

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

Present: M. Burdon; M. Harrison; N. Kelly; C. Macintosh; B. Pell (*Chair*); P. Rea; E. Smith; D. Stuart ; P. Wilks; H. Wright.

In Attendance: Councillor C O'Brien; PC D. McNally; G. Thomson (*Banks Group*); S. Sampson (*Banks Group*); D. Hopper (*Stirling Council*) and 17 members of the public.

Apologies: J. Duncan.

CC224 *Presentation by the Banks Group*

The Chair welcomed Gordon Thomson and Siobhan Sampson from the Banks Group.

Gordon Thomson stated that he was returning to the Council to give an update on the progress of plans for the Ard Ghaath Wind farm situated three kilometres east of Drymen. The company were still assessing the site and finalising the environmental impact report. The final design will take into account the feedback from consultations with local communities. He admitted that the feedback had been mixed from both community groups and community councils. The site was chosen after a population study to minimise the impact on the surrounding population. In particular, although the towers would be seen from Killearn village, the area would not be affected by turbine noise. The final design would be presented to the Council when formal planning consent was sought from Stirling Council.

He then explained the Community Partnering Scheme. It was felt right that local communities should benefit from the income stream from the farm, so up to 2% of gross revenues would return to communities to be used and controlled by the creation of local community development plans. These would be part of a section 75 agreement with Stirling Council. Individuals could also invest up to twenty thousand pounds with a predicted 10% return.

Mr Thomson then answered questions from the members and the public. He said that the Banks Group was a privately-owned UK company. He confirmed there would be 20 turbines, 100m high producing 66.5GW/hr. There was provision for a connection to the grid just 1 kilometre off the site, which would be connected by cables on wooden poles. There would be local jobs during the construction phase and a possibility of some permanent employment on maintenance. The blades and hubs would be made in Germany, but the towers would be made in the UK. Access would be from the A81 and A811, but confidentiality agreements prevented him giving more detail. The access would be a graded mineral surface, not tarmac. The construction would take 12 – 14 months and the lease for the site is 25 years. There was some discussion on the viability of wind generated electricity, but Mr Thomson said that they were responding to UK and Scottish Government requirements for energy from renewable sources. He admitted that the site would not be viable without subsidies.

The Chair thanked Mr Thomson for his clear presentation and answering questions from the floor.

CC225 *Recycling and Waste Collection*

The Chair welcomed David Hopper, Stirling Council Waste Services Manager.

David said that Stirling had been one of the most successful councils in recycling waste with 57.4% currently diverted from landfill. Revenue from the recyclable materials and lower land fill costs mean that Stirling spends less on waste management than other Scottish councils. However, cuts to local authority grants mean that Waste Services have to save 400 thousand pounds annually. This was achieved this year, but more drastic measures had to be taken to repeat the savings. A proposal had been made to put the brown bin collection onto a 4-weekly cycle for most of the year, with no collection during the three winter

months. Cardboard would still be collected with the blue boxes. This was predicted to save 150 thousand pounds. It was trialled in Causewayhead, with 73% saying they could cope, rising to 81% during the winter period.

David stated that a series of consultation exercises had taken place with community councils, of which this was the final one. It was obvious that despite the encouraging statistics from Causewayhead, that the majority were unhappy with the proposal, and it was unlikely to be approved at the next committee meeting of Stirling Council.

David then answered questions. He assured the meeting that there were no plans to close the skips at Balfron, and that the opening hours were those preferred by the majority. On questioned about members of the public reusing material left at the skip, he said that there were safety implications, but it is something that he would like to see if suitable arrangements could be made. On plastics, he said it was a question of marketability. Stirling Council had markets for the two types of plastics used for bottles, but not other plastics, so at present they could only take plastic bottles. It was hoped to increase the range of plastics taken in the future. There were also plans to collect absorbent hygiene product (AHP) waste, such as disposable nappies, weekly. Stirling Council actively helped people who were having problems with recycling. Stirling Council did provide subsidised composters.

He said there was a short online survey on waste collection that people could take, and it was agreed to put a link from the community council website. This questionnaire would only be present for a limited time.

CC226 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2011 were adopted.

CC227 Minutes of the Special Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2011 were adopted.

CC228 Matters Arising

Oak Tree This had now been resolved and thanks were expressed to Councillor Lambie for his helpful intervention.

Pam Campbell Support was now given by Community Services and no officer would attend Council meetings routinely. Pam Campbell was thanked for all the service she has given the Council, and it was agreed to give her a small gift as a token of our appreciation.

Sale of Open Space Stirling Council had not broken their guidelines but it was suggested that they be reviewed. The Council had been consulted on the proposed revision as requested. A letter from Bob Gil, Stirling Council, detailed draft changes to current procedures relating to the sale of parcels of land. All members were consulted by email for views on these proposed changes. The Chair would produce a response in the light of these. Councillor O'Brien said sale of Stirling Council assets had been a problem in other areas.

Alarmed by the recent sale of a piece of open land, the Council had informed Stirling Council of all valued green spaces in the village under the Open Spaces consultation.

Transfer of Turnip Field Robert Horne, Stirling Council, asked for a formal letter of support for the transfer of the turnip field to the General Account, thus removing it from being designated for housing. An extract from the June KCC minute had been sent and had been deemed to be sufficient evidence of local support.

CC229 Treasurer's report and Post of Treasurer

Number 1 Account balance £491.75, Number 2 Account balance £815.58.

There was no change from last month in the Number 1 account, and a payment had been made of £20 to Scotways from the Number 2 Account.

After presenting the accounts, Betty tendered her resignation as treasurer. She was warmly thanked for the long time she had excellently served the Council, and a vote of thanks and a bunch of flowers were given.

Janet Duncan was nominated to serve as treasurer by Betty Smith, seconded by Peter Rea. The appointment was unanimously approved.

CC230 Police Matters

PC David McNally stated there had been industrial-scale fly tipping at the old hospital site and arrests had been made. There had been thefts of industrial equipment, lead taken from Killearn Kirk roof, and metal taken from the old hospital site. A break-in at the old school was attributed to youngsters. A weekend birthday party led to some rowdy behaviour, fuelled by alcohol, which was robustly dealt with. David warned of a number of scams targeted at old people, including phone calls purporting to come from a bank asking for account details and another purporting to come from Microsoft warning of a virus. In both cases the aim is to get access to personal accounts, so advice was given never to divulge account, pin or credit card details as genuine banks and credit card companies will never contact their clients in this way.

CC231 Question Time

There were no questions

CC232 Youth Matters

Cairi stated that she was actively trying to get a replacement for Ian Beaton, and the deputy head at Balforn High School would make an announcement at assembly.

CC233 Planning

Valid Planning Applications Received:

11/00535/FUL Proposed garage and single storey extension to side of dwelling house at Greenend Cottage, 36 Balforn Road

It was agreed by a vote of 8 opposing the application, 1 for the application and 1 abstention to oppose the application on the grounds of over development of the site.

11/00560/FUL Proposed relocation of existing access (restricted vehicular & pedestrian) from Main Street into site of 3 & 5 Main Street; comprising Old School and Old School House, all for residential use at Land Between 5 And 7, Main Street.

It was noted that the planning consent gave permission for only four units to be serviced by the access. The boundaries between the green lane and the school house were not yet agreed. There may be an ancient well affected by the development. It was agreed to oppose the application on the grounds that the access did not improve the safety of the existing access, and that it would adversely affect the setting of an important house in the conservation area.

11/00510/FUL Formation of walkers car park at Land Some 90m South West Of Glengoyne Distillery.

The reduction of the verge parking area used by walkers meant dangerous parking in gates and other areas on the A81, therefore a proper parking area would be welcome. The Council agreed to support this application.

11/00401/FUL Minor additions to existing consent ref. 10/00515/FUL for introducing:- 1) a conservatory building with relocation of the double garage at unit 3A 2) a first floor living area over the double garage at unit 3B at 3 Main Street.

11/00427/FUL Erection of new dwelling house at Garden Ground At Drumwhirn, 7 Drumbeg Loan.

11/00421/FUL Extension and alterations to existing dwelling including garage at Rhuellen, Main Street.

11/00441/MSC Erection of dwelling house at Land At Killearn House Walled Garden.

11/00576/FUL Minor alterations to submitted Proposal for Planning to Shop Unit 2. Shop Unit 3 (proposed in place of previously proposed small single flat) with small vestibule entrance at Units 2 & 3, 13 Balforn Road.

The Council did not wish to comment on these applications

Decisions Approved by Appointed Officers

11/00192/FUL To move bin/log store nearer to kitchen area and erection of storage hut in its place at Old Mill Inn 6 Balfron Road

11/00376/FUL Demolition of dwelling house and erection of replacement dwelling house at Lettre House.

11/00399/FUL Erection of two storey extension incorporating removal of existing garage at Failmhuc Drumtlan.

11/00421/FUL Extension and alterations to existing dwelling including garage at Rhuellen Main Street.

11/00270/FUL Erection of dwelling and formation of vehicular access (Plot 2) at Land Adjacent And Southwest Of Blacklaw Drumbeg Loan.

11/00401/FUL Minor additions to existing consent ref. 10/00515/FUL for introducing:- 1) a conservatory building with relocation of the double garage at unit 3A 2) a first floor living area over the double garage at unit 3B at 3 Main Street.

11/00465/FUL Erection of triple garage with office, study and gym at Blaressan House

11/00591/FUL Change of use of existing holiday accommodation barn conversion to full time residential dwelling accommodation at Land and Building North of Ballochruin Farmhouse.

11/00441/MSA Erection of dwelling house (PPP reference - 09/00786/PPP) at Land at Killearn House Walled Garden.

Planning Enforcement

11/00101/UNAUTH Alleged deviation from approved plans in relation to roof height.

Other Planning Issues

ISSUE: The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations, 2011: Scoping Request: Proposed Ard-Ghaath (Craigievern) Wind Farm – Council response.

This paper gave Stirling Council's response to the application for a wind farm in Drymen discussed in CC224. A link to the paper had been placed on the Community Council's website.

CC234 Roads

Nigel Kelly stated that Stirling Council had proposed a traffic island in Station Road at its junction with Balfron Road, accompanied by pavement widening and designated parking bays. It was agreed to write to Stirling Council asking them to defer this proposal as work on the Village Hall scheduled to start in Spring 2012 would have a significant effect on traffic in that area. It was noted that the 40mph signs on the A81 at Dumgoyne Village were to be moved closer to the Beech Tree Inn to improve driver perception. There would be two solar operated warning signs installed in this area.

CC235 Reports on meetings attended

Area Planning Forum. The main topic was Old Peoples' Welfare. A shopping service was to be introduced for those unable to get out. A contract had been signed with a supplier of frozen meals. It was questioned whether locally-produced meals would not be better. It was noted that the Local Plan would be published for consultation in the period 24 October to 16 December.

CC236 Correspondence

Correspondence received: Colin Mackay (SC), letter seeking support or otherwise for SC's proposal to nominate Killearn park for Queen Elizabeth Fields challenge; Mary Young, information re group being set up to resist windfarms in the local area; Donna

Lawson, SCC, consultation regarding speed limit changes in Dumgoyne; Helen Geddes, request to participate in broadband survey; Helen Geddes, ASCC Online bulletin; Claire Milne, briefing paper on preparation of Stirling Local Development Plan; Audrey Morrison, Invitation to nominate a trustee to Clackmannan and Stirling Environmental Trust (*notice placed on notice board*); Helen Geddes, ASCC response to Government survey; SC Youth Services rural area newsletter; Helen Geddes, notice of NHS Forth Valley Annual Revue; Brenda Holliday, concerns raised on impact of roadside litter on tourism; Margaret Beaton, invitation to Rural Stirling Housing Association's AGM (*declined*); Helen Geddes, – information about grants for Armed Forces Community Covenant; Donald Saunders, press release for Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprises Engagement Day; Mary Brailey, poster for Blane Valley 'Grow Local' event; Jessie Anne Malcolm, notice of meeting of Stirling Community Health Partnership; Elizabeth Duncan, notice of proposal to hold a public procession on Remembrance Sunday; H Geddes, intimation that Association of Scottish Community Councils was being wound up due to funding cut. H Geddes notes that insurance for all Stirling CCs was in place till 2012 and SC would negotiate an alternative arrangement before renewal was necessary.

CC237 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

CC238 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place in the Primary School on Wednesday, 19 October 2011 at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.