month following contact with Fiona McEwan for information on progress and costs for the Wee Blue Book. The Community Council is prepared to seed cash flow for its production, but if no information is forthcoming within this timeframe, it was agreed to vote on discontinuation. Blocked Drain: A drain was reported as blocked at the Altskeith Hotel. The Pass: Trees were reported as overhanging the road at The Pass on Lochard Rd. Chemical Toilets: A request was made to BR for the National Park to address the issue of disposal of chemical toilet waste from camper vans.</p> <p>Minutes: It was reported that Community Council minutes have not appeared online since October. Lynx: TM attended a poorly organised information session on the idea of reintroduction of the lynx. Opinion of worried local farmers and residents was belittled, and much information available online to the detriment of the scheme was omitted. It was agreed to ask the National Park to voice objection to the scheme.</p>	<p>Contact</p> <p>BR</p> <p>Letter</p>

Next meeting: 7.15pm Thursday 4th April 2019 in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall