

**Strathisla Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009**

**Present:** Rhona Patterson, Jenny Anderson, Alex Gordon Duff, Keith Alderson, June Simpson, Ian Ross, Cllr Coull, Wilma Robertson.

**In Attendance:** Margaret Robson

**Apologies:** Cllr Murdoch, Cllr Cree, Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Paul, David McWilliam, Jane Macpherson, Sgt Black

**Welcome:** Rhona Patterson, Chairperson, welcomed all present including guests, Fiona Wallace, Chair of Crossroads School Council, and Callum Jamieson from Crossroads.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 having been circulated before the meeting were approved by Ian Ross and seconded by Alex Gordon Duff.

**Business**

**1 – Police**

**Use of Cones at Den Crescent**

Cllr Coull reported that he had asked Donna Jamieson to have a look on her rounds and she had been interested to know where the cones had been acquired. The use of cones to reserve parking spaces was most noticeable during the period of heavy snow when the cones were left in cleared parking areas and then taken into the house when the car owners returned to park again. It was advised that the Traffic Warden cannot remove cones but the Moray Council could remove them and charge any residents responsible for this unacceptable practice. Representatives advised that there was no evidence of use in the past fortnight. Cllr Coull asked for the names of offenders to be passed on to James Smith of Moray Council Roads Department.

**2 – Terrorism**

The Chair advised visitors present that Terrorism was now included on the Agenda of each meeting to ensure that all intelligence of possible terrorist activities, no matter how insignificant it may seem, is passed to the police as soon as possible.

**3 - Youth Issues**

The Chair reiterated the hope that a Youth Representative may be identified who would wish to attend Strathisla Community Council Meetings. A possible Representative is now moving on to University but it was hoped that interest could be raised at the Pupil Council meetings at Keith Grammar School. Cllr Coull also advised that there is funding within the current budget for a youth representative to attend the Moray Youth Council.

**4 – Planning**

**Delegated Decisions**

The Chair noted that Delegated Decisions Lists are now being made available to Strathisla Community Councillors and confirmed all present had received the lists.

### **Aultmore Housing**

The Chair advised that she had been contacted about a Hearing Meeting by Sheila Kennedy, of The Moray Council, but it was too late to make arrangements to attend. She had asked that the meeting be advised that Strathisla Community Council was not officially informed about the meeting, nor invited to attend prior to the phone call from Sheila Kennedy. Cllr Coull advised that concerns raised included flooding risks, increased traffic and pressure on the burn from proposed additional septic tanks. The plan was objected to on the grounds of flooding. Ian Ross agreed to explain to residents that the Chair would have attended the meeting if adequate notice had been given.

**Action: Ian Ross to contact residents of Aultmore**

### **Rosarie Access Road,**

The Chair advised that there had been no response to date from The Moray Council regarding what had gone forward regarding the planning application. From an observation by Jim Martin, it was noted that there were no objections from Transport Scotland in regard to extending the present access to the East. The Chair expressed concern that it had been reported that the option applied for had been discussed with Strathisla Community Council and this was not the case.

### **e-planning**

e-planning is in the process of being launched nationally and a presentation on the Planning Framework is to be rolled out to Community Councils when available in a more understandable form.

## **5 – Grange**

### **Signage at Crossroads School**

It was reported that a full response to the situation regarding the request for 20mph signs for Crossroads and Newmill was expected on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. Andrew Duff, Traffic Engineer at Moray Council, had confirmed that the Safer Routes for Schools Budget was now closed. An alternative budget for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets is to be explored. Visitors expressed great concern regarding speed and safety, visibility, parking around the school and children crossing the road. Fiona Wallace advised that a parking area has now been identified across the main road from the school within the playing field. It is intended to lay hardcore in the area in the near future. A bus and disabled parking bay is to be created outside the school with bold painting on the road. It was reported that every school in Aberdeenshire has 20mph signs but only 37 out of the 54 schools in Moray have the 20mph speed limit. Scottish Government guidance on the matter indicates that all schools should have 20mph signage. Further questions are to be asked on providing a future Planned Programme to address this shortfall.

### **School Kitchen, Crossroads**

Fiona Wallace advised that a letter had been sent to the Moray Council expressing their concerns regarding the possible closure of the school kitchen, but there had been no response to correspondence sent to the Moray Council to date. Cllr Coull advised that he would table a motion at the next full Council Meeting for all schools.

**Action: Cllr Coull to investigate the position regarding the school kitchen.**

### **Grange Hall**

Cllr Coull advised that the site had been visited and that James Smith was in discussion with the hall committee regarding a proposal to remove a hedge for to improve visibility. The Chair asked if there was adequate representation by Councillors at Grange Community Association meetings and proposed that Robert Morrison, Chairman, be invited to attend Strathisla Community Council Meetings.

**Action: Chair to contact Robert Morrison**

### **Recycling at Grange Hall**

The Chair reported that the clothing recycling bin is not very successful at Grange at present but raising awareness that it is a source of fund raising for the hall may encourage better use.

### **6 – Boharm**

#### **Holl Croft**

It was reported that Derek Murray from Moray Council Roads had carried out an assessment of the site and had met with residents.

#### **Popin Brae**

No further information available.

### **7 – Botriphnie**

#### **Clothing Recycling Bin**

It was confirmed that there is now a clothing recycling bin at Botriphnie.

#### **Davieburn Road**

It was confirmed that the repairs to the Davieburn Road have now been completed.

#### **Access Road to Botriphnie Kirk**

Alex Gordon Duff is to contact all major road users to invite them to a meeting to discuss the possibility of joint funding the repair of the access road. Cllr Paul and Cllr Murdoch to be invited to attend.

**Action: Alex Gordon Duff to send letter to all interested parties.**

#### **Affordable Housing**

Alex Gordon Duff advised of the possible development of Site A on the Local Plan at Drummuir. The land behind the Bunkhouse has been zoned for affordable housing for the past 10-12 years and it now looks as if there may be a possibility of the development going ahead.

## **8 - Rural Keith and Newmill**

### **Recycling**

The Chair advised that the clothing recycling bin was much in use and a first cheque had been received. All the additional bins are still on site and the glass recycling bins have to be replaced with the large dome bins and sited behind the existing site. The smaller glass bins will then be removed which will allow all remaining bins to be contained within the compound. Cllr Coull advised that the green bins would be picked up every week for the period mid December to mid January and this should alleviate part of the problem experienced last Christmas.

### **Hanging Baskets**

It was reported that Grant Speed had advised that there would be no change this year to the service provided to a number of communities but that it would be reviewed for next year.

### **Road Repairs at Newmill**

It was noted that the brae still had to have repair work done but it had been programmed for spring when all possibility of frost was gone. It was reported that the road edge had been repaired but the cones had been left and that in snow clearing operations the snow had been dumped on top of the flower boxes by Council vehicles.

## **9 – Rothiemay**

### **Tree Felling**

It was reported that what had appeared to be a healthy elm tree had been cut down at the front of the Church. It stood within the grounds of the Church but had been removed by the contractor employed by Moray Council to fell a dead tree in the village. Cllr Coull agreed to investigate the situation.

**Action: Cllr Coull to investigate.**

## **10 - The Den**

### **Caravan Site**

Cllr Coull had contacted Gordon Fraser about the water running from the site and he had agreed to inspect the site when contacted by Community Councillors.

**Action: Den Community Councillors to contact Gordon Fraser**

### **Kitchen Replacements**

Cllr Coull advised that kitchen replacement at the Den is not a priority at present. The Housing Department have a four year programme and it will be 2011 at the very earliest before any not done in the last programme will be looked at.

### **Boundaries**

Representatives present from the Den agreed that it would make sense to move the boundary and include the Den with the Keith Community Council. The Chair advised that she had discussed the matter with Jane Martin, Chair of Keith Community Council, and that all were in agreement with this proposal.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Moray Official Guide**

The Chair advised that copies of the Moray Official Guide are now available. A number of copies were circulated.

## **ASCC**

Membership: A fee of £15 is required for membership.

Insurance Scheme: A premium of £52 has been invoiced but the Chair is to clarify if this is covered by the Moray Council.

### **Best Kept Village in Moray**

Entries to be received by the end of May with judging in August. There is to be a Junior Section this year. Further information from Susan Clark, Best Kept Village Secretary. Telephone Number 01343 862981.

### **Botriphnie Hall**

The Chair advised of communication from James Mark regarding the possible use of the hall for meetings by Strathisla Community Council. Sustainability information has to be gathered by groups who are making application for funding and an indication of possible use was confirmed where meetings could be moved round the district.

### **Community Planning and the Single Outcome Agreement**

Community Councils are to register at [www.scotland.gov.uk/home](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/home). The development of an easy read guide is in progress as current documentation is not very understandable.

### **Use of Local Forests**

Alan Campbell from Forestry Commission Scotland has been invited to attend the next meeting to raise awareness of the management of woods and to discuss forest recreation activities.

### **Community Justice**

Cllr Coull advised on the interpretation given by Mike McRitchie of Community Justice in regard to the term 'standard of work not guaranteed'. Mr McRitchie confirmed that the work is done to as high a standard as possible for non-professionals to achieve.

### **Mobile Police Surgeries**

Mobile Police Surgeries are to be held in the District from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Community Beat Officer, Ian Ralston and Community Warden Donna Jamieson will be on hand at Newmill on 17<sup>th</sup>, Regent Square and Rothiemay on 18<sup>th</sup>, Botriphnie and Den Crescent on 19<sup>th</sup>, and Tesco 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **National Spring Clean Event**

Moray Council are seeking volunteers to take part in this year's National Spring Clean Event. The Chair advised members to contact Jane Martin, Chairperson of Keith Community Council, if they wished to take part in the proposed Keith activities.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of Strathisla Community Council is to be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 7.30pm.**