

Glenfarg Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm

Present

CCllrs D MacKenzie (Chairperson), J Watson (Secretary), D Arnold, D Horsman, A Johnston, M Ponton. Cllrs D Cuthbert, J Giacomazzi, W Robertson, PC Rhiannon Lorimer and 6 members of the public.

Apologies

CCllrs R Duncan, G Vaughan (Treasurer), Cllr M Barnacle.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2015 were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Ponton.

Matters Arising

Adoption of Phone Box: The Secretary has sent BT an expression of interest. BT has confirmed that it is available for adoption and that they will pay for the electricity initially but may stop paying after a time. The Community Council would be informed of this before it happens. The Chairperson said that a decision on the defibrillator would be made later on. CPR/AED training has been organised for Saturday 23rd May and 26 people have signed up for it. The training will be provided by Saline First responders.

Lochelbank Verge: The Secretary reported that the Road Network Manager, James Watson, had visited the site and reported that the landowner had been clearing out a ditch which had become overgrown. It will now be left open.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS): It was reported that these have now been ordered by the Treasurer and she is still in touch with the Council concerning installation.

Community Council Noticeboard: The Secretary reported that this had been ordered and delivery was due at the end of May. The installation of the board has also been organised.

Police Report

PC Lorimer stated that Community Watch was launched in our area at the end of April. This is a new service for communities to receive local community safety information from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Perth and Kinross Council, SEPA, SSE and many more bodies. Communities are encouraged to register.

PC Lorimer also mentioned that there had recently been quad bike thefts in Fife and advised people to review their quad bike security.

There had been sales of counterfeit chainsaws, etc. from the back of a pick up in Blairgowrie and in Fife. People are asked to be wary of anyone selling such goods around the doors.

There have been no further reports of the unlicensed quad bike or the irresponsibly driven car reported at the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report

This was circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairperson commented that our finances are in a healthy state. There were no further questions.

Planning

Cllr Johnston, as lead of the Planning Sub-Committee, gave a summary of his Planning Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He said that 8 new applications had been lodged since the last meeting and that an objection had been lodged against one. This was the application to build flats on the site of the Lomond Hotel. CCllrs had all been sent a copy of the objection letter. The result of this was that our objections had been taken into account and had been covered by conditions on the subsequent approval document. The Community Council was asked by the Planning Officer if we would be agreeable to this prior to approval being granted. Cllr Robertson said that he was delighted to hear this as it meant that his efforts to get more weight given to objections from Community Councils had borne fruit.

Two other applications had been approved during the period and two had been refused.

The Chairperson commented on the letters that had been received by CCllrs from members of the public about GREA's plans for renewable energy projects, and in particular their ideas for a wind turbine. He said that the Community Council had no role to play until GREA submit a formal application to Perth & Kinross Council.

Update on Long Term Vision

This topic is covered more fully in the Chairperson's Report to the AGM. He stressed the need for the Vision to be that of the Community not the Community Council. Cllr Robertson said that it was a good idea and an opportunity to let the Community know what the Community Council does. The Chairperson stated that Tracey Ramsay, the Senior Community Capacity Building Worker, is actively involved.

Update on Binn Farm Proposals

CCllr Ponton reported that the four Community Councils who are involved with the Binn Farm proposals met on the 23rd April to discuss the draft agreement put to them by Element Power. They felt that it was important that the four Councils were able to meet without representatives of either Element Power or Foundation Scotland being present. The meeting agreed an approach on the draft document and have arranged a follow up meeting with Element Power for the 21st May when the Community Councils' version of the agreement will be tabled.

The meeting also agreed that a Draft Agreement with Foundation Scotland be produced. A meeting of the Community Councils in the same format as the meeting of 23rd April would be held to discuss this Draft Agreement. The plan is to be able to sign both agreements simultaneously.

AOCB

Establishing a Community E-Mail Network:

CCllr Arnold had submitted a paper on this topic. He said that for 3 years he and his wife had been running an unofficial network, sending out details of events to some 300 local e-mail addresses. He would like to see this means of communication made official and put on the same footing as the Glenfarg Newsletter and the Glenfarg Village Website by the Community Council taking ownership and appointing an editor. Council unanimously agreed to this suggestion and appointed Cllr Arnold to the position of Editor. A Community Council email address will also be made available for the editor to use when sending out the emails. After some discussion it was also agreed that the Community should have a Facebook page and Cllr Ponton volunteered to set this up.

Boundary Commission Proposals:

Cllr Robertson raised the issue of these proposals which are proposing to move the whole of the Glenfarg Community Council area along with a large part of the Milnathort CC area from Kinross-shire ward to Almond and Earn ward and reduce the number of Councillors representing Kinross-shire from 4 to 3. This matter is to be discussed at a full meeting of Perth & Kinross Council this coming Thursday and he wished to know the feelings of the Community Council. Perth & Kinross Council is opposed to the proposals. After some discussion the meeting agreed unanimously that they were opposed to the proposals. The proposals are due to come out over the summer months for consultation when the Community Council will have an opportunity to state their grounds for opposing the proposals.

Lochelbank Community Benefit Fund:

CCllr Johnston raised the point that two of the grants awards at the last round of grants were considerably more than the £2500 maximum agreed when the Awards Panel was set up. He understood that that figure could only be changed with the agreement of both Glenfarg and Earn Community Councils. He asked how these latest awards came about. Nobody present knew the answer and it was agreed that the Council would write to Foundation Scotland to ask how these awards came to be made.

Bus Timetable:

The meeting voiced its disappointment with the new timetable for the 56 bus service. We asked for the Monday to Thursday 22.50 to depart Perth at around 22.00 and on Friday and Saturday evening to have an additional service at around 21.00. Neither of these requests has been met. It was agreed that the Community Council will write to the Public Transport Unit at Perth & Kinross Council to express our feelings.

Emergency Plan:

CCllr Arnold said that there is a new fund available for local communities in Scotland to purchase emergency equipment. He is going to see if there is anything that we need that we can claim for. Applications for funding have to be submitted by 31 July this year.

The pollution of the River Farg was discussed. The SEPA position is that they do not re-stock formerly polluted waters but prefer nature to do it. Scottish Water has been fined for the pollution but say that they cannot pay any compensation because they are a public body.

Correspondence

The correspondence list was circulated to Community Councillors. The Chairperson picked up on the correspondence from BT Openreach to comment that the dates for the arrival of Superfast Broadband, in common with other communities, in the community are constantly being pushed back. The latest date for this area is July, but he does not expect it to happen then.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th July 2015.