

UPLAWMOOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2014

Attendees : David Carlaw, Lorna Dempster, Charles Brindley, Gordon Steel, Ross Leggat, Rose Daly, Kenny Knox & John Black

Apologies : Cllr. Paul O'Kane

Councillors Attending : Elaine Green & Tony Buchanan

Other Attendees: David Riddet, Joyce Miller, Lelsley Leggett & Joe Daly

Police Report

There had been two reported incidents over the last period. One was a random police stop of a vehicle within the village that turned out to be uninsured, the second was vandalism when a youth throw a stone at a car and caused damage.

The officer was asked if there had been any further progress with establishing who was causing the vandalism at the school (at the poly tunnel). She was unaware of either this or the drug taking at the school after school hours. She will ask her Inspector if he has any knowledge of this.

With Barrhead station being closed during certain hours, the officer informed us should there be any incidents, high-speed response cars will come from Giffnock.

Councilors Report

Cllr. Green reminded the group that the Janitors house at the school had been renovated with money from ERC and not McTagart & Mickel. We were also told that money from the Local Area Forum will be used to help pay for the poly tunnel at the school to be repaired.

There has been some confusion between ERC and UCC regarding who would pay for the eradication program of Japanese Knotweed. ERC will only pay for knotweed removal on land they own. Any on private land would need to be paid for by the landowner. Tony was not sure if ERC could enforce the removal of the weed with landowners. An option could be a program run by ERC to cover the entire village and bill all the landowners. This would be cheaper than carrying out the work individually. It is uncertain whether ERC could force landowners to take action.

Action

- *Tony Buchanan will investigate how we can move this forward and if eradication by landowners is enforceable.*
- *Tony will ask someone from Parks to contact David urgently.*

Turbine Application

There followed a discussion on the turbine application 2014/0013/TP. This turbine will be sited in an area which already has a number of different sized units and close to the NDT windfarm. UCC had received a number of letters from residents in close proximity to this site asking us to object. It was raised with the Councillors that yet again, even though this turbine is to be sited within, or very close to our CC boundary, the Council did not inform us.

A number of issues around the actual application were raised. In the application there are no mention of the proliferation of turbines already in the area, any applications that are currently pending in the same area, that no EIA report has not been requested by ERC. The Councillors agreed that there are faults in the legislation that ERC are trying to fix in the new Local Plan.

After some discussion, it was agreed that UCC would object to this application on the cumulative noise effect of another turbine, the negative visual impact and severe disruption to rural life and especially for those residences close by.

Action

- *David is to write a letter of objection to ERC.*
- *Lorna is to inform the individuals who had written to UCC.*

A736

A number of potholes and sunken manholes have appeared on the road. The Councilors informed us that work has been scheduled for the A736 and will begin very soon. The village, on occasion, will have to be used as a detour for the traffic.

Mure Hall Car Park

A number of large potholes have appeared on the drive into the car park.

Action

Tony will inform Parks/Roads dept.

Caldwell House

Elaine mentioned that the planning proposal for Caldwell was no further forward. It was mentioned that UDT were trying to establish the owner of the site, Elaine said that Iain McLean, Planning Manager ERC may be able to help.

Approval of February 2014 minutes

Minutes were approved with one minor amendment.

Action

- *Lorna to make the changes to the minutes.*

Co-option of new member & Councilor Resignation

Gill West, who was proposed by Heather Anderson, has been voted onto UCC. During the month, Heather tendered her resignation from UCC. It was noted that Heather had worked hard over her many years with UCC and would be missed.

Action

- *Lorna is to contact Gill with the date of the next meeting.*
- *David to thank Heather personally for all her efforts.*

Tree Felling in Glen

Lorna and Cllr Gilbert met with Andrew McCloy from ERC regarding the felling of trees in the Glen. There are no more trees to come down at this point and the clear up will continue as planned. Lorna asked Mr McCloy to inform the Community Council of any trees that need removed in the future, and to mark the trees so we are all aware of their exact location. This will help with communication of the issue around the villagers, many of whom had expressed concern. Mr McCloy agreed to this. He also mentioned that a new fence was to be erected and that there will be a number of native trees planted.

Review of the Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

ERC are the only Council to hold an independent review. All CC's are to be disbanded then new elections take place both in 2015. The consultants running the review are holding two focus groups, one for CC members and one for villagers.

Action

- *Lorna to send out an email asking which CC members would like to attend.*

Matters Arising

Paddlocked Gates

Lorna and resident Jan Houston met with Iain Williamson, Access Officer East Ayrshire Council to discuss the locked gates. This meeting had been arranged by Jan who also agreed for a UCC member to come along. Both landowner and villager have rights and it was suggested by Mr Williamson that the best way forward is to ask the landowner to come to an informal meeting so both views can be heard and have suggested routes across the land to discuss. A coordinated response between UCC and UDT will be discussed.

Action

- *David is to speak to Alex Scott (landowner) to ask if he would attend a meeting.*
- *Lorna is to speak to John Raeside (UDT) to ask if they will become involved.*

UCC Website

David is involved in getting the UCC domain from Iain. The site has had 87 visits and 274 page views since our last meeting.

November 2013 Minutes

David has passed these to Kenny Knox to finish and distribute to UCC members for comments before the next meeting.

Action

- *Kenny to ensure all members have seen the minutes before April's meeting.*

Planning

See earlier discussion under Turbine.

Correspondence

Letters were received by three residents all relating to the negative impact they believe the turbine proposal will have on the lives and property.

Treasurers Report

There is no report this month due to the resignation of Heather. Gordon Steele has agreed to take this role until further notice.

Action

- *Gordon is to visit Heather to get the bank books etc.*

Any Other Business

First Responders

This group of volunteers has managed to secure the old police station in Neilston for their base. They achieved this through lottery funding and the Local Area Forum will set aside money for them to purchase equipment such as furniture. There is a list of items they require, so Kenny will try to get hold of it to see if we can help.

Action

- *Kenny to get hold of the list for the next meeting.*

Village Clean Up Day

Jenni Green informed the meeting that the primary school children would like to be part of this event. Lorna has contacted ERC and they will provide us with the necessary equipment.

Action

- *Ross is to publicise the event on our website and FB page.*
- *Lorna to email Heather asking for access to the Mure Hall.*

Noticeboard

There is still no update of the work to be done on the board at the postbox.

Action

- *Charles is to speak to Jack Gault to ask if he would be prepared to fix it.*

Uplawmoor Development Trust

David Riddet from UDT told the meeting that a survey regarding the possibilities of opening a village shop have gone out to all residents. An open meeting will be held by UDT following analysis of the results.

The Castburn path upgrade has almost been completed. Gates in the middle have been taken away and ramps installed and a new surface has been laid to allow access for all.

Transport – leaflets will be distributed around the village describing all the options available including car pooling, availability of the Wee Red Bus both for individuals and groups to hire and transport for hospital and doctor appointments.

Park – there are many options being discussed at the present time including possible energy saving ideas.

Next meeting is Monday 20th March at 7.30pm.