

MUCKHART COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Muckhart Community Council held in the Coronation Hall on Wednesday 27th November 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Jon Jordan, Chair (JJ)
Marlene White, Vice-chair (MW)
Stuart Dean, Secretary (SD)
John Anderson, Treasurer (JA)
Danny Conroy (DC)
Douglas Fisher (DF)
Margot McKerrell (MM)
Matthew Pease (MEP)
Niall Simpson (NS)

In attendance: Keith Brown MSP; Mac West, Roads and Transportation Manager, Clackmannanshire Council; Carlyn Fraser, Traffic Management and Road Safety Officer, Clackmannanshire Council; Inspector David Mackenzie, Roads Policing Unit; PC Adele MacIntyre and 28 members of the community.

1. Apologies for Absence/Introductions

Apologies were received from Mireille Pouget, Colin Mann, Cllr Alastair Campbell; Cllr Kathleen Martin, PC James Miller and PC Louise Harding.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2013 were accepted as an accurate record.
Proposer: John Anderson. Seconder: Douglas Fisher.

4. Matters Arising

The following notes on Matters Arising from the meeting of 29th May 2013 were distributed prior to the meeting:

Matters Arising (Item 9). DRT for Muckhart and West Kinross-shire - update. The proposed scheme is progressing well but it still requires to be finalised and approved by the Minister. The planned target start date is 1st April 2014 is although that could be a little earlier if good progress is maintained.

Item 8. Co-option of new MCC member. So far no nominations have been submitted to the MCC Secretary. If a decision is to be made at the next MCC meeting on 29th January 2014 nominations are required to be submitted by Wednesday 8th January 2014.

Item 9. Community Council Protocol Document – update. Comments on the revised draft document have been submitted to Lesley Baillie. The finalised draft will be discussed at the JCCF meeting on 12th December 2013 prior to scrutiny and possible further edits by Council officers.

5. Police Report

PC Adele MacIntyre provided a verbal police report. Between the 9th October and 25th November 2013 three road issues were recorded. There were two speeding offences and one relating to the use of a mobile phone whilst driving.

6. Road Safety and Traffic Management in the Muckhart area

Mac West of Clackmannanshire Council dealt with a number of issues relating to road safety and traffic management issues in the Muckhart area. It was decided not to attend the MCC meeting on 9th October 2013 as previously planned in order that further survey work on traffic speeds could be carried out. This has now been undertaken and the further statistical evidence that has been obtained was detailed. He indicated that the Council is of the view that 30 mph is the correct limit for the village although there is further work to be carried out on the illuminated speed activated signs. Further work will also be carried out on road markings at the west end of the village to deter overtaking along with plans to resurface key stretches of the A91 to reduce noise and vibration due to the present poor state of the road surface. The height of the rumble strips will also be increased.

There then followed a wide ranging discussion on a number of issues such as the position of the speed limit signs at the east end of the village; the problems caused by drivers not braking when approaching from the east until well into the village; the effects on the speed of vehicles of removing road markings; the need for greater police enforcement; the impact on the accident rate of physical structures which provide traffic calming; the accuracy of the speed survey statistics; the effectiveness of speed cameras; the problems with the visibility of signs at the Yetts of Muckhart junction; the speed of vehicles and speed limits on Golf Course Road; the increase in vehicle speeds and the increased noise and vibration since the 20 mph limit was removed; who decides on the appropriate speed limit and what role do residents have in determining a speed limit.

Both Mac West and Carlyn Fraser responded to the many points that were discussed.

Inspector David McKenzie also spoke about the work that Police Scotland has undertaken in relation to road safety in Muckhart. He reported on the number of occasions that there has been a police presence in Muckhart – five and a half hours have been spent enforcing limits during 10 visits to the village – during which speeds have

been monitored and recorded. He was asked specifically about the use of mobile cameras and stated that, whilst there are strict guidelines for their use, the Roads Policing Unit does control the deployment of such cameras.

Keith Brown MSP indicated his disappointment at the decision to remove the 20 mph limit and reinstate the 30 mph limit. He also encouraged the use of double white lines to deter overtaking at the west end of the village as well as the provision of a cycleway between the Pool and Yetts of Muckhart. He also stressed that guidelines were there to be interpreted by Councils and that local opinion should be a factor in determining actions taken to improve road safety.

There then followed further discussion on a number of issues including the provision of more traffic calming at each end of the village; the frustration felt by certain residents at the lack of action by the Council; the use of parked cars to lower vehicle speeds; the long history of these problems with correspondence going back many years; and the impact of the vibration from HGVs and farm traffic on the structure of old houses.

The Chair then closed further discussion on this particular item and thanked those who had attended, indicating that the aim of the meeting had been to raise concerns and have them addressed by Council officials and the Police. There will be further discussion on this matter at the next MCC meeting on 29th January 2014.

A five minute break was taken at this point in the meeting.

7. Proposed Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan Public Consultation

SD outlined the latest developments. The proposed Clackmannanshire LDP and associated documents including the Muckhart Conservation Area Appraisal went out for public consultation on 15th November 2013 with responses required by 10th January 2014. A special MCC meeting has been called for 4th December at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall to discuss the Community Council response. Meanwhile a CD of the LDP has been provided by the Council. The key issue for Muckhart is the proposal for 35 houses to be built on site H48.

8. Consultation on DRT Service between Forth Valley Royal Hospital and Clackmannanshire.

SD outlined the background to the proposal to replace bus services H1 and H2 with a DRT provision due to the very low numbers accessing the hospital by the hospital buses. MCC responded to a consultation on the issue welcoming the proposal as it would be better than the present provision whereby there is no hospital bus which serves Muckhart. However there has been a general opposition in Clackmannanshire, including that from Keith Brown MSP, to a DRT service as it would decrease the accessibility of the hospital for many people in Clackmannanshire. Further discussions are now taking place on transport provision from Clackmannanshire to the Larbert hospital.

9. Consultation on Clackmannanshire Council Budget 2014-15.

Clackmannanshire Council is undertaking a consultation on the Council budget for 2014 - 15. The Council needs to save £25 million over the next 5 years with a saving of £7 million in 2014-15. It was felt however that there is insufficient information given in the consultation document to make an informed response. **ACTION SD**

10. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in Clackmannanshire

MCC has responded to the consultation on the polling districts and polling places for Clackmannanshire. The Coronation Hall remains the most suitable place for polling whilst once again it has been pointed out that anomalies exist in relation to a few properties in the area. One or two properties in the Muckhart community council area poll in Dollar whilst one property in the Dollar CC area polls in Muckhart. The Council will look at the issue but is unlikely to make changes unless the residents in those properties wish for the anomalies to be removed.

11. Glenquey Quarry Applications – update.

The two applications relating to the quarry in Glenquey were scheduled to go before the PKC Development Management Committee (DMC) on 13th November 2013. The officer's report recommended approval. However the applications were removed by officers from the DMC agenda three days before the meeting as "additional information had been received". No further information on this decision is available.

12. Reports from the MCC sub-groups – Planning; Publicity; Travel and Transport.

PLANNING GROUP:

JA indicated that the planning application for a house at Cowden and the restoration of the Japanese Garden has been withdrawn on a technicality but will be re-submitted at a later date.

PUBLICITY GROUP:

NS gave an update on the Muckhart website. A training meeting has been held and the website is now functioning. Help can be given to those in the various village groups who wish to place material on the site.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT:

There was no report although travel and transport issues were dealt with under Agenda Item 8.

13. Emergency Planning for the Muckhart area.

Danny Conroy spoke to the 'Draft Guide to Emergency Planning for Muckhart' drawn up by himself and Colin Mann and distributed at the meeting. MCC members were asked to provide CM and DC with their comments on the document which will be finalised in the light of any such comments. **ACTION ALL**

14. Refurbishment of Muckhart Church

John Anderson provided an update on the plans to refurbish Muckhart Church. The project is being driven by the need to replace the timber floor. Further information on the plans can be obtained from JA who would also welcome comments on them. **ACTION ALL**

15. Treasurer's Report

The following report was distributed prior to the meeting:

BALANCE AT LAST MEETING	£1704.26
Expenditure:	
Website payment (from 14 May 2013)	£360.00
Lady Haig Poppy Factory for wreath	£ 29.80
Income:	
Clackmannanshire Council – grant	£400.00
Clackmannanshire Council – meeting costs	£ 300.00
CURRENT BALANCE (as at 19 November 2013)	£2014.46

The Report was noted.

16. Correspondence

Details of correspondence were distributed prior to the meeting and copies were available to view.

17. AOCB

The following matter was raised under AOCB.

- SD reported that he had attended the T in the Park Community Forum and a response is required to a request by the promoters for an extra hour to be added to the licence for the Saturday. This will result in bands finishing at 1.00 am, not midnight as previously. MCC had no problem with this request and the organisers would be informed accordingly. **ACTION SD**

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Coronation Hall.