

Strathisla Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 4th March, 2009

Present: Rhona Patterson, Jane Macpherson, David McWilliam, Alex Gordon Duff, Cllr Coull, Cllr Cree, Ian Ross, James Mark, Innes Macpherson, Keith Alderson, Wilma Robertson, PC Fraser, PC Anderson.

In Attendance: Margaret Robson

Apologies: Cllr Murdoch, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr McConachie, Duncan Morrison, David Dillon, Jenny Anderson, June Simpson, Sgt Black, Cllr Paul.

Welcome: Rhona Patterson, Chairperson, welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. She advised that David Dillon wished to tender his resignation as he was unavailable to attend meetings. The Chair advised that anybody interested in attending meetings from any district would be encouraged to attend but not as a full member, especially in view of the Community Council elections to be held in October.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 7th January, 2009 were approved by David McWilliam and seconded by Jane Macpherson. The minutes of the meeting of 4th February, 2009 were approved by James Mark and seconded by Ian Ross.

Business

1 – Police

Cycling in Mid Street

Constable Fraser advised that local officers are aware of the problem and if seen will be dealt with appropriately. Suggestion was made that the use of pavements and safety of the public issue be raised in local schools and perhaps it could be addressed by Constable Ralston, School Liaison Officer. Further suggestion was made that an article on cycling safely, raising relevant safety issues, could be given to the local press.

Police 0845 and 0870 Numbers

Sgt Black had forwarded information on costs as discussed at the previous meeting. Calls can be free with BT depending on Calling Plan. Costs to 0845 numbers are .02p per minute daytime and .05p at all other times from BT Network, other networks may vary. 0844 numbers are .01 per minute rising to .05p with same costs at all times. The matter has also been raised at Joint Community Council Meetings.

Using ICE on Mobile Phones

The Chair raised the matter of using ICE on mobile phones. Constable Anderson advised that the 'in case of emergency' system adopted by Grampian Police was useful in the event of an accident when police may have to trawl through phone numbers and made suggestion that next of kin could be more easily identified by the public using ICE followed by the number 1,2 or 3 for family members.

Newmill Car Park

Ian Ross reported that there had been activity in the car park on Sunday night, early Monday morning that had caused a noise disturbance for local residents. Information was again requested on time of activity and car number where possible.

Bank Card Security

The Chair reported a suspicious phone call regarding her bank account where the number, name, address and sort code was correctly stated with the caller requesting the credit card number. The caller stated that she had been overcharged but the Chair was suspicious and said she would deal with the bank locally. The Chair felt that it was important to raise public awareness and asked if there was any way of tracking this type of call. It was advised that where it was shown to be justified numbers could be tracked but proving who is using the phone is an entirely different situation.

2 – Terrorism

The Chair advised that terrorism is to be included on the agenda of all future meetings. A request to get information to the police as soon as possible was made in order to get it on the system. The police will record all intelligence that is passed and the public, as the eyes and ears of the community, may become aware of recruiting, training or funding of terrorism activities, especially in more isolated communities.

3 - Youth Issues

To date no progress has been made but youth membership is to be actively encouraged.

4 –Visitor

Innes Macpherson introduced Mr **Bob Cowley** who had approached him regarding an on going issue with the Moray Council. Mr **Cowley** explained that he has had considerable discussion with representatives of the Moray Council including Derrick Murray , Roads Department and Cllr Paul regarding a ditch on his property. Upon listening to the fuller information on the matter it was agreed that it was a legal matter between Mr **Cowley** and the Moray Council and that he must take legal advice on the subject. The Chair advised that a letter could be sent to Moray Council asking what their side of the matter is but no further assistance could be given due to the nature of the problem.

Action: Letter to Chief Executive

5 -Planning Lists

New Planning Regulations

Cllr Cree advised that when there is something understandable and concrete there will be a road show and statutory consultation. The Chair asked that comments on the Householder Permitted Development Consultation be passed to her prior to 13th March 2009. David McWilliam advised that the missives are difficult to interpret and that something understandable would be most welcome.

6 - The Den

Caravan Site

Cllr Cree reported that the overgrown grass and branches had now been removed. Margaret Robson reported that water was still running from the site and causing a slip

hazard during icy conditions. Cllr Cree had spoken to Derrick Murray about the situation and he had considered it to be natural rainfall running from the site but Cllr Cree would look at it again. Margaret Robson to contact Cllr Cree when there is evidence of water running from the site that is not considered to be rainfall.

Car Parking

It was reported that people are reserving car parking spaces in the Den with cones and that some people who are not getting parked are understandably getting quite heated about the situation. It was agreed that the problem should be registered with the police and the community warden and that all cones should be removed.

Action: Contact Sgt Black and Community Warden

Kitchen Replacements

It was advised that kitchen replacements were made when people moved out but many kitchens have been there since they were put in new at the time of building. Questions were asked on whether there is a rolling programme of replacement for the Den.

Action: Cllr Cree to confirm situation

Clothing Recycling

The Chair advised that there would be an opportunity to put a recycling bin at the Den but this was rejected at present.

Boundaries

It was considered that previous to the Election in October this would be an appropriate time to make request for the Den to be part of Keith Community Council. Margaret Robson to raise the matter at the next Den Community Association Meeting.

7 – Grange

Signage At Schools

The situation regarding signage at Crossroads and Newmill requires to be further confirmed as there is conflicting information on future funding. The imminent report from Moray Council should clarify the situation. The Chair reiterated concerns regarding the programme for schools when there have been press reports on considerable spend on **20mph for** whole villages.

Action: Letter from Chair to Moray Council

Grange Hall

The entry/exit to Grange Hall presents a hazardous situation for motorists due to concealed entrance and being situated on a bend on the road. The situation is to be further looked at in respect of keeping down vegetation and more prominent concealed entrance warning signs.

Action: Cllr Cree to investigate.

Chair of Grange Community Council

Rhona advised that Alan Watson had resigned as Chair of Grange Community Council and the new Chair is Robbie Morrison. Rhona informed Alan about the clothing recycling, as a new bin has been placed at the hall.

8 – Boharm

Holl Croft

Jane Macpherson to contact Derrick Murray, Roads Engineer to arrange a site visit.

Action: Site visit to be arranged

Popin Brae

The Chair reported a phone call with Ron Wilson, Roads Design Manager. He advised that the design has been approved by Transport Scotland. The initial widening work will be carried out over a weekend when the road will be closed for a weekend in late April/May. The road will then be two way for a period of time until September/October when it will be down to one lane in order to accommodate repair work.

Access Road, Rosarie

Cllr Shepherd had advised at the previous meeting that he would investigate the situation regarding the Planning Application and Permission but was not present to report on the outcome. The Chair had written to Moray Council regarding concerns about access and conditions of planning at an earlier date and had heard nothing therefore a further letter is to be sent to the Moray Council on this matter.

Action: Letter to Moray Council

Recycling Facilities

Jane Macpherson to discuss the possibility of having a textiles recycling bin in the car park at the next meeting of the Mulben Community Association. Contact to be made with John Wilson of Northern Textiles for further information. Mobile Phone Number 07775963144.

9 – Botriphnie

Recycling Clothing Bin

A recycling bin is to be offered to Botriphnie School if space allows. Payment would be forwarded on a monthly basis.

Davieburn Road

The request to have holes in the road repaired has been included in a letter from the Chair to the Moray Council and has also been passed to Cllr Paul.

Access Road to Botriphnie Kirk

Alex Gordon Duff to arrange meeting of interested parties at future date.

10 - Rural Keith and Newmill

Textiles Recycling Bin

The Chair reported that the Salvation Army Bin has now been removed and the Northern Textiles Bin is now in place at Newmill. Funds will be paid to Newmill Association on a monthly basis.

Newmill Recycling Point

Cllr Coull confirmed that the bins were emptied on a Wednesday morning but residents were still putting black bags and televisions to the recycling point. It was advised that if there was a bigger family that they would be entitled to a bigger bin or additional boxes or a brown bin. The Chair advised that Deborah Hockney could throw no light on why the bins had not been emptied at the recycling point before Christmas but displeasure had been expressed at the situation.

Flowers and Compost

The Chair had approached the Moray Council to fill the hanging baskets in Newmill. On discussing the matter with Grant Speed she was advised that eight communities received the service and this was obviously questioned from the point of view of fairness. This

may result in each community making a request receiving a lesser number of filled baskets in **order that everyone receives some help.**

11 – Rothiemay

Parapet at Woodside Cottage

Keith **Alderson** reported that the re-pointing work had been completed at Woodside Cottage.

Waterside Road

Keith **Alderson** reported that the bank is eroded right up to the water edge and requested a further inspection of the site. Cllr Cree and Cllr Shepherd were to further investigate.

Action: Cllr Cree and Cllr Shepherd to investigate.

Tree in Village

It was reported that the contractor had cut all the branches before the heavy snowfall and had subsequently returned to cut down the whole tree.

Correspondence

Regional Conference

Members were reminded of the Regional Conference to be held on 21st March, 2009 and were encouraged to attend.

Community Justice

The Chair reported that further communication with Mike McRitchie of the Community Justice Department in regard to a team carrying out work at Newmill Hall was quite concerning in that no guarantee of the standard of work could be given nor that the fixtures or fittings would be respected.

National Spring Clean Event

The Moray Council is looking for volunteers to help clean up their local area as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Campaign. A free kit can be claimed on 01786 468242 or www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean or www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cleanupkits

Use of Local Forests

Following contact from Forestry Commission Scotland a representative is to be asked to a future meeting to discuss the wider use of local forests.

Action: Invitation to future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathisla Community Council is to be held on Wednesday, 1st April, 2009 at 7.30pm