

## **MID ATHOLL, STRATHTAY & GRANDTULLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Draft Minutes of Bi-Monthly Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Grandtully Village Hall.

### **PRESENT**

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

PKC Councillor: Kate Howie [KH].

Patrick Birkbeck (Managing Director of House of Bruar) and Mark Richardson (Ristol Consulting Ltd)

Six members of the public

PC Kirsteen Chalmers

### **APOLOGIES**

Margaret Ross and Ian Campbell.

### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of last meeting were approved; proposed by JG and seconded by PB

### **HOUSE OF BRUAR PRESENTATION – PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MAIL ORDER BUSINESS AND SITE**

Patrick Birkbeck (Managing Director of House of Bruar) and Mark Richardson (Ristol Consulting Ltd) explained the proposals to increase the number of warehouses on the existing site, which is alongside the A9 (heading north) just before the slip road to Ballinluig (Planning Reference No. 14/00668/SCRN). The increase is proposed to be in two stages. Each stage will involve the addition of two additional warehouses and an increase of staff from the existing 7 to 14 at the first stage and then from 14 to 21 at the second stage. Mark Richardson then continued with the presentation, going into more detail and talking through site plans and answering questions.

The presentation focused on the proposal in respect to: visual impact, vehicle movements and flood mitigation. A concern was expressed by those present on the dangers of an increased number of lorries turning south across the A9 when exiting the site. Assurances were given by Patrick Birkbeck that drivers were instructed never to do so but always to go up the slip road, through Ballinluig and then go south. However a local MOP, reported that some of the existing lorry drivers do turn across the A9 to go south. Patrick Birkbeck advised that this will be looked into. Another local MOP expressed concern at a further increase in traffic through Ballinluig. Patrick Birkbeck reported that the increase in trucks resulting from the proposed expansion would average out at 2 trucks per week as opposed to the current 1 truck per week. It became clear during the presentation that the average vehicle movements quoted will vary considerably throughout the year as the mail order business is currently very seasonal. It was suggested that it would help people to understand the actual impact of the proposal if the pattern of vehicle movements throughout the year could be explained. Similarly it was unclear whether the “full time” jobs were actually full time based at the site or not – as

it was explained that at certain times of year the employees are currently deployed at the main House of Bruar site.

## 2. **MATTERS ARISING**

### a. **CC Website Update**

PB reported that all continues to go well with the website.

## 3. **Business**

### **Police Matters**

Kirsteen reported that following a number of quad bike thefts and other crimes in March, three males from Paisley had been arrested, thanks to members of the public, who phoned in with information.

Poaching on the River Tummel – two persons traced and warned.

There have been incidents of heavy plant machinery (tractors, forklift trucks and trailers) being stolen from across Perthshire but not in Highland Perthshire as yet. As it is likely that large transporters are being used to move these vehicles, members of the public are asked to let the police know if they see large transporters parked in suspicious circumstances.

There have again been a few incidents of heating oil being stolen from domestic and commercial premises.

There have been charity collectors looking for people to sign up for charity contributions – the advice is to think carefully before handing out bank or personal details and ensure we know what we are signing.

### **Treasurer's Report**

GH reported there had been no movement of funds since the last meeting and that his report will go the AGM meeting, which is to follow.

### **Griffin Wind Farm Funding Panel**

SS asked for anyone deemed suitable and willing, to come forward to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Anja. SS expressed the CC's thanks to Anja for her efforts on our behalf during her time on this panel. GH confirmed that being on the Griffin Wind Farm Funding Panel is a very worthwhile role to take on.

There is an annual review meeting coming up in the near future, details of which will go on the CC Website.

### **Griffin Wind Farm Micro Grants Since the Last Meeting**

PB reported that there is a current application which is under consideration. Details of the application and decision will be reported back to the next meeting.

### **Planning**

#### Applications Approved:

14/0076/FLL:

Alterations and Extension at Tigh Na Rathaid, Grandtully  
Approved March 2014

14/00226/FLL – Extension to Dwellinghouse Garden Cottage, Pitnacree.  
Approved March, 2014.

14/00234/FLL – Alterations and Extension to dwellinghouse at 9 Creag Eilid, Grandtully.  
Approved March 2014

14/00342/FLL – Alterations to Dwellinghouse and Installation of LPG Tank at Burnbank, Strathtay  
Approved April 2014

14/00400/FLL – Renewal of Planning Permission (09/00245/MOD) for house on land to south of Taycladdoch, Strathtay.

New Applications:

14/00589/FLL – Variation on condition 1 of permission for erection of 15 dwellinghouses and associated works to extend period of commencement at site east of St Cedd's Road, Ballinluig, Previously approved.

14/00695/FLL  
Modification of permission (07/01301/FLL) Change of house type Plots 5 and 6 site 40 metres south east of West Park Farm, Aberfeldy.

**HPCP**

GH reported that the HPCP's fully functioning website is now up and running. The broadband pilot project, which is being funded by Perth & Kinross Council, is on target to provide full 8 mg broadband by next year.

Following the Windfarms Meeting with John Swinney, he is to come back with some answers to the questions raised.

Meetings have arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Mid Atholl Hall, on the dualling of the A9 ( Tay Crossing to Ballinluig) with the people concerned, to provide the opportunity for residents to find out what is proposed and have input to the process.

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**TAYPLAN**

PB reported as follows on a TAYPLAN Meeting in April that she had attended with SS.

The period between 15 April and 27 June 2014 is the stage in which we can put our views forward. The comments deadline is 12 noon on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

There will be press releases to local newspapers, leaflets, posters, radio advertisements, secondary and primary school workshops etc.

There is an Online opportunity to complete an interactive questionnaire response:-

Website address: -

[www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk](http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk)

E-mail address: -

[contactus@tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk)

On Twitter: -

<https://twitter.com/TAYplan>

For assistance with the questionnaire telephone 01382 307180.

## **GRANDTULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL & CRAIG EILID**

A Member of the public provided several updates from Grandtully Primary School and Creag Eilid.

- a) The SSE has awarded Grandtully Primary Parent Council the sum of £3280 to run after school activities. Assistance is requested from the local community in helping to run activities or offering their expertise.
- b) At the end of last term the children produced a film 'The Grandtully Show, African Special', which was previewed in the Birks Cinema and Village Hall. The Depute Provost and Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee, having attended the preview, felt it important for all councillors to see this as an example of Curriculum for Excellence in action. There was a request for the film to be included on the webpage of the Community Planning Partnership conference.
- c) It was reported that £5000 has been awarded by the Griffin Wind Farm panel towards the cost of a play park at Creag Eilid, which can be used as matched funding.
- d) The residents of Creag Eilid will be meeting with Grenville Remond from Best Constructors to discuss any issues they have about the development of 11 new houses.

KH asked for a Gaelic name for the new development next to Craig Eilid.

This MOP then questioned whether Community Councillors were aware of the objective of the Community Council: "to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community which it represents, to liaise with other community groups within the area, and to fairly express the diversity of opinions and outlooks of the people"

She then questioned whether the Elected Member present and the Community Councillors were aware of the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, and listed them as:

- Service to the Community
- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability and Stewardship
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership
- Respect

The MOP then disclosed that she was appalled at the involvement of the Community Council and Elected Member in relation to her husband's planning application 14/02130/FLL. KH confirmed that she fully adheres to

the Code of Conduct for Elected Members. SS stated that the Community Councillors were aware of their Code of Conduct and adhere to it. The MOP then stated that she felt that the Community Council should have contacted all the families in Creag Eilid (whom she deemed would have been most affected by this application) but had not done so.

The Chair explained that the Community Council does not knock on every door of every resident in the CC area to ascertain their views on planning applications but instead relies on the public comments on the PKC website, members of the public contacting Community Councillors directly and the views expressed by members of the public attending the bi-monthly CC meetings. All the Community Councillors are well known in the area and are constantly in contact with members of the public on a range of issues.

[File note: The Community Council had commented on this planning application due to the high number of objections from individuals as well as organisations expressing a range of concerns]

Another MOP advised that the swings at the play park in the Recreation ground behind the village hall have been removed as they were deemed to be unsafe – the frame they were on is to be demolished. This same MOP advised that the Grandtully Gala Day is coming up on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014.

## **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 1 July 2014 at 7.30pm in the Mid Atholl Village Hall.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:45pm