

Alva Community Council (ACC)

www.alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting, Monday 14 October 2013, 7.00pm

Venue: Ochil Leisure Centre, Park Street, Alva

Community Councillors Present:

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| Lynn Cameron - Chairperson | Margaret McArthur - Secretary |
| Philip Ward - Vice Chairperson Convener - Data Protection inc IT & Website | Sandra Rees - Minute Secretary |
| Kirsty Wilson Convener - Health inc Alva Health Centre Patient Group | Mary Dalrymple |
| Gemma Waghorn Convener - Education inc School Council & PTA | Linda Greig Convener - Environment inc Parks & Alva Glen |
| Ian Cameron | |

In Attendance:

Cllr Archie Drummond Cllr Donald Balsillie Cllr Robert McGill
 Paul Daly, Friends of the Earth Scotland
 Members of Public (MOP) x 8.

| Agenda Item | Minutes of Item Discussed | Action By |
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| 1 | Welcome and Introductions | |
| 2 | Apologies Anne Spruce (Treasurer) & Russ Fenton | |
| 3 | Minutes of Previous Meeting of 10/06/13 - agreed without dissent. Proposed by Mary Dalrymple, seconded by Margaret McArthur Minutes of 2012 AGM - agreed without dissent. Proposed by Kirsty Wilson, seconded by Mary Dalrymple | |
| 4 | Matters Arising from Previous Minutes - None | |
| 5 | Visiting Speakers | |
| 5.1 | Paul Daly - Friends of the Earth Scotland Coalbed Methane (CM) is a form of gas trapped inside coal seams. It's one of a number of sources of 'unconventional gas' that the energy industry are turning to as conventional fossil fuels run out. There is a growing body of evidence from USA and Australia, where the industry is far more developed, that there are inherent and unacceptably high environmental and health risks associated with coalbed methane extraction. In Forth Valley the most advanced unconventional gas development is at Letham Moss, near Airth, where a company called Dart Energy is using horizontal and vertical drilling techniques (but not currently fracking) to extract coalbed methane during a pilot project. Paul considers that potentially 100's of wells could be developed in Forth Valley. Friends of the Earth Scotland are currently against extraction of CM and fracking as there is so much uncertainty. Paul said that in Australia wells are not permitted within 2 kilometers of towns and asked ACC to consider becoming an 'unconventional gas free zone'. See attached leaflet for further information. Discussion followed about whether the ground could become unstable given that this area is honeycombed with old coal mines and whether the underwater dams would be contaminated by the | |

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| | <p>extraction process. Cllr Archie Drummond explained this area is not predisposed to fracking as most shale oil has already been extracted by NCB (National Coal Board) in 1960's. However, extraction of CM is totally different to fracking, he said. Having established that everyone present had gas central heating in their homes Cllr Drummond reasoned that it must come from somewhere and pointed out that there has also been local opposition to renewable energy schemes e.g. windfarms. A Community Councillor said that prior to NCB there were lots of private coal mines that are now unmarked and cautioned that disturbing these could have dire consequences. A Community Councillor asked what permission Clackmannanshire Council had given to CM extraction companies. Cllr Donald Balsillie explained that test drilling had been done but no planning permission had been granted yet.</p> <p>Cllr Balsillie said the Local Development Plan (LDP) has been considered by all Clackmannanshire Council committees and will be published when full Council approval is received – hopefully after the Council meeting on 24 October when the LDP will be available for 8 week consultation period. Cllr Balsillie encouraged those present to read the LDP about all matters concerning Alva, not just CM extraction. It was agreed to invite Council planners to the ACC November meeting to talk about the LDP.</p> | Chair person |
| 5.2 | Police - unable to attend - report attached | |
| 6 | OFFICE BEARERS REPORTS | |
| 6.1 | <p>Chairperson Report - Lynn Cameron</p> <p>Jim Lyle and Lisa Williams were co-opted as Community Councillors following an unanimous vote by Councillors present.</p> <p>Lynn asked if any Councillor would like to become Planning Convener. It was agreed to postpone this to the next meeting. Margaret will find out where planning emails are going. Cllr Archie Drummond said ACC should receive the weekly bulletin 'Services to Communities'</p> <p>'Guess the Dolly's Birthday' draw was done and dolly won by Ms Irene McConachie. £132.45 was raised for ACC Christmas Events Fund.</p> <p>Foundation Scotland, EDF Energy Renewables, the developer of the EDF Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm, have contacted ACC to remind that funding is available to support charitable activities that enhance life for residents, contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities or promote community spirit and encourage community activity. Clackmannanshire Community Council area will have an advisory panel made up of three local people from each town (not necessarily members of ACC) that will advise on decisions about grant awards. 24k is available in 2013 between Alva, Tillicoultry and Dollar via their Community Councils and will be available annually until 2036 (rising in line with inflation).</p> <p>Groups and organisations that match the key aims of the fund, and provide benefit to people living in the area, may apply for a grant award. EDF are going to send posters for the town inviting other groups to apply via ACC. Cllr Archie Drummond advised that individual grants are typically around 2k and that EDF encourage</p> | |

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| | groups to share resources e.g. one local group received funding for trestle tables for their annual event, EDF encouraged the group to make the tables available to other groups when they are not using them. | |
| 6.2 | <p>Secretary Report - Margaret McArthur</p> <p>Margaret received an email from MSP Keith Brown requesting copies of ACC minutes to keep him informed of issues affecting Alva. Margaret sent the minutes. Keith Brown offered congratulations on ACC funding from Awards for All in a letter addressed to the Secretary which was received and read out by former Secretary, Mary Dalrymple.</p> <p>Margaret requested and received an update on Alva Glen Hotel - see Councillors Reports.</p> | |
| 6.3 | <p>Treasurer Report</p> <p>Lynn Cameron read a report from Treasurer, Anne Spruce.</p> <p><i>'We are in process of completing a new mandate to change the signatories on the accounts and also consulting with Maureen Hill of CTSI (Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface) who is giving advice on how to keep the accounts on computer and auditing the accounts.</i></p> <p><i>Balance on accounts at end of August (latest statements available):</i></p> <p><i>Business Account £1,027.64</i> <i>Special Events £9,268.44</i></p> <p><i>Maureen has recommended that we close the business account and transfer the money to the special events account which is a Treasurers Account'.</i></p> <p>A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed by members present to close the business account.</p> <p><i>'An EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) will be required to approve the accounts once the audit is complete'</i></p> | |
| 7 | CONVENER REPORTS | |
| 7.1 | <p>Convener Reports - Environment (incorporating Parks & Alva Glen)</p> <p>Linda Greig advised there is nothing to report this month.</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>Convener Report - Planning (incorporating Licencing Applications)</p> <p>Currently no Convener.</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>Conveners Report - Health - Public Partnership Health Forum and Alva Health Centre Patient Group</p> <p>Alva Health Centre Patient Group - Kirsty Wilson explained there will be a new Senior Practice Nurse and an additional GP. The large room, formerly used by Health Visitors, is being divided to accommodate the new GP. Patients are encouraged to respond to the bowel screening programme, awareness sessions are being organised. There will be a project to help those with type 2 Diabetes, four sessions at Hawkhill, Alloa, organised by Bob McQueen. Dr Hay is to become an examiner for Royal College of GP's therefore he will be part-time at the Health Centre. There will be a cycle run on Sunday 20 October departing the Health Centre at 1pm where there will be refreshments afterwards.</p> | |

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| | <p>Hospital transport buses will run until March 2014. Cllr Donald Balsillie added that buses will be replaced by a demand led responsive transport for patients. Cllr Archie Drummond commented that he will convey his disgust at the decision to withdraw buses at a meeting he will attend soon and encouraged those present to write to MSP Alex Neil at Holyrood and ask him to use his power to intervene in this issue. He is the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p>Public Partnership Health Forum - Kirsty Wilson and Margaret McArthur attended recently. Margaret reported that there had been a talk about the role of Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) and also a speaker from The Makers Village and Reachout with Arts in Mind at Ludgate, Alloa where there is artist studios, performance space, gallery and bistro. A third speaker from The Gate Foodbank explained the project started in 2010 by volunteers from Ludgate Church in response to an increasing number of people they saw facing a crisis situation. Operating through referrals from statutory agencies as well as other charities and local faith communities they provide fresh and non-perishable food to those facing hunger. Toiletries, warm clothing and some household goods are also offered. It is open to all faiths and those with none.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>Convener Report - Data Protection (incorporating IT & Website)</p> <p>Philip Ward reported that Alva Community Council has 144 'likes' on Facebook and encouraged others to 'like' the page to increase awareness of the work of ACC. Phil reminded that contributions for the website are welcome and should be sent to him at webmaster@alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk</p> <p>Phil asked for 6 Community Councillors to each take a CD containing information on the website setup for use in the event that he is suddenly unable to maintain it. The CD's were distributed.</p> | |
| 7.5 | <p>Convener Reports - Education (incorporating PTA & School Council)</p> <p>Gemma Waghorn confirmed that fundraising at Alva Academy for Macmillan Cancer Support raised £24,000 when they held a 'Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning' event on 27 September.</p> <p>Gemma has accepted the request by Alloa Advertiser to contribute regularly to their Community Blog.</p> | |
| 8 | Representative Reports | |
| 8.1 | <p>Report - Joint Community Council Forum (JCCF).</p> <p>Margaret McArthur and Mary Dalrymple attend recently where the discussion was about care at home and minimising the time people spend in hospital.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORTS</p> <p>Alva Glen Hotel Cllr Donald Balsillie confirmed that a formal legal notice will appear in Alloa Advertiser on 16 October confirming that Clackmannanshire Council have made a Compulsory Purchase Order for the Alva Glen Hotel. Objections may be made by 8 November to The Scottish Ministers, Edinburgh. Discussion followed about the time taken for Clackmannanshire Council to finally reach this stage but the consensus was relief that Alva will finally be rid of this dilapidated building that has been a scar on the main street for many years.</p> | |

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| | Lynn Cameron asked that Clackmannanshire Council consider making a piece of land at the site available for a Community Garden so that a tree can be planted, or placed annually, for decorating each Christmas time. | |
| 10 | SUB COMMITTEES | |
| 10.1 | Sub Committee - Events Mary Dalrymple advised that she is pursuing the quotation for Christmas lights. Lynn Cameron is going to organise an events group meeting soon to discuss plans for the Christmas event. | |
| 10.2 | Sub Committee - Others Ochil Leisure Centre - Linda Greig advised that marketing students from Stirling University will be undertaking a market research project for OLE involving knocking on doors of 1000 households in Hillfoots towns. Residents will be asked to complete a survey to find out the kind of activities they want to see at the community run centre. There is also an online survey at www.ochilleisurecentre.co.uk/have-your-say . | |
| 11 | AOCB Philip Ward asked if Clackmannanshire Council could put a 'road narrows' sign at Glentana Mill. Lynn Cameron explained that Community Councillors have discussed what should be done about the objection made by former Treasurer, Doreen Harvey about some content of the minutes of the March 2013 ACC meeting. Only three current Community Councillors were members of ACC in December 2012 when a special meeting had been called by the then Chairperson for Sat 8 Dec, there is a difference of opinion over whether the meeting was properly convened and whether decisions made at it should've been acted upon. They had discussed dispersion of ACC funds among community groups as all apart from the three current members of ACC apparently considered that ACC would disband. Having looked at all the information available to them the current members of ACC consider that Doreen acted in good faith on decisions made at the meeting in December 2012 and had done a good job as Treasurer for over 20 years. | |
| 12 | Date of Next Meeting Monday 11 November 2013 7.00pm pre-meeting for ACC Councillors. 7.30pm Public Meeting - Guest Speaker from Scottish Fire & Rescue | |

Appendix

Police Scotland - Report

Name of
Community

Alva Community Council

Date of Meeting:

14/10/2013

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| Crime Reports Detected: | <p>3 Crimes detected</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theft, Theft by opening a lockfast place. This relates to a skimming device being placed on an ATM within Alva. The persons responsible were apprehended committing similar offences elsewhere. 2. No insurance, No License and careless driving |
| Crime Reports Undetected: | <p>6 Crimes undetected</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theft. Childs scooter stolen from Alva Primary School. No suspects and enquiry is complete 2. Theft. An ornamental door knocker was stolen. Unfortunately no suspects and no enquiry remaining 3. Vandalism. Rear windscreen of car was smashed. No suspects however enquiry is outstanding 4. Vandalism. Several windows smashed on vehicle. Enquiry is still ongoing with possible suspect 5. Vandalism. Vehicle paintwork scratched to vehicle. Enquiry is still ongoing however no suspects at present 6. Vandalism. Windscreen damaged. Enquiry is still ongoing at this time. |
| Total Crime Reports: | 9 Crimes in total |
| Road Traffic Offences: | <p>23 Road Traffic Offences are recorded. On 25/09/2013, officers from the Roads Policing Department along with Community Team officers undertook an operation in respect of stopping vehicles and carrying out checks.</p> <p>As can be seen from the figure above, this was a very successful operation with numerous vehicles stopped and defects and other offences pointed out to</p> |
| % of Overall Detection Rate: | 50% (not including the Road Traffic Offences) |
| Hours / Foot Cycle Patrol in Community: | Approximately 2-3 hours spent carrying out foot patrol by PC Armitage and PC Smith since the last meeting. This was during the evenings in particular and in respect of anti social behaviour in and around the Swimming Pool. |
| Areas of Priority Highlighted at Previous Meeting: | No feedback received from previous report. |

How have they
been addressed:

N/A

Areas of Priority
raised for Meeting:

Other Issues
Raised: