

MILNATHORT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7.30pm in Milnathort Town Hall

In attendance:- CClr Baudains, Chair, welcomed CCllrs Cook, Lawson, Williams, Heneghan (Secretary), Cartwright and Young to the meeting. Also in attendance were Perth and Kinross (PKC) Cllrs Giacopazzi, Cuthbert and Robertson and 11 members of the public. Apologies were received from CClr Kirkham (Treasurer) and from PKC Cllr Barnacle.

Minute's silence:- Before proceedings got under way, one minute's silence was held in respect of Kim Clark, who had died in a tragic incident in Milnathort on Tuesday, April 12.

Vice Chair:- Steven Young took up the post of vice-Chair after being proposed by Kevin Heneghan and seconded by Campbell Lawson.

Declarations of interest:- David Baudains declared an interest in the item on Best Kept Village, as he is Secretary of Milnathort in Bloom.

Matters outstanding from the last meeting of MCC, held on October 8, 2015:-

Cllr Giacopazzi reported on the following:

A vehicle-activated sign in Burleigh Road has been promised by PKC within the current financial year to help address the long-term problem of speeding. It will be of the type that tells drivers how fast they are travelling.

It has been confirmed that the wooden fence opposite the access to Auld Mart Road is PKC's responsibility and will be attended to.

The possibility of a path from Cuthill Towers to Burnside is being considered by TRACKS, but they are busy with various other projects at the moment. A case has also been put together by Stephen Bolland for PKC to consider a path from Cuthill Towers to Mawcarse Crossroads. Stephen to resend Cllr Giacopazzi the details of this. Cllr Giacopazzi and Cllr Robertson stated that this is a considerable waiting list within PKC for such works

Planning applications:- Campbell Lawson advised that he will provide visuals of all planning applications pertinent to Area 49 (MCC) from next month. They will also be available on the MCC website, which is currently under construction.

Lathro: There was a discussion about the field opposite Auld Mart Road. Cllr Robertson advised that that field could not be built on as it was a flood plain. The principle of development at Lathro (which is outwith the MCC area) had already been established, but SEPA had raised an objection. A member of the public expressed concern about the impact on The Queich in Auld Mart Wynd should the Lathro development go ahead, as it had been unable to cope with the heavy rain during the winter. Cllr Giacopazzi reported that SEPA was working with PKC on the issue.

Applications submitted:

Erection of a house on land 70 metres north east of East Netherton Farm: This has already been approved. Noted.

Change of use of antique showroom to dwelling house at Tudor House Antiques: Noted.

Erection of a house and garage on land 20m north of Craigowmill Farm: Noted.

Erection of a house and garage on land 30m south of The Manse, Perth Road: This application has been re-submitted, having been previously refused. The application is now for one house instead of two. A member of the public expressed concerns about congestion in the area and potential parking problems. Noted.

Erection of two houses on land 50m east of Upper Warroch Cottage: This has already been approved. Noted.

Following an enquiry from a resident in Victoria Avenue, Cllr Giacopazzi advised that there are no plans to develop the plot of land at the top of Jessie's Park.

Turbine towers: The Chair advised that he was awaiting a response from the police as to why residents had been asked to move their parked vehicles, and had not been informed that turbine towers were to be transported along Wester Loan at 4.30am. PKC Traffic and Network team were not notified of any abnormal load movement at this location on that date and the two known contractors in the area have confirmed it wasn't them.

Donaldson/Orwell Park: Cllr Giacopazzi reported that Kinross Football Club had successfully applied for funding for changing facilities and was seeking permission to site them behind Milnathort Primary School. The school car park would be utilised and the facilities would be available to pupils. Cllr Robertson pointed out that there was a shortage of such facilities in Kinross-shire and that this application was different from that previously submitted by Fossoway FC in that it was well away from Church Street and would not be used for anything other than changing.

Kinross-shire Best Kept Village Awards:- The Chair introduced Patrick Milne-Home, Chair of the awards committee. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the awards scheme and he hoped that Milnathort would participate. After discussion, it was agreed that David Baudains will liaise with other local groups with a view to progressing the idea.

Consulting the community:- Lisa Cartwright suggested holding morning meetings of MCC on an occasional basis so that more residents, including children, could attend. The possibility of carrying out a survey among residents was also put forward. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting. Lisa Cartwright advised that the MCC Facebook page is now up and running and that she is planning to launch a website. It was also agreed that she should approach the primary school with a view to asking pupils to design an MCC logo.

New matters and correspondence:-

Friends of Milnathort Town Hall are seeking a treasurer.

May Kinross Feel Good Fair: The Chair and Lisa Cartwright will discuss the possibility of MCC having a presence.

Conservation area: There was a discussion about Kinross-shire Civic Trust's proposal to designate Milnathort as a conservation area. The previous community council had rejected the idea unanimously. Cllr Robertson advised that PKC were not keen to create any more conservation areas and, following further discussion, the MCC agreed that the disadvantages of such a move would greatly outweigh any advantages.

Dog fouling: There was a discussion about the problems caused by irresponsible dog owners, including a husky allowed to run free in Jessie's Park. Fouling was particularly bad on the pavement near the school and in Donaldson Park, where some areas had been left wild. Cllr Robertson agreed to ask PKC to cut the grass in the entire park once the daffodils have gone over and Campbell Lawson will contact the dog warden to find out how many waste bins there are and whether they are emptied frequently enough. It was also noted that green dog waste bags are available free of charge in Giacopazzi's.

Fireworks:- There was a proposal to hold a fireworks display/bonfire in Donaldson Park on November 5, but after discussion it was felt that while a community event was a good idea, this would prompt considerable negative reaction.

Protocol: It was agreed that if members of the MCC were approached with ad hoc enquiries, they should pass details on to the Chair and Secretary so that appropriate action could be explored.

Traffic issues:-

Victoria Avenue: Drivers are still occasionally going the wrong way down Victoria Avenue, which is now a one-way street. Cllr Giacopazzi will pursue the possibility of erecting another sign and Cllr Robertson will raise the matter with the police.

Bollards and speeding tractors: A member of the public expressed concerns that the bollards at the corner of Burleigh Road and Perth Road had been sheared off by heavy vehicles on more than one occasion. There was also an issue with tractors speeding in this area. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would speak to the police about this as well as the problem of tractors going too fast down North Street.

South Street:

- Cllrs Giacopazzi and Robertson advised that the build-out at the zebra crossing will be completed this year.
- Cllr Robertson will request that the 20mph limit is extended to beyond the crossing.
- Cllr Giacopazzi will ask the police to set up more speed traps as a number of drivers had already been caught.
- Cllr Robertson will also ask about installing a second crossing farther up, at Bridgefauld Road. This was unlikely to be approved due to financial constraints, but may be possible under the Safer Routes to School scheme.

Blocked drain: Cllr Robertson will again report the blocked drain at the junction of Bridgefauld Road and Whyte Place.

Church Street/Stirling Road: Concerns were raised about the poor visibility at this junction because of bushes affecting drivers' line of sight. Parabolic mirrors can only be installed on a private basis. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Robertson would ask PKC officials to look at the site.

Potholes: Cllr Giacopazzi will take up the issue of potholes in the village, especially in Church Street. Members of the public are encouraged to report potholes to clarence@pkc.gov.uk

Primary school closure: A member of the public asked if PKC had been held accountable for the closure of the school for two days in December and whether an assurance be given that the same thing would not happen again. Cllr Robertson said that the contractor used by PKC, when the problem with the roof occurred were not compliant with health and safety rules and an emergency team had to be brought in, hence the delay. He could not guarantee that any similar problems would not occur in future as it was a flat roof. PKC have since increased their contractors from one to three to reduce the likelihood of a similar situation arising.

Other business:-

Cllr Cuthbert thanked members of the MCC for giving up their time for the sake of the community.

Recycling: The Chair asked if there were any plans to introduce glass-recycling facilities for individual households. Cllr Robertson said there were none at present but householders would be given smaller general waste bins later this year to encourage more recycling and ease the pressure on landfill sites. Families of five or more will still qualify for the bigger bins.

Pavement at Mawcarse: Cllr Giacopazzi advised that two householders had yet to fulfil their obligation to provide a footpath of an adoptable standard but this was in hand and the path would be completed in due course.

Scottish Water: Campbell Lawson advised that Scottish Water had agreed to sponsor a Christmas tree or flower tub for the village. David Baudains will pass on the details to Milnathort in Bloom.

Date of next meeting:- The next meeting of Milnathort Community Council will take place in Milnathort Town Hall on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 7.30pm. It will be the AGM followed by a routine monthly meeting. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend.