

**GLENFARG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2015
AT GLENFARG VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: CCllrs Donald MacKenzie (Chairman), Janet Watson (Secretary), Gillian Vaughan (Treasurer) Dave Arnold, Rob Duncan (Minutes), Daniel Horsman, Alex Johnston, and Margaret Ponton. Also present: PKC Cllr Willie Robertson, PC Sadie Allan, Ced Wilkins and Neil Lindsay of Glenfarg Renewable Energy Association (GREA) and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Tracey Ramsay, Senior Community Capacity Building Worker PKC

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: This was held on 3rd November. The Minutes were agreed and signed as being a true record of the meeting. Proposed by CClr Watson, seconded by CClr Johnston.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. The Effigy in Arngask Churchyard An application was made to the Lochelbank Community Benefit Fund to pay for advice from a stone conservation specialist but the application was turned down by the panel who wanted further information in regards to who owns the land it stands on, what the community benefit would be and what the money would be used for. This will be revisited in the spring when the Friends of Perth Heritage Trust (currently disbanded but reforming in the spring) will offer their help on the matter.
2. The Avenue Ced Wilkins and Janet Watson met with PKC to see if they hold any plans (inc. drainage) for The Avenue. They were advised to meet with George Lawrie of TRACKS. Ced has subsequently met with Mr Lawrie who would be happy to produce a design for the improvement of The Avenue path subject to the consent of the owner. Ced will contact the owner to gain consent.
3. Glenfarg Emergency Plan CClr Arnold gave an update on the Glenfarg Emergency Plan:
 - a. The Plan is now uploaded onto the village website
 - b. Safety helmets, tabards, etc., for use by CCllrs and volunteers have been boxed up and are now being store in the attic of the Village Hall.
4. Springhall Farm The Forestry Commission held a public consultation in the Village Hall in December at which members of the public could view maps, offer suggestions and discuss the proposed plans for forestry planting on the site at Springhall Farm.
5. Wallace Park.
 - a. The wooden animals have been cleaned by members of the Community Payback Team and if contacted they will return in the spring once the weather has improved to give the animals a coat of varnish.

- b. The fallen branches and the flagpole have been removed. The fencing around the boggy area has also been removed, however the area remains boggy. PKC will be contacted in the spring to investigate.
 - c. Cllr Duncan presented Dave Stubbs (the PKC Access Officer) with a plan for the placing of drop kerbs which would allow better disabled access to the park. In addition to this Cllr Duncan met with Gillian Edwards of Centre for Inclusive Living Perth & Kinross (CILPK) who highlighted two additional points for inclusion. CILPK will also present their findings to PKC.
 - d. The Secretary will write to PKC to see if the dog mess bin next to the children's play area could be relocated to a better spot in the village as it was deemed surplus to requirements with two other bins being situated at the entrances to Elm Row and Birch Lane.
 - e. The issues relating to the Elm Row and Birch Lane entrances (access and drainage respectively) are on hold as it was determined that they are both privately owned. Both owners have been contacted and responses are being awaited.
6. Neighbourhood Watch We are delighted to announce that Glenfarg has a new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. Lindsay Penman has offered to take on the role and the Neighbourhood Watch section of the village website will be updated accordingly. We are very grateful to Lindsay for volunteering for the position and the council wish her every success in what is a vital community role.
7. Notice Board After discussion an agreement was made on the new notice board. The Treasurer is to make an application to the Lochelbank Fund in time for the next round of funding on April 1st.
8. No other matters arising.

POLICE REPORT:

PC Sadie Allan was present and updated the meeting on the following points;

1. New Drink Driving Legislation With the introduction of new drink driving limits in Scotland PC Allan reminded the meeting that it takes 1hr for the body to process 1 unit of alcohol, which equates to 12hrs for a bottle of wine. There have been no incidences of drink driving in Glenfarg.
2. Local Crimes Report
 - a. There were two acts of vandalism to car wing mirrors on Duncrieve Road over the festive period
 - b. Some cabling has been stolen from the water treatment plant at the reservoir.
 - c. A break-in took place at Laundry Cottage, Newfargie and a quantity of tools were stolen from a padlocked shed where the hinges were unscrewed to gain access.
 - d. A port-a-loo was stolen from the left side of the A912
 - e. Lead sheeting has been stolen from the church in Milnathort

3. Community Officers As part of Operation Mithral there are now five community officers covering Kinross-shire which means there will be one across each of the five shifts and as such it may not always be PC Allan attending future Community Council meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer gave a summary of her report (circulated prior to the meeting). She noted that the total fund held was a healthy £11,658. Revenue from adverts, the shop donation tin and subscriptions slightly exceeded the print costs of the newsletter, and the only payment made since the last meeting was a payment to PKC for the erection and dismantling of the Christmas Lights in Main Street.

ROAD SAFETY

Cllr Vaughan informed the meeting of the costings received from PKC Road Safety Officer Daryl McKeown for the erection of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) as part of road safety measures for the village. The signs would be situated between Marindin Park and the part-time 20mph speed limit, and between the 40mph and 30mph signs at the south of the village. These signs have been proven to work and all present were in favour of their erection, although it was decided to invite comment and hold over making a decision until the next meeting.

It was proposed that total cost for the signs of £4500 included installation, electrical connection to the street lighting, and maintenance by PKC could be met by using the Nursing Fund, although Cllr Robertson will ask for funds for the signage from PKC. Cllr Robertson will also consult with PKC regarding improved lighting at the shop and the installation of cables to record speeds on Duncrieve Road.

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). On the whole it has been quiet on the planning front with 5 applications, and no refusals or acceptances. However, one of the applications received full discussion as it is for the installation of a photovoltaic solar panel farm at Shire End Farm on the Path of Condie road. Although it is not within the Glenfarg area it is right on the boundary and will have a high visual impact for the residents of Glenfarg and surrounding area. The farm if given consent would comprise 70,000 solar panels which would cover two fields and an entire hillside and it would be highly visible from any high ground in the area. In addition there would be the need for a 12ft high security fence as well as masts and CCTV. The plan contravenes two sections of the Local Development Plan (ER1A Individual Effect on Landscape Character and ER6 Supplementary Guidance for Special Landscape Areas).

After a full discussion it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Johnston would lodge a formal objection to the scheme on behalf of Glenfarg Community Council.

The Chairman wanted it stated for the record that the decision to object was made solely in relation to this particular application and that Glenfarg Community Council is not against the development of renewable energy schemes per se, but will always look at each renewable energy development on an individual basis.

GREA

Ced Wilkins and Neil Lindsay of Glenfarg Renewable Energy Association (GREA) gave the meeting a progress update.

1. Hydro Scheme Research has been done on three possible sites and one that was identified below the dam at the water treatment plant is currently being developed further.
2. Energy Efficiency A dozen energy efficiency plans for households around the village have been created.
3. Wind Energy A successful expression of interest was made to the Forestry Commission who have offered land for the siting of a wind turbine on the Springhall site under the National Forestry Land Scheme. An enquiry regarding connection has been made with the national grid, a detailed feasibility study completed, and the next step is to go for planning consent, the cost of which would hopefully be covered by grants from the Scottish Governments Community and Renewable Energy Scheme and the PKC SSE Fund. The intended turbine would have an output of 500kw and reach 60-80m in height and the project cost would be in the region of £1.8m. This would be met through crowd funding by selling shares of £200, exclusively to members of the community initially, before being offered to other investors. The shares would receive an annual dividend, and any further profits would then be made available to the community.

GREA requested non-financial Community Council support for this scheme. It was unanimously agreed that as GREA had come about as a direct result of the Community conversation, the Community Council would offer their support but on a broad principle only, with formal comment being made on any definite proposal.

A request from a member of the public attending the meeting, for the Council to be mindful of the overall impact such schemes are likely to have on the glen was taken on board and would be discussed when considering the final proposal.

GREA will be holding an open AGM on the evening of Friday 27th February where the wind turbine project will be discussed further.

LONG TERM VISION

The Chairman suggested that due to the full agenda of the meeting in hand, and because the Long Term Vision for the community deserves substantive discussion, this item should be deferred and placed at the top of the agenda at the next meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE AND AOCB

1. The Removal of Trees in Wallace Park Communication was received from PKC regarding a request from the Tennis Club that the mature trees on the west side of the court be removed, as leaf litter is falling on the courts. It was felt that the Tennis Club should have consulted with the Community Council in the first instance as the trees are community assets and their removal would affect the whole community. CCllr Arnold also advised that following a visual inspection of the courts, it was clear that the majority of the leaf litter was from deciduous trees and not needles from the pine trees in question. It was also noted that PKC has a policy of not removing trees due to leaf litter. It was decided unanimously that the Secretary would convey to PKC that the Community Council was against the removal of these trees.

2. Superfast Broadband The search continues for a location for two boxes required to provide for superfast broadband. One possible undisclosed site may have been found subject to additional cost and planning. Ced Wilkins also offered the back of the hall as a possible location.
3. Railway Pathway Communication was received from PKC about the shelving of a feasibility study on creating a cycle pathway from Glenfarg to Bridge of Earn that would have run through the old tunnels. The plan was shelved following a landowner objection. The Community Council continues to support this plan and hopes it can be achieved in the future.
4. Kinross-Shire Ward Forum/Network of Community Councils Cllrs Arnold & Duncan attended this meeting notes from which were circulated prior to this meeting. One topic on the agenda was the replacement of orange lighting with low energy LED street lights. It was noted that one lamp on Main Street has now been changed to LED and concerns were raised that this form of lighting which although being low in energy use and low for light pollution, can also be too dim to be effective as street lighting. Cllr Robertson will be writing to the PKC Lighting Manager to request that all junctions and main routes should have enhanced LED.
5. Dry-stone Dyke in Wallace Park It was brought to the council's attention that the dry-stone dyke that forms the boundary between Wallace Park and Duncrieve Road is in a state of disrepair. It was also noted that the wall on the right as you go north out of the village on Main Street is also falling down. Added to the discussion were the poor states of Hayfield Road and Church Brae. Cllr Robertson will investigate and raise with PKC. Cllr Robertson took this opportunity to remind those present that if you ever see something not right with the local infrastructure, take a photo of it and pass it on to a Community Councillor or to a PKC Councillor, as this is the most effective way of getting something done about it.

The next Community Council Meeting will be held on
Monday 2nd March