

## **Strathisla Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009**

**Present:** Rhona Patterson, David McWilliam, Alex Gordon Duff, Cllr Murdoch, Cllr Cree, Cllr Shepherd, June Simpson, Ian Ross, Keith Alderson, Sgt Black, PC Jenkins.

**In Attendance:** Fiona Wallace, Wilma Robertson.

**Apologies:** Jenny Anderson, James Mark, Margaret Robson, Cllr Coull.

**Welcome:** Rhona Patterson, Chairperson welcomed all present with a special welcome to guest speaker Alan Campbell, Planning Forester, Moray and Aberdeenshire Forest District.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009, having been circulated previous to the meeting, were approved by David McWilliam and seconded by June Simpson.

**Guest Speaker:** Alan Campbell thanked members for the opportunity to update them on progress with the Concept Plan. The review of the Cairds, Balloch and Sillyearn Woods will continue over the summer with further opportunity for the public to put forward ideas that could be considered in the Final Plan. Mr Campbell advised that there would be a felling programme at the eastern side of the Balloch this year where species resistant to red band needle blight would be planted. A longer term project would be to landscape straight edge boundaries and to plant broadleaf near streams, to create broadleaf corridors for additional light in the forests. The continual thinning programme will be used to replace areas with more species including rowan and birch.

#### **1 - Police**

##### **Old Den Road**

Cllr Cree advised that he had investigated the possibility of a sign being erected together with the use of CCTV cameras. Sgt Black advised that fly tipping is a nightmare to the police and unless an address can be found in the bag, or the dumping is witnessed, it cannot be followed up. Several alternatives were discussed which included putting a large waste disposal unit at the site but the police recommended the use of a sign in the first place. It was proposed that the sign should indicate that waste should be disposed of at the Recycling Point at Balloch Road.

**Action: Cllr Cree to update Cllr Coull and further action**

##### **Mobility Scooters**

The Chair requested clarification on the legal status of using mobility scooters on the road and the situation in regard to children riding there. The pavement speed limit is to be checked and reported back to the next meeting.

**Action: Sgt Black to clarify at next meeting**

### **Disabled Parking Space on Mid Street**

Concern was expressed that there is no dedicated car parking on Mid Street for disabled drivers. The Chair had explored the situation but had been told that there are ample disabled parking spaces in the car parks. The situation in regard to disabled parking on Mid Street is more complex due to the number of lanes but the situation is to be further investigated with a view to establishing disabled space on Mid Street.

**Action: Chair to follow up**

### **2 - Terrorism Issues**

The Chair reminded Members to report any perceived unusual activities to the police.

### **3 - Youth Issues**

To be left until the new school term begins.

### **4 – Planning**

#### **Keith Caravan Site**

The Chair reported that she had phoned the Planning Department and asked for consultation on this application but it had not yet been sent out to her. There is neighbour concern about the static residential chalets and the length of time that they have been located there without planning permission. A retrospective Planning Application has been made and the enforcement order is now suspended until the application is determined. A group of local residents had brought the matter to the attention of Keith and Strathisla Regeneration Partnership on the basis of departure from the Local Plan, that it is a loss of amenity and voiced concerns about sewage in regard to permanent residencies. The Chair advised that the application included 17 Resident Static Units, 4 Holiday Static, 18 Holiday Tourism and 5 Tents. A number of individual objections have also been lodged. The Chair, David McWilliam and June Simpson agreed to act as statutory consultees on this consultation process.

**Action: The Chair to contact David McWilliam and June Simpson**

#### **Myreton, Crossroads, Keith**

An application for a single wind turbine has already been approved. An application for a further two wind turbines of greater tower height has now been submitted in order to make it economical to connect to the grid. Concern had been raised about the dimensions of the towers and Cllr Cree advised that as in any Planning Application anyone was entitled to object in the normal manner.

### **5 - Rural Keith and Newmill**

#### **Hanging Baskets**

The Chair reported that the future supply of hanging baskets should be determined by elected Members. Currently approximately 40 baskets are supplied by Moray Council to Drummuir and other communities also receive on a historic basis. It was also advised that a number of communities raise considerable sums in order to finance the floral displays in their town or village.

**Action: The Chair to follow up for next year.**

#### **Clothing Recycling Newmill**

A further cheque for £34 has been received for clothing recycling at Newmill.

### **Road Repairs Newmill**

The Chair reported that resurface work had been carried out on the Brae at Newmill last week. Cllr Coull had requested a site visit by Derek Murray to ensure that the road edge would be completed in such a way to facilitate the flow of water down the roadside ditch.

### **6 - Rothiemay**

It was reported that two houses in Rothiemay had been allocated to single men in Lonach Crescent.

**Action: Cllr Cree to arrange a meeting with Cllr Coull to review.**

### **7 – The Den**

#### **Tree 72/74 Den Crescent**

Cllr Cree reported that the tree has now been lopped off at 72/74 Den Crescent.

#### **10-20 Den Crescent**

It was reported that residents at 10-20 Den Crescent were experiencing great difficulties with what appeared to be a general infestation of mice. Cllr Cree advised that this is an Environmental Health problem and also advised that there is provision for the recovery of costs of vermin eradication. It was further advised that the house at the cemetery is also infested by mice. This is to be reported to Cllr Shepherd

**Action: Cllr Cree and Cllr Shepherd to follow up**

### **8 – Grange**

#### **Signage at Crossroads School**

Fiona Wallace reported that there had been no contact from Andy Duff. She also reported that one set of flashing lights was not working.

**Action: Cllr Shepherd to follow up**

#### **School Kitchen Crossroads**

It was reported that the kitchen closed on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, with the cook being employed until 18<sup>th</sup> August. Groups cannot use anything other than the surfaces in the kitchen. The Community Council is to write to request retention of the kitchen equipment.

**Action: Chair to write regarding kitchen equipment.**

### **9 – Boharm**

No representative present.

### **10 – Botriphnie**

#### **Affordable Housing**

It was reported that approximately 40 people had attended the meeting at Drummur Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June and that the plans had met with the approval of the meeting. The number of houses will be determined by the Planning Department and the proposed development will be a partnership between Drummur Estate and Partnership Housing.

#### **Mid Third/Davieburn Road**

It was reported that the Mid Third/ Davieburn Road required repair work. Cllr Murdoch requested that specific details be emailed to her for action

**Action: David McWilliam to email Cllr Murdoch**

### **Septic Tank Deadline**

It was reported that the septic tank deadline had been waived.

### **AOCB**

#### **Registrars Office Opening Hours**

Members were advised that the opening hours of the Registrars Office are to be reduced to Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.00pm. A response on the consultation regarding this matter is to be lodged by 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2009.

**Action: The Chair to consult with the Registrar**

#### **Ward Maps**

Ward Maps showing proposed changes to wards were circulated to members. It is proposed that The Den join Keith Community Council which in turn will reduce the Strathisla Community Councillor number from 18 to 16.

#### **Funding Proposal to promote Community Councils**

£ 500 or thereabouts is to be made available to promote the forthcoming Community Council elections and to encourage the participation of a greater number of the public to stand. £100 of this money will be used for joint activities Moray wide and further joint activities will be discussed with Keith Community Council.

#### **Tribute to Mrs Jean Stewart, Drummuir**

The Chair informed Members of the recent death of Mrs Jean Stewart and paid tribute to her for her contribution to the work of Strathisla Community Council.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of Strathisla Community Council will be held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7.30pm.**