

GLENFARG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday 7th September 2015
Glenfarg Village Hall

PRESENT: CCllrs Alex Johnston (Chairman), Janet Watson (Secretary), Gillian Vaughan (Treasurer), Rob Duncan, Daniel Horsman, and Margaret Ponton.

Also present Cllr Robertson and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES: CCllr Mackenzie and CCllr Arnold, Cllr Barnacle, Cllr Cuthbert

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: It was agreed to adopt the minutes of 6th July with the following amendments –

Police Report

Paragraph 2 to read “CCllr Arnold gave a brief update on the NHW on behalf of Lynsey Penman, our local NHW Co-ordinator. The Neighbourhood Watch has been growing slowly and now stands at 87. Alerts about local criminal activity, scams plus advice on securing property and possessions have been sent out to members on an almost weekly basis.”

Correspondence & AOCB

2. Elections – to read, “The elections for Community Councils will take place on Thursday 5th November. Candidates are required to submit their nomination forms and a short supporting statement to PKC before 24th September. Glenfarg CC is allowed up to 12 CCllrs. It was agreed that the Community Council should start advertising the elections with the aim of attracting “new blood”. The Chairman said he would prepare an advert for the Glenfarg Grapevine and the Notice board, it being too late to go into the August/September edition of the Newsletter.”

5. Wallace Park - to read, “A reminder has been sent to the Pay Back Team asking them to return to recoat/varnish the children’s wooden table, chairs and animals in the Park. It was agreed that the cost of materials will come out of CC funds.”

MATTERS ARISING:

Response to Road Closures – the Secretary has written to Stuart D’All at P&KC, expressing concern at inadequacy of communication about recent road closures, and is awaiting a reply.

White lines in Church Brae – although most road markings have now been reinstated, the line outside the church has been missed. *Secretary to write to Roads Department.*

Dropped kerb and white line outside Village Store – Secretary has emailed Road Safety Officer who made the suggestion but has received no reply. Cllr Robertson suggested that local councillors be copied into such communications.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a summary of her report, which had been circulated to CClrs prior to the meeting. Total funds held are £11,383.26, comprising £6,304.86 Newsletter, £20.99 Micro Grant and £4,011.00 Nursing Fund. There is one invoice outstanding - £168 printing costs of Vision questionnaire. The Vehicle Activation Sign costs are expected to use up the Nursing Fund, with additional cost coming from the Newsletter fund.

PLANNING:

Cllr Johnston gave a summary of his Planning Report, which had been circulated to CClrs prior to the meeting. The CC's Planning Group had reviewed 4 new applications and no grounds for objection had been found. P&KC has approved 4 applications and refused 2.

LOCHELBANK UPDATE:

Cllr Ponton reported on the Lochelbank Community Benefit Fund. A meeting of Panel Members and Foundation Scotland is to take place on 30th September to discuss progress. So far, just over 50% of the total fund distributed has benefitted our area. Two new Glenfarg Panel Members are being sought and, as there have been more applications than positions, interviews will be held.

Cllr Ponton stressed that in the future the Panel would not consider favourably applications to the fund for running costs or maintenance. The Panel felt that these costs should usually be met from members' contributions.

There was considerable discussion on the £2,500 limit imposed per application. Cllr Ponton pointed out that the initial Terms of Reference make no mention of a limit. Community Councillors felt that they had got agreement for this limit to be put in place, at least for the first few years. There was some question over whether the Panel could make changes without informing or gaining the agreement of the Community Council. It was felt that this issue should be brought up at the first meeting of the new Community Council – *Secretary to advise*.

POLICE REPORT:

PC Wilson presented the report, which had been circulated. This month's message is a reminder that it is illegal to use a mobile phone while driving, when stopped at traffic lights, in queuing traffic or when supervising a learner driver.

There had been 5 incidents in the area since the last meeting – theft of power tools etc from transit van, theft of diesel from a tractor within farm premises, attempted theft of 2 bicycles from a camper van, theft of copper cabling from water treatment works, theft of power tools etc from construction site. Residents are asked to check their security arrangements, especially for power tools, garden equipment and bicycles.

BINN FARM UPDATE:

Cllr Duncan reported that there is now planning consent for the windfarm and construction is due to begin in March/April 2016 with a projected 6-9 month construction period. The company hopes to obtain a Renewables Obligation Certificate via the September Energy Bill currently at committee stage in the Lords.

The CC will be advised of the Transport Management Plan. A Tendering Fair is planned for October in Perth.

3 of the 4 CCs affected are happy to sign the final agreement, including Glenfarg CC. One CC was not present at the meeting and is requesting more precise details.

MICRO GRANTS:

CCllr Watson has sent the annual report to Foundation Scotland, showing that the CC had distributed £1,024.01 in grants. Foundation Scotland has asked if any improvements were to be made in promoting or processing the grants, but it was felt that the process worked well and no change was required.

BOUNDARY CHANGES:

The Boundary Commission is proposing boundary changes that would affect Glenfarg. The CC area would be moved from the Kinross-shire Ward 8 to Ward 9 Almond and Earn. Kinross-shire would be reduced from 4 councillors to 3. P&KC are opposing changes.

CCllr Duncan attended a Kinross-shire Forum where Cllr Cuthbert gave a presentation on objections to the proposals. As a result, a Facebook group is to be set up for objections. *CCllr Duncan to inform us of the details when available.*

It was agreed that the CC would object to the proposals on the grounds that it ignores our natural links and connections with the Kinross-shire area and aligns us with a Ward where the present councillors have no knowledge of our area and its issues. A letter of objection is to be drawn up for agreement by CCllrs (*Chair / Sec*).

A member of the public expressed concerns that the High School catchment area may change if the proposals were to go through. This was felt to be unlikely, but it underlined residents' desire for stability in our connections with Kinross.

It was agreed that we would encourage residents to respond to the Boundary Commission's consultation (deadline 22nd October). This to be done through information on Facebook, website, email, notice board, and an article in the newsletter (*CCllr Duncan*).

Cllr Robertson advised that he is communicating with the residents of Arngask Parish who live to the east of the motorway, with the aim of reuniting Arngask within the boundary changes.

STORAGE FACILITIES:

A proposal has been put forward to create a Glenfarg Storage Facility, managed by the community for the use of community groups, using the old pavilion in Wallace Park. This is owned by P&KC and is presently leased to the Tennis Club, which no longer has a need for it.

There was discussion on which group would manage the facility, and the need to restrict traffic crossing the park. As a first step, P&KC and the Tennis Club to be approached about the lease (*CCllr Ponton*)

VISION:

Questionnaires have been printed and are to be distributed this week by the Scouts and CCllrs. A copy will be on the website. Questionnaires are to be returned by 2nd October. Posters are to be put up around the village and extra copies in the shop (CCllr Horsman).

CCllr Arnold had resigned from the Vision group as he felt that there had not been sufficient consultation over suggested improvements to the questionnaire. He therefore does not wish to have his name associated with it.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A list of correspondence had been circulated. It was agreed to publicise the request of Edinburgh University for members of the public interested in social science research to join a Panel (*Secretary*)

AOCB:

1. Fete Accounts & Awards – it was felt that there had been less information provided this year on income and expenditure. A letter will be sent emphasising the need for transparency and requesting more information (*Secretary*).
2. State of Wall on Main Street (curling stones) - Cllr Robertson to be asked if he has raised this matter with the Roads Dept (*Secretary*).
3. Grapevine Email Service – Dave Arnold had resigned as editor of this service and two members of the community, Mark Crossey and Alison Duncan, have volunteered to share the position.
4. Old CC notice board – this has been removed from its position in Ladeside and is to be used by the equestrian eventing group.
5. Arngask Church has requested that a CCllr read a scripture at the Remembrance Day service on 8th November. *CCllr Mackenzie to be invited to do this on our behalf.*
6. CC Election –the Secretary had received an email from P&KC expressing concern at the low number of nominations received so far. Residents are advised to put in nomination forms as soon as possible. It was emphasised that if less than 6 nominations were received Glenfarg would no longer have a Community Council.
7. Wooden Animals in Park – responses from the community have all been in favour of these being painted in funky colours. It was agreed to hold a children's competition with a prize offered for the best designs. Local author Gillian Galbraith was suggested as a judge.
8. Vehicles in Wallace Park – a member of the public reported seeing a vehicle driving through the park to the Tennis Club this evening. It was decided to write to the Tennis Club, asking them to remind members that this should only happen in exceptional circumstances (*Secretary*).
9. Scottish Water – a member of the public asked if the CC knew about plans to prune trees on the route to the reservoir. CCllr Johnston replied that no approach had been made to the CC.

The next meeting, which will be of the new Community Council, will be held on 9th November