



Coupar Angus and Bendochy Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall Chambers.

Present: Duncan Kettles, Jo Kettles, Michael Gallagher, Steve Cumming, Stuart Wilshaw, Peter Grewar, PC Lorimer, Michelle Peet – minute taker and 11 members of public.

Apologies: Carolyn Brown, Councillor Melloy, Clare Damodaran – reporter.

Adoption of Minutes: On page 2 paragraph 2 sentence 7 should read 'Michael also asked about extending the footpath so can cross at Bridge at Station Road to Candlehouse Lane from the doctors' surgery towards the Balhousie home.' (Street names were incorrect.) With this change the minutes were adopted; proposed by Michael Gallagher and seconded by Steve Cumming.

Police Report: Two mountain bikes had been stolen from the flats in High Street, Coupar Angus, a chain one inch thick had been cut through to remove them. The bikes were stolen overnight; the police are still looking for the thief. There had been a report of a cat being shot by an air pelt, there was also a report of a shotgun going off at 2:30am, nothing else heard since. A drunk drive was charged in Coupar Angus. In Spittalfield there were bogus workmen with Irish accents wearing hi-vis vests and driving a white tipper truck. The travellers on Welton Road Blairgowrie had moved on last week. There was only one question Jo asked who do we speak to regarding getting more police.

David Roche: Mr Roche had spoken to the Community Council regarding the declassification of a field at the end of Beechgrove Road from agricultural land to within the town boundary about a eighteen months ago. Now the plots of land are up for sale. The development plan has changed and now residential development has been approved. The convenor of the hearing had, in Mr Roche's opinion, been out of order when they had asked the agent how many houses were being planned. There are now five plots being sold. In Mr Roche's opinion the building of houses cannot be stopped, the best that could be achieved would be to limit the number. The road is totally unsuitable for more vehicular use. Three quarters of the road has a wall and therefore no refuse for pedestrians, the other quarter is a steep bank, all of which means the road cannot be widened to allow the passage of two vehicles. The refuse lorries have to reverse up the road, as do any delivery lorries. Councillor Grant is in support of the opposition. There is no planning application on the table at present; the land has only just gone up for sale. However, Mr Roche suggests that opposition needs to be registered now that five houses it far too many, two would be more than enough. Councillors Melloy and Grant agree that there needs to be a restriction on the number of houses built. Mr Roche would like the Community Council to support the opposition. John Easson pointed out that, although the present owner of the field opposite is not applying for development on that field, they may not always be the owner. Mr Easson indicated that he supports Mr Roche.

David Carson: Mr Carson wished to discuss Forward Coupar Angus's application to the TCCF fund to buy Meg's Café. He was unhappy to learn that the Community Council had also applied to the TCCF fund to also buy Meg's Café. Mr Carson explained that the application to the TCCF fund was part of a project which had been ongoing for the last two years. He explained that the project had started with the Soupathon which had developed into classes for soup/food preparation – these classes had been over-subscribed. There had been very positive feedback. Everyone involved were volunteers. Keep Scotland Beautiful had provided a grant to employ Rachel Butterworth a food development officer; she had obtained lots of feedback from the community and suggested the monthly market. At the market one of the first stalls to sell out was the vegetable stall which had produce from the Community Gardens; again these are run by volunteers. In 2013 CART had done a survey, one result of which was that Meg's Café was deemed to be scruffy. CART worked with POP, the local primary school and John Easson to improve Meg's Café. In 2014 FCA did a survey regarding the purpose of buildings. A need for a Community Shop was identified - one that was run by the Community, for the Community. The only stumbling block was money. The TCCF fund has £1.7M for the whole of Scotland. FCA put in an application, the Town Team were informed but asked not to discuss too much as FCA were in negotiation with the owner of Meg's Café. FCA were unhappy to discover that the Community Council had subsequently also put in an application to the TCCF fund also for Meg's Café. However, the Community Council's application was for a Community Café; FCA felt the building was too small for a Community Café. It was Mr Carson's opinion that the two applications work against one another. Mr Carson would like the Community Council to withdraw their application. All the volunteers involved in FCA's application would like support from the Community Council. They hope that the legacy of the application will be a Community Shop. Duncan thanked Mr Carson for his presentation and suggested that the Community Council withdraw their application. Duncan wished to point out that he had spoken to the owner of Meg's Café before the Community Council put their application in and was told that there were no other interested parties. There was a lot of discussion as to whether FCA had consulted their members before putting in their application. There was a comment from a member of public that this whole episode was damaging to the whole town and also a comment that it was hoped that something like this never happens again – communication must be improved between all groups in Coupar Angus. It was agreed that nothing was to appear on Facebook.

David Carson and four members of public then left.

Later in the meeting a vote was taken. Duncan, Jo and Steve all voted to withdraw the Community Council application, Stuart abstained from voting and Michael voted against withdrawing. Michael wished the following statement to be put in the minutes. 'Michael voted against withdrawing the Community Council's funding application to buy Meg's Café for use as a community café, as David Carson had confirmed that FCA had not consulted their 200+ members over their application to buy it for use as a community shop. Therefore, Michael felt that FCA had no democratic mandate for its funding application.'

Stuart wished the following statement to be put in the minutes. 'While I am in complete agreement with Michael I felt I had to abstain from voting as I was standing down from the Council at the upcoming election and would not therefore be able to continue to give support.'

Peter Grewar. Mr Grewar read out the attached statement regarding the work of the Kettins and Coupar Angus Burns Group. He thanked the Community Council for their support. Mr Grewar pointed out that PKC own 500m of bank in reach two and are therefore responsible for clearing the land. Chances of Coupar Angus, especially George Street flooding now greatly reduced due to the work of Make a Difference group, the Community Council and the Burns Group. Michael asked why did Peter Dickson (Senior Flooding Engineer at PKC) say that the work has increased the risk of flooding? Mr Grewar replied that the first inch of water the ground will soak up if it is well drained. He further explained that if the ground is dry and well drained that first inch of water will flow into the burn. The burn is now straightened. Coupar Angus never flooded until the bridges were built. The Burns Group have now done as much as they are able. Mr Grewar hoped that the Community Council would keep asking PKC to clear

the sediment from under the A94 bridge. A member of public asked about East Balgershore – Mr Grewar said it was not part of the Burns Group but he was happy to meet with the gentleman and advise him. Mr Grewar informed the meeting that he is advising the people of Alyth. Michael informed Mr Grewar that the Community Council had sent a letter to PKC regarding the removal of sediment from under the A94 bridge. It was also mentioned that the Community Council were in a slightly awkward position as PKC are saying one thing and the Burns Group are saying something different. Steve commented that he was convinced by Mr Grewar's argument. Michael read out parts of an email he had received from Russell Stewart of the flooding department of PKC. There had been a report commissioned by PKC in 2007, which concluded that a flood mitigation scheme was economically viable and should be further developed. In October 2007 the Council's Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee approved the promotion of a flood mitigation scheme at Coupar Angus, subject to availability of finance. Another report is due to be presented to the Council in December 2015; however, this one is likely to conclude that a flood mitigation scheme is now not economically viable. Steve suggested that the Community Council should write to PKC; it was agreed that Michael would write. Jo thanked Mr Grewar, and the Burns Group on behalf of the town for all their work. Mr Grewar commented that the Community Council needed to get the Councillors to help. Jonathan Menzies, the editor of the Blairgowrie Advertiser, was at the Community Council meeting and agreed to put an article in the paper. A member of public asked that if SEPA were supposed to assess the flood risk in an area would SEPA change the flood risk now the sediment had been removed. The catchment area of the Coupar Angus Burn was 3,00 acres.

Mr Grewar and one member of public then left the meeting.

Treasurer's Report. £512 in the account, would be below £500 by next month due to outstanding bills. No news from Bendochy, Steve had spoken to members of the community but no one had shown an interest on becoming the Community Council member for Bendochy.

Matters Arising. Chris Little was due to attend this meeting but had been unable to. Guy Mickleson from the same company was in Coupar Angus tomorrow; it was agreed that Jo would meet with him. The application had still not gone to planning. The town will benefit because the sub-station will be upgraded. Bob Talbot said that at a public meeting held in Bridge of Cally he had discovered the Greenburn wind farm would not be on the same cable as the Tullymurdoch wind farm. Duncan agreed to speak Chris Little regarding one or two cables. John Easson said he had seen the plans for the Tullymurdoch wind farm. He agreed to pass on the number to Jo. Bob Talbot agreed to pass to Duncan the details of the company involved with the Greenburn wind farm. It appeared as if the cable was to go through the Community Garden; a member of the public agreed to pass the information on to DR.

Planning. Durham House at Lily Bank – extension, the neighbour was present at the meeting and said they had no objection.

Illuminations Group. Michael had been in discussion with Bob Clark of the Illuminations Group regarding their £600 public liability and lights insurance per annum. He wished to ask PKC if the Illumination Group could become a sub-committee of the Community Council and thus use PKC's insurance. This would cover the public liability but not insure the lights. Michael proposed invite the Illuminations Group to discuss with the Community Council and the PKC Insurance Department. The Illuminations Group meet tomorrow and it will be discussed. A member of public pointed out that there was Gala equipment in the Illuminations Group store. There was some discussion that when the Illuminations Group started they had been under PKC insurance but after three years the premium had drastically increased. It was discovered that the insurance had been incorrect.

Hustings. Michael asked if the Community Council should arrange a husting for the forthcoming Community Council elections. There was some discussion and it was agreed that Michael would contact all candidates to see if it was a viable proposition. A member of public pointed out that he had tried to withdraw his application to become a

Community Councillor but had been told that after the closing date this was not possible. He was trying to let as many people as possible know that he was no longer standing as a candidate.

The discussion and vote as to whether the Community Council should withdraw their application to the TCCF fund now took place but for clarity the result was put after the item.

Next meeting Monday 9 November 2015 in the Town Hall Chamber at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.