

MID ATHOLL, STRATHTAY & GRANDTULLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 4 March 2014 in Mid Atholl Hall, Ballinluig.

PRESENT

Community Councillors: Stuart Smith [SPS] (Chair), John Grant [JG] (Vice Chair), Stan Bruce [SB] (Secretary), Graham Huggins [GH] (Treasurer), Margaret Ross (Planning) and Pam Blanks [PB].

PKC Councillors: Kate Howie [KH] and Ian Campbell [IC].

Kirsteen Chalmers (Scottish Police).

2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Diana Gray.

1. MINUTES

Approval of the amended minutes was proposed by GH and seconded by JG.

2. MATTERS ARISING

a. CC Website Update

PB reported that the website has been advertised in the February editions of the Atholl Quair and Comment and the March edition of Newsround North. It is up and running and we have a 12 month contract in place to carry out the day to day administration.

3. Business

Police Matters

Kirsteen Chalmers reported on recent Police matters in the area:-

One call to Mid Atholl Hall – general nuisance – no trace of youths.

One call to bus shelter near Buail Bhan and at the Logierait School shelter – general nuisance - youths traced and one taken home to parents.

Break-in at property in Logierait, overnight 26/27 February – ground floor window forced open with screwdriver or similar. Jewellery stolen – under enquiry.

Vehicle window smashed in Grandtully driveway overnight 19/20 February – charger for a laptop stolen – under enquiry.

Please see the Police Crime Prevention Advice attached.

A member of the public reported an instance of a lorry driver starting up his vehicle engine at 5.30 a.m. and running it for 30 minutes, with the sound carrying up to the houses behind the petrol station car park.

A member of the public drew attention to the problems experienced in Ballinluig due to the high number of large lorries and trucks parking along the road whilst waiting to get into the petrol station. The situation had been exacerbated recently by traffic lights located outside the Ballinluig Inn.

A report was made that traffic in Ballinluig is increasing and now frequently leads to total congestion. Following some discussion about this situation, it was agreed that there would be a police presence in Ballinluig at the busiest part of the day between 4.00.p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

GH reported that there has been a major change in the manner of allocating our annual grant from PKC. They are switching to a top up system whereby if we do not spend all our allocation there will be a deduction for the next year. The maximum we can have in our bank account is £700 without it affecting the PKC grant. In view of this, Community Councillors were encouraged to seek reimbursement for legitimate expenses e.g. travel to meetings in Perth on CC business etc rather than being out of pocket.

Bank Account CC

As there has been no movement of funds since the last CC Meeting, the balance remains at £2,036.

Micro Account

We have received this year's allocation of £5,000 and have so far allocated £500, leaving the account £4,500 in credit.

Griffin Wind Farm Funding Panel

GH reported that the Panel will next meet in the following week.

Griffin Wind Farm Micro Grants Since the Last Meeting

A grant of £500 has been awarded to 'Friends of the Birks Cinema' to run a series of 8 interactive music classes for children from 6-18 months and 3-5 years of age. The free taster sessions that had been held on 11 Dec 13 were heavily subscribed.

Planning

Approvals:

13/00466/FLL – Formation of run of river Hydro Scheme. Beinn Eagagach Hydro Scheme, Edradynate - for Edradynate Ltd. – approved January 2014.

13/01715/FLL – Erection of Hydro Electric Scheme with associated access and temporary works Pitnacree Hydro Scheme, Strathtay – approved January 2014.

13/02002/FLL – Alterations to house and change of use of garage to self-catering – Annexe at Riverwood, Strathtay – approved January 2014

13/02049/FLL – Erection of greenhouse at Grandtully Castle – approved January 2014

13/02243/FLL – Modification of Planning consent (12/01788/FLL). Change of house type – West Park Farm, Aberfeldy – approved January 2014

13/02275/FLL – Modification of existing consent (12/00725/IPL) Change of house type – Proposed house on land 30mts south east of The Gushat, Strathtay – approved February 2014.

13/02280/FLL – Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse to form ancillary accommodation at Ballinduin, Strathtay – approved 14.2.14

14/00154/FLL – Extension to dwellinghouse at Pitnacree Cottage, Pitnacree– approved

New Applications:

14/00076/FLL – Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at Tigh Na Rathaid, Grandtully. To provide new kitchen/diner, bedroom and study.

14/00212/FLL – Erection of 6 apt Dwellinghouse (Plot 2) at land 50 metres north east of Ballinluig Inn, Ballinluig

14/00214/FLL – Erection of Dwellinghouse at land 80 metres NE of Cuil-an-Daraich, Logierait (7 objections plus 8 consultation comments)

14/00226/FLL – Extension to dwellinghouse at Garden Cottage, Pitnacree Extension to existing kitchen and provision of decking area. – (views by 6.3.14)

14/00234/FLL – Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at 9 Creag Eilid, Grandtully. Conversion of attic space to provide two bedrooms and bathroom. Ground floor bedroom converted to office with French windows on to decking. Kitchen extended with French doors to the decking. (House is at far end of street with the work mainly at rear of property) – (views by 6.3.14)

HPCP

GH reported that at the EGM held on 17th February a new Constitution was agreed whereby the HPCP moved to an Executive team appointed by the members rather than full membership participation for all matters. An Executive of five members plus the project officer has now been appointed and is fully operational.

From now on at least one member of the Executive will attend every meeting of the ten CC members.

Broadband

The commitment to give the whole of Highland Perthshire an 8 MB Broadband Service is well under way. There have been initial scoping meetings to prove that the proposed system is viable. Various other meetings are scheduled to progress the project and it is anticipated that a pilot service will be in operation before the end of the year.

There have been meetings with John Swinney and PKC reps who are fully behind this project. HPCP is now in the process of sourcing funding.

Wind Farms (WF)

There have been meetings with Ian Campbell and PKC to try and find out whether there is an overall plan for WF in Highland Perthshire.

There are several WF applications in the pipeline but there is a PKC plan to conduct a Roadshow on this subject in Highland Perthshire and HPCP have been assured that they will be involved in the planning of the Roadshow project. At the moment HPCP are still in fact finding mode before the General Meeting on the subject.

A9 Dualling

HPCP has a sub committee monitoring this project. They are awaiting final proposals for the route and schedule before conducting a General Members Meeting on the subject.

Business Plan

HPCP is finalising its Business Plan for the new year commencing 1/4/14 a draft of which was approved at the aforementioned EGM.

The proposed changes to the constitution have been approved.

Recycling Point

This item came onto the CC agenda via the Grandtully Village Hall. There was much discussion on a possible site for a glass recycling point in Grandtully or Strathtay with the conclusion that there was nowhere appropriate.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KH had been liaising with the Atholl Estates regarding clearing the area around the Monument at Logierait and the Factor had asked the CC to approve the cutting down of a Poplar tree in the middle of the nearby football pitch. It was agreed that the CC would not raise any objections to this.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 6 May 2014 at 7.30pm in Grandtully Hall.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FROM POLICE SCOTLAND

Police Scotland is urging residents in Perth and Kinross to review security measures within and around their homes and outbuildings following recent reports of break-ins in the last few weeks.

Beware the opportunist thief as they will take every opportunity to exploit poor security at and around people's homes. Very often it is the simplest security measures that can make the difference and stop crime from happening in the first place. First and foremost, lock front and back doors, as well as windows, even when at home and especially overnight.

It is recommended that householders leave a light on if they are unlikely to be home before dark, or use a time switch to ensure that the lights come on as dusk falls.

Nowadays, it is common for people to store expensive goods and equipment in their sheds, garages and outbuildings – which is precisely why householders should take steps to ensure their belongings are safe and make life as hard as possible for the opportunist thief. Tools and ladders and even garden furniture should also be put away and never left out for thieves to steal, or even use to commit crime.

Be a good neighbour and look out for any suspicious activity within your community. Look out for other people living around you, particularly older or vulnerable neighbours.

Tell police immediately if you have any reason to be suspicious about any persons or vehicles. Along with community safety wardens, our officers regularly carry out high visibility patrols across the city. They will respond to ongoing incidents and react to information passed to them by the public. We would urge residents to report crime when they see it happening, or where they have suspicions that something is going on.

Points to consider-

- Ensure that keys are not left within door locks.
- Consider getting a house alarm fitted or using an existing one.
- Mark all valuables with a UV pen with the relevant postcode and house number. If stolen items are recovered by the police, it is much easier to return them to the owner if this has been done.
- Make it more difficult for criminals to simply unscrew locks or hinges of shed doors by fitting carriage bolts, or clutch head security screws. Another method of stopping screws being removed is to fill the heads with epoxy resin.
- Consider fitting a curtain, or similar. If the shed has windows this may help to obscure the view of the shed's contents.
- For visibility at night, consider sensor-operated lighting as a convenient and an effective deterrent.
- Consider using a steel cable threaded through removable property and securing it to a building. This can make it extremely difficult for the thief to steal the item.
- Consider the use of an intruder alarm for sheds, garages, or outbuildings.
- NEVER leave the shed, garage, or outbuilding unlocked when unattended.

For Information

Following the bad weather, there have been reports of bogus workmen going round houses offering to do repairs etc – in most cases, the work done will be shoddy and priced far higher than trusted or recommended tradesmen. Be very careful if you enter into an agreement with such people and don't be coerced into accepting the offer of work being carried out.

There have been a few incidents of heating oil being stolen again from domestic and commercial premises – it is good practice to secure your tank. Ideally with a closed shackle good quality padlock which makes it very difficult to cut.

Individuals still receiving letters asking for money to be sent to a London address in order to release a lottery win – ignore these letters – they are a scam.

Also, there have been charity collectors going round looking for people to sign up for charity contributions – the majority of those individuals will be genuine, however, just think very carefully before handing out bank or personal details and ensure you know exactly what you are signing for.

4 March 2014