

MILNATHORT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th January, 2012 in Orwell Parish Church Hall.

In attendance:- Cllr Hamilton, chairman, welcomed Cllrs Giacomazzi, Halford, Smith, Cottingham, Milne-Home and Thomson. Also in attendance were P&KCllrs Robertson and Baird as well as nine members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Bennet & minute secretary E. Rougvie.

Adoption of minutes:- The minutes of the December meeting were proposed by Cllr Halford and seconded by Cllr Cottingham.

Matters arising:- There were no matters arising.

Donaldson park tree disaster:- A large sycamore tree was brought down by the recent high winds, falling on a house in Church Street and causing severe damage. There were no injuries.

Controversy surrounds the fact that the householder had reported the potential danger to her property to the Community Council and to Councillor Robertson after a branch fell from the tree in the Spring. On reporting the matter to the Council Tree Officer, no action was taken for months. Finally, in September, the Tree Officer visited the site and reported that the tree was safe and that resources did not permit the pruning of such trees. Following subsequent pressure from Councillor Robertson he agreed to deal with the matter in April.

The Tree Officer's assessment ran contrary to the opinion of an independent tree consultant, engaged by the householder, who considered the tree to be in a dangerous state and recommended its removal.

Milnathort Community Council expressed its disappointment at the tardy response to the original complaint. The householder is disappointed at the continuing reluctance of the Tree Officer to engage with her over the issue.

The Secretary of the Community Council will write a formal letter of complaint to the head of the relevant service at Perth and Kinross Council.

Planning matters:- Renewal of planning permission in principle for 21-27 Stirling Rd - noted; Alteration to dwelling house at Royal Hotel- noted; Change of use, house at Hillside Farm- noted; Conversion of stable to house at 'Meadowside', Middleton - noted after brief discussion; Erection of two turbines at West Netherton - noted.

Matters decided: Application to build 35 houses at Ochil Hills Hospital site approved on the basis that the development be served with mains water - hopefully this will allay the fears of local residents over the continuity of their spring water supplies. A turbine at Netherhall and one at Cuthill Towers were approved by Perth and Kinross Council.

Councillor Robertson helpfully informed the CC that the Draft Local Development Plan is to be issued on the 29th of January. Information meetings are to be held at Loch Leven Community Campus on Saturday 18th February and on the 14th of March. Comments on the draft LDP can be submitted from 30th January until April.

Beyond the three sites in Milnathort which currently have planning, at Pitdownies, behind Linden Park and North of Old Perth Road near Hattonburn, no other sites are identified for development in the draft LDP.

A meeting for Community Councillors has been scheduled for Saturday 21st of January at the AK Bell Library in Perth. Cllrs Giacomazzi and Cottingham agreed to attend.

Correspondence:- Members of the community are invited to join a photographic project, the Loch Leven Art Project', details on 'artsdev@pkc.gov.uk'.

A resident of Auld Mart Road has highlighted the problems he has encountered in accessing the centre of our village using a mobility scooter. He has asked for the choke points on South Street to be improved by the addition of double yellow lines. After discussion it was agreed that the proposed 'Placecheck' improvements would address the problem. The Secretary will ask Diane Cassidy to contact the correspondent.

An unsigned letter was received by the CC making 5 criticisms of its efforts. There followed an inconclusive exchange with the complainant, with the Chairman pointing out that the matters had all been discussed previously.

Police matters:- Police have alerted the CC to a gang of thieves targeting shoppers in shops and supermarkets, to steal bags and purses. Vigilance is recommended in these premises where shoppers generally feel safe.

A scam continues to be perpetrated whereby a note is posted through letterboxes, ostensibly from 'PDS', a fictional parcels delivery service, asking householders to phone a number in order to rearrange delivery. Calls to the number in Barbados cost £315!

Other matters:- Cllr Robertson raised the issue of the reporting of potholes and other infrastructure defects to him or directly to PKC. Members of the public are asked to be proactive in this regard.

A member of the public suggested that householders might consider doing their bit to keep their own street tidy by picking up litter, for example. Following a discussion it was decided that the CC would set an example and organise a voluntary litter picking event when the weather improved. This might engender a sense of pride within the village.

Date of next meeting:- The next meeting of Milnathort Community Council was arranged for Thursday, February 9th 2012 in Orwell Parish Hall.