

West Fife & Coastal Villages Community Council Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2014 at 7pm in Blairhall New Community Centre

Present: Muriel Colver, Marie Crane, John Crane, Willie Hepburn, David A Lord, John Duffy, David Wall.

Attending: Cllr Willie Ferguson, Shelia Carabine, PS Jillian Neill.

1.0 Apologies: Jim Hensman, Ann Macdonald, Tim Collins, John Bonnar, Cllr Bobby Clelland, Cllr Alice Callaghan, Cllr Kate Stewart.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to amendments.

3.0 Matters arising:

- Changing the signatories on the bank account - carried forward, DL
- Appointing a new secretary – JB had spoken to a member of Fife Council. However they were not interested in taking up the position - carried forward, JD
- Amending the Forum's constitution – carried forward, DL
- Gift for Hazel – Carried forward until signatories are changed

4.0 Police report: PS Jillian Neil gave an overview of Community Policing within West Fife which now comprised of 7 officers.

It was noted that:

- PS JN hoped to attend all of the local Community Council meetings to introduce herself and discuss Community Policing.
- Community engagement meetings would continue but needed to be publicised better. Joint surgeries between the Police and Councillors were also being held in High Valleyfield and Kincardine.

It was suggested that the community engagement meetings and regular Policing updates could be advertised through local facebook pages, the West Fife Villages website and the new notice board in Kincardine. It was agreed that the fact that the community engagement meetings were open to public needed to be highlighted and publicised better.

- The public counter at Oakley Police Station was scheduled to close on 28 February. JN stressed that the best way to contact Community Policing Officers was to ring 101.
- A spree of break-ins had taken place throughout South West Fife within a two week period.

5.0 Councillor Report: Cllr WF advised that he had raised concerns with Bear Scotland and Fife Council about:

- The condition and speed limit on the A985
- Trucks turning onto the A985 from Devilla Woods
- Road salt being used on the Kincardine Bridge

It was noted that maintenance works was being carried out on the Kincardine Bridge.

6.0 Community Councils feedback:

Blairhall CC. MC advised that:

- The new footpath from Blairhall to the National Cycle route was now complete.

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- LDR had held a consultation on plans for a new housing development on South Avenue. However this had been poorly attended.
- People were complaining about quad bikes on the national cycle route and in the woods.
- The Police had apprehended the person responsible for spiking the tyres of vehicles in the Centre's car park.

Carnock and Gowkhill CC. Nothing to report

Kincardine CC. DH advised that:

- Daffodil displays within the village had been vandalised.
- Money had been secured for a new electronic notice board.
- A community development trust was to be set up.

Saline & Steelend CC. JC advised that:

- The Community Council were struggling to deal with the increasing number of wind farm proposals and applications at Muirside, Loch Shaw Moss, Outh Muir , Blairadam.
- The Community Council had ongoing concerns about the condition of the A823.

Low Valleyfield CC. DW advised that:

- Network Rail were carrying out work on the fence along the railway line.
- Historic problems with a resident were ongoing.

Torryburn & Newmills CC. JD advised that:

- Torryburn Church was to be placed for sale on the open market. The newly set up Community Development Trust were hoping to buy the Church using the Community Right to buy legislation.
- The formal opening of the new play park was being planned.

A discussion ensued about the governance of development trusts and their relationships with community councils.

7.0 Planning issues: It was noted that:

- Fife Council were holding a drop in event at Inverkeithing Civic Centre on Thursday 13th March between 3:30pm and 6:30pm to discuss proposals for siting wind turbines on Council land in South West Fife.

The sites identified in West Fife were Blairhall New Community Centre, Blairhall Bing, Valleyfield Woods, Tulliallan Golf Course.

JD advised that he had contacted the Climate Change & Zero Waste Team and had asked them to come along to the next forum meeting.

- A public enquiry was to be held to examine Dart Energy's appeal against the refusal by Falkirk and Stirling Councils to grant planning permission for Coal Bed Methane extraction around Airth near Larbert.

Cllr WF and WH gave an overview of the proposal, the CEM process and other potential extraction processes. It was agreed that the Forum would keep a watching brief on the matter.

8.0 AOB. JD asked the members of the Forum to forward on any suggestions they had on changing the format of the meeting to make them better.

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9.0 Date of next meeting: 27 March 2014 at 7pm in Blairhall New Community Centre.

AGENDA - 27 March 2014 at 7pm in Blairhall New Community Centre

- 1.0 Apologies
- 2.0 Siting wind turbines on Council land in West Fife - Climate Change & Zero Waste Team
- 3.0 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- 4.0 Police Report
- 5.0 Councillor Report
- 6.0 Community Council Feedback
- 7.0 Planning Issues
- 8.0 AOB
- 9.0 Date of next meeting - 24 April