

MUIRHEAD, BIRKHILL AND LIFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Approved Minute of Meeting held 7th November 2013 in the Millennium Hall

ATTENDANCE

Community Councillors –

Stuart Phillips, Colin Hunter, Alison French, Jim Moir, Doug Neilson.

Councillor Fotheringham and 3 members of the public

Apologies: Jimmie Reid, Ken Johnston (arrived at 8.30pm), Vince Taylor, Elaine Stewart, PC Sean Scanlon.

MINUTE OF MEETING 3rd October

Adoption Proposed: - Jim Moir

Seconded: - Stuart Phillips

POLICE MATTERS

In PC Scanlon's absence the secretary gave the latest report:

Rural crime continues to be an issue in Angus and residents are asked to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to **Police Scotland** on **Telephone number 101**.

Between 9th-20th October a number of Theft and Attempt Theft by Housebreakings have occurred within the **Muirhead and Birkhill** area, whereby persons responsible have forced open or attempted to have forced open garages and outbuildings which have resulted in various items of property, bicycles and motorcycles having been stolen (this was subject of a recent press release). On some of these cases garage doors were found to be unlocked and insecure. Police Scotland would ask members of the public to be extra vigilant, especially since the clocks have been put back with the darker nights and mornings and be aware of seeing anyone or any vehicles that are unfamiliar to the area or in suspicious circumstances. Anyone with information is urged to contact **Police Scotland** depending on the circumstances either on **999**, **101**, or **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**.

Sean has personally re-visited all the addresses of the thefts and suggests residents consider basic crime prevention, for example, locking doors as a garage door at one of the addresses in question was unlocked and insecure. Something else for residents to strongly consider is good security lighting, especially with the darker nights now upon us once more!! People have various views on security lighting, some against it and others for it. Sean's experience, having interviewed various thief's over the years, that good security lighting is an excellent deterrent, as are good neighbours, an alarm system, a dog (barks!) and gravel around the house (makes noise when walked on)!! Sean also stated with regard to security lighting make sure the PIR sensor is high enough out of reach as it is not uncommon for the thief to move it with hand or a pole to avoid activating the light.

◆ **Vandalism:**

Despite a downward trend over the previous few years, Vandalism does remain an issue in Angus. Vandalism is a crime which affects peoples' quality of life and costs communities millions to repair. It is easy to dismiss vandalism as a minor offence, but it does have a big impact on local communities (higher insurance premiums, facilities being out of use, may increase the fear of crime). If you are the victim of vandalism, please report it to **Police Scotland** on **101**. If you see someone in the act, or if you have any information which may lead to identifying persons responsible for vandalism, please report this to Police Scotland.

◆ **Antisocial behaviour:**

The main issue which affects the communities of Angus is Antisocial Behaviour – in all its guises. ASB includes issues such as dog fouling, littering, neighbour noise, youth annoyance etc. Complaints of ASB, in particular noisy neighbours, tend to increase during the summer months. Angus Community Safety Team will continue to deal with problem residents in a robust manner. Please report such incidents to **AccessLine** on **08452 777 778**.

MATTERS ARISING

- a) Fields in Trust is still an issue for Henderson Park, Liff due to uncertainty about ownership
- b) Bushes and overhanging branches have been cut back opposite Liff Primary School
- c) VAS in Liff was only up for 2 weeks and a survey in June determined that the average speed in Church Road was 30.2 mph, therefore VAS not required!

FOWLIS VILLAGE GREEN - Brian Smyth gave an update on the current position and here are the main points:

- ◆ advice from Planning Action Scotland on "Term Agreements", Planning Guidance and Section 179 of the TCP (Scotland) Act 1997 as they may apply to the village green
- ◆ legal advice obtained from a local solicitor
- ◆ accessing free legal services from Faculty Services - Free Legal Services Unit via CAB
- ◆ correspondence from Angus Council's Planning Enforcement Officer to a Fowlis resident regarding the tree belt behind his property
- ◆ dialogue which was understood to have taken place between Angus Council planners and Tay Developments regarding a small development in Berryhill Road
- ◆ papers submitted to reserved business of the Council's Development Control Committee in May 1999; and
- ◆ establishment of a page dedicated to the village green issues on the Community Council's web site.

ROADS - Secondary school buses at Birkhill PS: The Chairman produced a leaflet explaining the current position with regard to buses turning at Birkhill Primary School and it was agreed that the leaflet:

- ◆ be given to the Head Teacher and Parent Teacher Council for distribution to parents and pupils
- ◆ be circulated to residents in the area and publicised on our Facebook page and web site
- ◆ be sent to the Chief Executive of Angus Council and Police Scotland Commander for the area

Road work on the A923 carriageway surface is completed and work continues to complete the pavement. Plans for the next phase were available to the meeting and no date has been set for these to be implemented.

FINANCE - The Treasurer had a copy of the accounts available for the meeting.

PLANNING – The following planning application has been submitted during the last month:

1) Proposed sun room extension at Balruddery House, Balruddery **Ref No 13/00994/FULL**

The planning contact intimated that he was invited to the press launch in the Double Tree Hilton by Springfield house builders who are developing South Gray village as part of the Dundee Western Gateway initiative. Both Doug Neilson and Stuart Phillips are confirmed attendees at the Planning Training event on Saturday, 23rd November 2013 – Ken Johnston is keen to attend as well and waiting for confirmation.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Scottish Natural Heritage is holding an informal evening reception in the Canmore Rooms, Municipal Building, Forfar, between 6.45pm and 8.45pm on 26th November 2013 – anyone interested should let the Chairman know.
- 2) The Bi-annual meeting of the Community Councils will take place on Wed. 4th Dec. at 7.00pm in Angus House.

A O C B

- 1) Library van was off the road temporarily – Chairman offered to assist in a Library van user group but nothing has happened so far, Cllr Fortheringham agreed to follow this up.
- 2) **Angus Council wants residents' views on Investment Priorities in Services over the next 2-3 years and the Community Council request residents to complete the online questionnaire at www.angus.gov.uk/priorities**
- 3) Gourdie Farm Forest – update from Forestry Commission seemingly the land is determined to be prime agricultural land by the agricultural community and consequently may not be used for forestry!
- 4) AGM of Millennium Hall Committee takes place on 4th December – **volunteers needed urgently!**
- 5) Complaint that residents were emptying garden waste from green bins on former Kirkwood office site at Piperdam.
- 6) Police Scotland has installed a CCTV camera on a pole outside the Post Office in Muirhead and nearby residents were concerned regarding issues of privacy.
- 7) Resident from Lundie was concerned about future housing developments in Lundie.
- 8) Angus Council were seeking information about letting out Birkhill park to a Dundee football team.
- 9) 1st Muirhead Guides are having a Quiz night in the Fort Bar, Broughty Ferry at 8.00pm on 14th November.

It was agreed that items 4 and 9 of **AOCB** would be publicised on our Facebook page and web site.
Meeting closed at 9.05pm

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER in the MILLENNIUM HALL BIRK HILL at 7-30 PM