

# PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Port of Menteith Community Council held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 in the Priory Suite, Lake of Menteith Hotel commencing at 7.00pm.

Present : Peter Stewart, Chairman  
: Keith Graham, Vice Chair/Secretary  
: Sheena Makgill-Crichton  
: Christopher Nairn  
: Sir Archie Orr Ewing, Planning Adviser  
: John Tilman, Treasurer  
: Kenni Wills

In Attendance : Councillor Tony Ffinch  
: Willie Nisbet, NPA Board Member  
: PC Liam Ward (part)  
: PC Grant O'Donnell(part)  
: Valerie Graham, Minutes Secretary

---

## 1. Members Present & Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from John Walker

## 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011

The adoption of the Minutes as a true record was proposed by Keith Graham and seconded by Sheena Makgill-Crichton.

## 3. Matters Arising

### 3.1 Port of Menteith Church

Sheena Makgill-Crichton reported that the work on the church restoration was progressing and is being managed well. However, it had emerged that there is more work required, including rot in the floors in the tower, than had been anticipated and a decision will soon have to be made as to what work it will not be possible to undertake at this time due to lack of finance.

### 3.2 Rednock Portacabins

Keith Graham reported that the portacabins remain in place and there have been no further developments.

### 3.3 Historic Scotland

Keith Graham had nothing to report but he would continue to monitor the situation.

**Action : KG**

### 3.4 Caravan at The Barn, Tigh na Dhec

Valerie Graham had nothing to report. However, later in the meeting, PC Ward advised members that the fence around the site had been erected following several thefts, including money, from the site.

**Action VG**

### 3.5 Cardross Bridge

Keith Graham reported that Stirling Council had dug an exploratory pit on the surface of the Bridge but it had emerged that the proposed remedial work was not appropriate for the problem. The Council is now consulting with Historic Scotland about the next step.

Keith Graham also reported that during the recent closure of the A811 at Arnprior, and despite a request to Stirling Council that there should be signs at the junction with the B8034 that it was not to be used by heavy traffic, the signs had not been placed and the workmen had been redirecting lorries etc., towards Port of Menteith despite the road not being part of the official diversion route. It was agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent to Ian Young.

**Action : KG**

### 3.6 Roads

Councillor Finch reported that he had not yet had a response from Stirling Council's Roads Department regarding his enquiry about the water running continually across the B8034 along the Lake side. However, Keith Graham had spoken to Gordon McLaughlin in the Council's Roads Department that morning. He said that he was unaware of the problem but would investigate the situation.

Members were also advised that the stretch of the B8034 between Cardross Bridge and Dykehead, which had been mentioned at the previous meeting, had recently been patched.

## 4. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:

- Notification of a massive electoral registration campaign
- Details of Councillors' Surgeries
- Notification of Stirling Council's Housing Tenants conference focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour
- A copy of Rural Stirling Housing Associations 2010-2011 Annual Report
- Notice of a meeting of Stirling Council's Planning Panel
- A copy of NHS Forth Valley's *Community Health News*
- Notification of a meeting of Stirling Community Health Partnership, Public Partnership Forum
- Copies of the final issue of *The Community Councillor* announcing that the ASCC is closing down
- Details of Councillors' Surgeries
- Details of Stirling Council's Seminar *Response to Severe Weather* and a copy of the cross-party report
- Notice of the Commission on Rural Education's Call for Evidence – response required
- Details of the NPA's Community Partnership's annual conference *The Gathering*
- Details of the NPA's Community Futures Grants Scheme 2011/2012
- A copy of the SMP Products' *Parish & Community News*
- Notice of a meeting of Stirling Council's Planning Panel – to consider the upgrading of an access road at Braes of Boquhapple Farm, Thornhill, and the construction of three hard standings for cranes for the erection of three single 50m high wind turbines

## 5. Finance

Mr. Tilman circulated a financial report. He advised members that the Bank of Scotland is no longer paying interest on Treasurers' Accounts.

## 6. Planning Issues

- 6.1 Sir Archie identified various local locations for which applications for wind turbines had been made but Keith Graham reported that he had heard that morning that all the applications had been rejected by Stirling Council.
- 6.2 Sir Archie also reported that Mr. & Mrs. Martindale's application for an extension to Woodend had been approved.

## 7. Public Meeting

Keith Graham reported that approximately 50 people had attended the Public Meeting to discuss the introduction of a 50mph speed limit on a section of the road through the Port of Menteith and the introduction of a 40mph speed limit at Blairhoyle and Ruskie.

Feelings had run high regarding the proposal for the Port of Menteith, and although there had been support for the plan to move the existing 40mph sign further to the west, a show of hands had resulted in almost unanimous objection to the increased speed limit. Equally, there was unanimous support for the introduction of a 30mph limit citing the dangers of blind summits on the east and west approaches to the junction with the B8034, the proximity of the school to the road and the narrow pavement between the school and the Port Hall.

Stuart Geddes and Darren Ryan from Stirling Council had stated that the introduction of a 30mph limit through the Port did not comply with new guidance issued by the Scottish Executive because the number of frontages to the road (18) did not meet the minimum requirement of 20. However, Bruce Crawford, MSP was emphatic that the guidance was not statutory and consequently there should not be a blanket application to all locations regardless of local factors.

The reason that the 20mph school warning signs had not been working for most of the summer and since the start of the autumn term was also queried. Stuart Geddes had reported that the replacement solar panels had been ordered in April and delivered in June but had remained in the stores because of the shortage of staff to install them. However, two days after the meeting, the panels had been replaced although not all the signs were working properly.

No objections had been raised at the meeting regarding the proposal to introduce a speed limit through Blairhoyle and Ruskie but Peter Stewart had expressed considerable concern about the size, proliferation and location of speed limit signs. He had written to Stirling Council and was awaiting a reply.

It was agreed to write officially from the Community Council not only to formally object to the proposed introduction of a 50mph speed limit on a section of the road through the Port of Menteith but to also vigorously pursue a 30mph limit through the whole village.

**Action PS & KG**

## 8. Community Website

Sheila Makgill-Crichton reported that following a meeting with Allan Paterson, changes had been made to the layout of some of the pages and a great deal of additional information has been added. It is anticipated the Nigel Cole will shortly take over fully as webmaster and it is hoped that the website will officially 'go live' in the next few weeks. Members will be advised when that occurs.

**Action : SMC/VG**

## 9. Community Projects

### 9.1 Rednock Management Agreement

Mr. Graham reported that he had just been advised that it was likely that a agreement for the Community management of the Jubilee Wood car-park would be forthcoming within the next two months.

**9.2 Lake Shore Agreement**

Mr. Graham reported that a revised draft agreement for the management of the Lake Shore had been received and it would now be considered by the Projects Group.

**10. Any Other Business**

**10.1 The Gathering**

Members were advised that the Community Partnership's annual conference, 'The Gathering' was being held in Drymen on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**10.2 Dates of Meetings in 2012**

The following dates for meetings in 2012 were approved.

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2012    Lake of Menteith Hotel (corrected date)**

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2012        Port of Menteith Hall

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2012        Port of Menteith Hall

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2012      Port of Menteith Hall

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2012    Lake of Menteith Hotel

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2012    Lake of Menteith Hotel

**11. Date of the next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Lake of Menteith Hotel.