

Strathisla Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 6th May, 2009

Present: Rhona Patterson, David McWilliam, Innes Macpherson, Alex Gordon Duff, Cllr Coull, Duncan Morrison.

In Attendance: Fiona Wallace, Wilma Robertson.

Apologies: Jane Macpherson, Jenny Anderson, Ian Ross, June Simpson, Cllr Shepherd, Calum Jamieson.

Welcome: Rhona Patterson, Chairperson, extended a warm welcome to guest speaker, Mr Alan Campbell, Planning Forester, and to all representatives present.

Minutes: The Minutes of Meeting of 1st April, 2009, having been circulated previous to the meeting, were approved with the under noted amendment by Alex Gordon Duff and seconded by Rhona Patterson.

Amendment:

Item 3 Youth Issues

Should read ‘ Cllr Coull advised that funding is being looked at in respect of possible assistance for young people to attend Moray Youth Council.’

Guest Speaker

Alan Campbell, Planning Forester, Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District, advised that the Management Plans for the woodlands were presently undergoing review. Review Plans are produced every 10 years where major review and consultation takes place with all bodies with an interest in the environment; relevant councils, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA, Scottish Woodlands Trust, users and the general public.

The group of woodlands of particular relevance to Keith are Cairds, Balloch, Dunnyduff, Sillyearn and Balloch. Sillyearn and Balloch are not due to be looked at for another 2/3 years but have been brought forward. In the past the policy was to look at felling and replanting but more emphasis is now put on Wildlife, Conservation, Access and Felling.

Budgets restrict what can be achieved but there is great willingness to consider ideas put forward and to look at working in partnership with groups to access funding for specific projects. A number of woodland areas are heavily used by walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders and runners and any further proposed improvements will certainly be considered for inclusion in Draft Plans to be produced by early June.

Mr Campbell asked members to take note and advise on wildlife activity in the woods. The meeting was further informed on the necessity to fell crops of pine trees that have been very badly hit by red band eagle blight which is endemic world wide. The areas will be replanted with Scots Pine, a more resistant crop. If the trees are caught and felled before they die they can be used for chipboard.

Mr Campbell was invited to attend an open day in Keith on Saturday, 23rd May 2009 and agreed to attend the next meeting of Strathisla Community Council to be held on 3rd June. Email address: alan.Campbell@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 01224 440709

1 – Police

There was no representative present.

2 - Terrorism Issues

The Chair reminded members to report any unusual activities timeously.

3 - Youth Issues

The possibility of identifying a youth member for Strathisla Community Council is unlikely during the summer months and it was agreed that this should be left until the new term.

4 – Planning

Members confirmed that they were now receiving delegated power lists. In respect of e-planning correct contact details must be advised and maintained. With e-planning there is the option for electronic applications and Cllr Coull advised that a briefing could be arranged for members if wished. The Chair is to contact Jane Martin, Chair of Keith Community Council, to discuss if a joint briefing could be arranged.

Action: The Chair to discuss Briefing Meeting with Jane Martin

Planning Application

The Chair advised that she had raised an objection to a planning application for Paithnick, Grange on having received letters from two residents in the Grange District. The objection was raised on the same grounds as previous objections, where a consistent approach has been taken by Strathisla Community Council. All members had been emailed on the matter by the Chair requesting an early response, but an objection to this approach by one Community Councillor was not received until one week after the objection was in. It was agreed by members present that having visited sites in the area previously, and having agreed on the grounds for objection, that consistency in the approach to planning applications should be maintained.

Planning Application – Caravan Site, Glen of Newmill

The Chair advised that a planning application for the Caravan Site, Glen of Newmill, was lodged on 13.11.08 and had been passed by 18.12.08. Although no proper publishing or neighbour notification was given, the application was approved. The Chair has been approached by a neighbour of the applicant who did not receive notification and only became aware of the application when planning was through. The Chair is to request an explanation from Planning on this matter.

Action: The Chair to request explanation on planning matter

Rosarie Access Road

The Chair confirmed that in respect of conditions of planning for the Rosarie Access Road, the options approved were those requested by Strathisla Community Council.

Registering Septic Tanks with SEPA

A reminder was given that house owners have up to 31st May, 2009 to register septic tanks free of charge with SEPA. There will be a charge for registering after this date.

5 – Boharm

Holl Croft

No update available.

Popin Brae

The Chair had contacted Ron Wilson, Roads Design Manager, Transport Scotland to request an update on the work to be carried out at Popin Brae. It was confirmed that the first stage of widening the road to allow two-way traffic for the summer season was to be carried out over the weekend of 15th to 18th May, 2009. Advance notice of road closure is to be advertised. Single track will come back into operation when the major road repair is to be undertaken, but Transport Scotland is still awaiting funding for the major repair.

Ditch at Mulben

Update on a flooding problem raised by Mr Bob Cowley was requested. The Chair confirmed that a letter had been forwarded to the Moray Council. Copy was passed to Innes Macpherson to confirm action with Mr Cowley.

6 - Botriphnie

Affordable Housing

Alex Gordon Duff confirmed that discussion is on-going with a Housing Association and a community discussion meeting is to be held in the village hall at Drummuir on 15th June, 2009.

Davieburn Road

David McWilliam reported that the bridge had been repointed and road improvements carried out.

7 - Rural Keith and Newmill

Recycling at Newmill

The Chair reported that there are no large dome bins on site to date and that the newsletter has still to be circulated.

Hanging Baskets

Grant Speed, Moray Council, had advised that there was no capacity to take any more baskets. The Chair is to seek clarification on the matter.

Action: The Chair to contact Grant Speed

Road Repairs at Newmill

The Chair reported no action to date.

8 – Rothiemay

Tree Felled at front of Church

Cllr Coull confirmed that the Council Contractor had felled the tree at the front of the Rothiemay Church as it was deemed to be a danger to the public.

Waterside Road

It is hoped that update on the request for a further inspection of the river bank at Waterside Road, Rothiemay will be available at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Cree and Cllr Shepherd to follow up on erosion of bank

9 - The Den

No representatives were present.

10 – Grange

Signage at Crossroads School

Andy Duff, Moray Council, had met with Fiona Wallace at Crossroads School but had advised that he was not in favour of 20mph signage outside all schools, that it should not be a blanket cover, and that Crossroads does not meet the criteria for a village. Cllr Coull advised that the Scottish Guidance is clear that there should be 20mph road signage outside all schools but it was up to each Council to implement. Cllr Coull has put forward a motion to go forward to the full meeting of the Economic Development Committee on 26th May, 2009. Cllr Coull proposed that all schools where 20mph road signage has been introduced should be looked at to see how they have met the criteria. There are no plans to include Crossroads or Newmill within the £154,000 Cycling, Walking and Safer Roads Budget.

School Kitchen, Crossroads

It was reported that the proposal to close Crossroads School Kitchen was carried with the Convener opting with the motion for closure. School meals are now to be made at Keith Grammar School Kitchen and a total of three kitchen are to close in Moray. Letters had been sent on behalf of Crossroads School to A Keddie and George MacIntyre, Convener, with no response to date and a consultation exercise had resulted in an outcome of 100% against closure. The Legal Department is to advise if an appeal can be made against the decision.

Recycling at Grange

Although the Grange Chair had been previously informed, a number of members of Grange Community Association had not been aware that there was a clothing recycling bin at the Grange Hall. Information on how to access income from Northern Textiles will also be passed on by Fiona Wallace. The contact at Northern Textiles is John Wilson, mobile number 07775963144.

Visibility at Grange Hall

Cllr Coull advised that options are being looked at to improve visibility considerably and in particular to make 'safe' improvements.

Correspondence

Revoking of Community Councils

The Moray Council has given notice under Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994, Section 22(3) on 8th April, 2009 of intention to revoke the existing Moray Community Council Scheme by 4th October, 2009 and to publish a new scheme for the establishment of Community Councils. Suggestions as to the areas and composition of the Community Councils should be forwarded by Wednesday 3rd June, 2009.

ASCC

Planning Issues

The Chair reported that Moray Councillors are not required to leave Community Council Meetings when planning issues are being discussed, they are entitled to listen to points put forward but should not contribute to the discussion.

Keith and Strathisla Regeneration Partnership

The Chair informed members of the open day to be held by Keith and Strathisla Partnership on Saturday, 23rd May, 2009. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of what the organisation is and what it aims to achieve.

Attendance of Councillors

The Chair expressed great concerns on the attendance of Councillors. Members agreed that at the time when there was two elected Councillors a good attendance was maintained, but now with six Councillors the attendance record is poor, with one exception. This item is to be raised for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Attendance of Councillors to be put on Agenda for next meeting

School Closure (Scotland) Bill

The Chair asked members to look at the Bill information forwarded and to respond on the matter as soon as possible.

Travellers Awareness Session

The Chair reported that the session very much put emphasis on finding a way to work with travellers, to ensure where possible that their needs are met. There were no answers to the problems often encountered and one traveller present asked that they are not all tarnished by the reputation of the few.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathisla Community Council is to be held on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2009 at 7.30pm.