

MILNATHORT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, November 11, 2011 in Orwell Parish Church Hall

In attendance:- CCllrs Hamilton, Cottingham, Halford, Thomson, Smith and Giacobazzi; minute secretary E. Rougvie; P&KCCllrs Robertson and Baird and 12 members of the public. Apologies were received from CCllr Bennet.

Election of chairman:- As this was the first meeting since the CC elections, the first part was conducted by P&KCCllr Robertson prior to the appointment of a chairman. CCllr Hamilton was unanimously elected, having been nominated by CCllr Thomson and seconded by CCllr Giacobazzi. CCllr Hamilton expressed his thanks at being re-selected as chairman and conducted the rest of the meeting.

Election of other office-bearers:- The following were unanimously appointed - Vice-chair: CCllr Cottingham (nominated by CCllr Smith and seconded by CCllr Halford); secretary: CCllr Giacobazzi (nominated by CCllr Thomson and seconded by CCllr Cottingham); treasurer: CCllr Bennet (nominated by CCllr Thomson and seconded by CCllr Halford).

Adoption of Constitution:-CCllr Giacobazzi commented that the new constitution placed restrictions on CCs in terms of how they chose to spend their funds. In the past the CC had donated excess funding to organisations such as Milnathort in Bloom, but now all grant funding must now be used for administration purposes. Following discussion, it was agreed that this could be open to interpretation as MCC members do not claim expenses and this would be classified as a donation. Another requirement of the constitution, which is common to all CCs within Perth and Kinross, is that the minutes must be submitted to PKC in their draft form. The constitution was duly adopted on the understanding that it could be amended at a later date.

Co-option of eighth member:- Two people had intimated that they would like to be considered for co-option to the CC, Mr Patrick Milne-Home and Mr Stuart McHardy. Mr Milne-Home was unanimously selected. Mr McHardy complained that this was unfair, but he was assured by P&KCCllr Robertson that the correct procedure had been followed. As only seven people had put their names forward for eight places

an election had not been necessary, but it was the responsibility of the new CC to co-opt the eighth member.

Minutes of the October meeting:- These were proposed by CClr Smith and seconded by CClr Thomson. It was noted that 11 members of the public had attended, which was a good turnout.

Matters arising:- Scottish Water kiosk: P&KClr Robertson reported that he had met with representatives from Scottish Water, who have agreed to move the kiosk at the end of Balfour Crescent as soon as possible as it constitutes a danger.

Jessie's Park: It was noted with pleasure that there had been very positive feedback locally about Jessie's Park.

Placecheck: CClr Hamilton reported that he had met with the Placecheck team who had agreed to cut the grass in Donaldson Park twice a year. This will dramatically reduce the long grass but still allow wild flowers to grow.

Police Matters:- It was noted with regret that this was the third consecutive meeting that had not been attended by the Police and CClr Giacopazzi advised that he had written to them to express his disappointment. He had received a written report which indicated that inquiries were ongoing into two incidents of theft (a boiler from outside the Royal Hotel and tools from a shed in Viewfar Road). Thieves have also been targeting items such as vehicles, plant, tools, quad bikes and fuel tanks from premises in outlying areas.

Speed checks have been carried out outside the primary school, in Perth Road and North Street.

Church Street and Victoria Avenue: CClr Hamilton advised that he had met with the Police with regard to parking in Church Street and the situation at Victoria Avenue, where vehicles are consistently parked too close to the junction with North Street. People are asked to make a note of the registration numbers and note dates and times and pass them on to the Police via their non-emergency number. It was agreed that the single white line in Church Street was confusing and, after discussion, P&KClr Robertson agreed to address the matter of replacing it with double yellow lines.

Planning matters:-

Planning applications submitted:

Erection of 20kw wind turbine to serve plot 8, 7 Netherhall Steadings: Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the CC will not object to this but will write to P&KC's planning department to ask if they have a policy with regard to the number of individual turbines permitted in one area. CCllr Milne-Home noted that there was already a turbine in close proximity to the proposed site and was concerned that it could develop into a cluster and have an adverse aesthetic effect. Members of the public who wish to object to this or any other application can do so on an individual basis.

Installation of replacement windows at Ballingall House: noted.

Installation of a single wind turbine at Cuthill Towers Farm: noted.

Modification of condition 2 of outline planning permission for land at the Pitdownies to extend the time limit in which a full application must be lodged: noted.

Planning applications decided: Alterations to house at Half Acre, 25 Perth Road (approved).

Alterations and extension to house at 23 Burleigh Road (approved).

CCllr Cottingham advised that he had received a letter from PKC to say that an application to create recreational land for residents of the proposed new houses on the site of the former Ochil Hills Hospital had been approved despite the CC's comments that they would wish the land to also be available for local use.

New matters:-

Placecheck Newsletter: CCllr Hamilton distributed copies of the new Placecheck newsletter, which will be delivered to all households in Milnathort by members of the CC.

Donaldson Park: A petition was presented to the CC bearing 35 signatures objecting to the areas of long grass in Donaldson Park. As indicated earlier in the meeting, PKC are prepared to modify the grass cutting but will not do away with the long grass altogether. After discussion, it was agreed that P&KCCllr Robertson will meet with the CC and Diane Cassidy of Placecheck and report back to the December meeting. It was agreed that lessons had been learned with regard to the Placecheck event, as those who had attended had been in favour of leaving the grass uncut to encourage biodiversity and this had been taken as an indication that this was the

wish of the community.

Correspondence:-

A letter was received from Mr Stuart McHardy raising a number of concerns, including faulty drains in Whyte Place, outside the school, in South Street and Stirling Road; badly patched pavements, and an unsafe tree in Donaldson Park. P&KCllr Robertson advised that the drains in Whyte Place would be repaired shortly and that he would report the others. However P&KC had inspected the tree and declared it to be safe. My McHardy also challenged the accuracy of the CC minutes, but the CC were satisfied that they were an accurate record of proceedings. CCllr Hamilton stressed that while having no powers, the CC was committed to working on behalf of the community and making constructive representations to P&KC. No further discussion took place regarding the letter as its contents were considered to be inappropriate.

Civic Trust Scotland is to hold a seminar in the Loch Leven Community Campus on December 8. Noted.

The Planning Scotland zero waste seminar due to be held at the school on November 12 had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Noted.

Members of the public:-

Pitdownies: A member of the public said that there were concerns about access arrangements outlined in the Pitdownies application to build 49 houses. However, this is still at the outline stage and he was assured that the CC would not miss the opportunity to comment once the full application was submitted.

Unkempt gardens: A member of the public reported that one of the gardens in Crawford Place had been tidied up, but nothing had been done about the second one. P&KCllr Baird said that housing officers were still trying to address the problem.

Jessie's Park: P&KCllr Robertson advised that there will be an official unveiling of the plaque in due course, but in the meantime he will meet with members of the late Mrs Porter's family to discuss its final design.

Tillywhally Wood: CCllr Halford reported that the plaque in Tillywhally Wood is now on its plinth.

Olympic flame: P&KCllr Robertson advised that the Olympic flame would be passing through Milnathort, Kinross and Crook of Devon on June 13, 2012, and it was hoped

to arrange a celebration to mark the event.

Role of the CC: The CC agreed to a suggestion by P&KCllr Robertson that information about the CC's role should be delivered to households along with the Placecheck Newsletter.

Date of next meeting:- The next meeting of Milnathort CC will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011, in Orwell Parish Church Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.