

UPLAWMOOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2013

Attendees : David Carslaw, Lorna Dempster, Heather Anderson, Karen Bain, Charles Brindley

Apologies : Cllr Green, Cllr Buchanan, Joyce Miller

Councillors Attending : Charlie Gilbert, Paul O’Kane

There were no Police in attendance.

Police Report

The minutes for June were proposed and seconded as being correct

June Minutes

Councilors Report

The new Eastwood High School building is now open. Eastwood High, the feeder high school for Uplawmoor, achieved its best exam results this year. Again, all ERC schools performed well.

The Councilors were told that the bus stop at 86/88 Neilston Road has been moved to the wrong position. David will resend the planned site to Charlie Gilbert for actioning.

The Planning Application for a dwelling at Has now been approved following a site visit. Cllr. O’Kane explained that he had disagreed with the decision for approval as he did not consider the site suitable, however this was not supported by any others on the Planning Committee.

David explained that he had written to the Planning Department on behalf of UCC regarding the application, questioning the level of detail, inaccuracies in the Report of Handling and the decision to completely reverse last years decision to reject the same application.

The reply received from Planning was unacceptable and UCC agreed that the integrity of ERC Planning needs to be questioned.

This is not an isolated incident. There have been a number of issues with the Planning Department over the years including:

The development of Uplawmoor East by McTaggart & Mickel where Planning admitted they had been unaware of changes in Planning

regulations, changing the road description in favour of the developers etc.

Neilston Wind Farm where ERC Planning department allowed the re-siting of a turbine without asking for a new application to be made or consulting with the village. ERC considered this to be moved as a non-material variation even though it has had a huge visual impact on the village and surrounding properties.

The proposed development of the large Knockmade Plantation wind farm – East Ayrshire Planning department wrote to ERC planning asking for comments regarding this development which will significantly affected a number of ERC residents. Our planning department made no comment even though they are aware of the number of turbines already in this area and the effect they have on communities.

Caldwell Tower – the approval of a totally unsuitable extension for this historic building.

We have an absolute right to expect the Planning Department to be professional and to correctly follow procedures. It was agreed that we would take these concerns to the Planning Ombudsman as a formal complaint.

Action

- David will commence the formal complaints procedure against ERC Planning Department.
- David and Cllr O’Kane will arrange a meeting between Gillian Carney (ERC Planning Department) and UCC.

David raised the problem with the timing of the Community Council elections. We were informed in June that the closing date for Councilors would be 1

UCC Elections – Spetember 2013

st August. This is the wrong time to run elections as the majority of people are on holiday over July. It was also agreed that AGM’s would be far better to be held at a different time of the year rather than in September, just after the school holidays.

Action

- Cllr. O’Kane will speak to Alex Hewitson to discuss feedback on the process of the elections from other CC’s.
- Lorna is to put together a short newsletter giving the details of the AGM and requesting more volunteers for UCC.
- Lorna is to purchase fruit juice and crisps for the AGM.

The survey flyers were distributed around the village at the beginning of summer. We have had a number of returns and David has put

Japanese Knotwood

together a map showing where the weed is growing. It is important that we now get the process of eradication started and set up a program to ensure this is carried out by ERC each year.

Action

Cllr. Gilbert is to pass the name of the contact in ERC to David.

Safety at Park Entrance/Exit

Karen raised this issue following an incident a few days prior. She is requesting a barrier on the pavement to stop children running straight onto the road at the Neilston Road exit. There is also an issue with cars/vans being parked on the road and pavement that severely reduces visibility for pedestrians and drivers alike. This problem will be further exacerbated with the increase in traffic at this point once the McTaggart & Mickel houses have been built.

Action

- A site visit is to be arranged with UCC members and Cllr. Gilbert. The possibility of yellow lines or zig zag lines and traffic calming is to be discussed.

Uplawmoor Glen

The tree surgeons have removed some of the fallen trees however one large tree remains at the waterfall. This is causing a large build up of silt and rubbish.

Action

- Cllr. Gilbert will speak to the relevant department to chase up its removal.

2296.99 pounds are in the UCC current account. This includes 400 pounds which belongs to the Development Trust Steering Group.

Treasurers Report

Fingart Turbine

The applicant for the previous turbine applications is apparently going to continue to try to get a turbine up. He will be lodging a new application on a slightly altered site that East Ayrshire Council state does not need an EIA report. The owner states that the road is very rarely used and therefore will not affect residents/locals.

Action

- David is to set up a rota for each of the UCC members to monitor activity on the Halket route.
- A joint meeting between Uplawmoor and Dunlop & Lugton CC's is to be arranged at our October meeting. Lorna is to put this on the agenda.

Karen suggested that UCC consider setting up a Twitter account or Facebook page that may help us reach more residents, especially the younger age range.

UCC Communication

Action

- Karen is to present a mock up page of both at the October meeting.

Any Other Business

None.

Next meeting is Wednesday 11th September at 7.30pm. This is the AGM.