



**Minutes of Cameron Community Council Meeting held in Cameron Hall on 15th
June 2011 at 6:30pm**

- Chairman:** Peter Jerome
- Present:** Gordon Ball, Linda Cameron, Dick Bond; Peter Jerome, David Scott
- Attending:** Cllr. D McGregor, Cllr. M Scott-Hayward, R Sprot, J Ball, K Simpson, S Riach, D Riach, Mr Riach
- Apologies:** J Wylie, D Brown, Cllr. E Riches, J Paul, B Thomson, S White
- Minutes:** Acceptance of the minutes of the 20th April 2011 meeting was proposed by Gordon Ball, seconded by Gordon Ball, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 10/00237/FULL:** Mr K Simpson of Blazon Investments explained his concern to the meeting regarding the April 2011 minutes of Cameron Community Council. His concern centred on the CCC response to a letter sent by his agent which was posted and later removed from Fife Council's website, concerning planning approval for an observatory at Dr Professor Lloyd Evan's home. He also asked if the Community Council had written or knew of the person who had informed Fife Council about the timing of purchase and Blazon's ownership of adjoining land. Mr Simpson advised the meeting that he had no plans for the future development of the site and that he was personally prepared to meet with locals to discuss the proposal for Kinaldy. He also asked if a low rise development similar to the existing houses at Kinaldy would be more acceptable to the local community.
- Both the Kinaldy planning application and the Niven development at Lathockar had been removed from the agenda of the last North East Fife Area Planning Committee and may be put before the next meeting in August.
- Following a lengthy discussion CCC advised Mr Simpson that as the letter which prompted the CCC response concerning the observatory was written by an agent acting for Blazon Investments, then his concern should be addressed to his agent. As Cameron Community Council had not advised Fife Council of land ownership in the area, then this matter should be addressed to Fife Council. The acceptability or otherwise of a similar housing development was again a matter for Blazon Investments and Fife

Council and CCC would make comment if the application was amended or a new application was submitted. Mr Simpson left the meeting shortly thereafter.

Matters Arising: The matters arising were to be dealt with later on the agenda.

Correspondence: A renewal of the Insurance policy from Fife Council for Cameron Community Council starting 1st April 2011 was received by the Secretary.

A notice of submission of unresolved issues for the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan dated 8th June was received, to be sent to members by e-mail.

Various e-mails had been received from Stuart Leckie regarding his wind turbine proposal for Drumcarrow.

Planning Matters: Application No 09/02919/PPP and 10/044834/PPP for the Niven proposal at 'Lathockar', to which Cameron Community Council has given qualified support was discussed. As this area was originally identified for development, CCC failed to comprehend Fife Council's planning department recommendation for refusal.

The MOD has written a detailed response regarding interference from the wind turbine proposal for Largoward.

Two wind turbine planning applications are expected at Drumcarrow and a similar one at Priorletham.

St Andrews University are planning a combined heat and power system at Guardbridge that will be transported by pipe work to their buildings at the North Haugh.

Concern was again expressed over the inappropriateness of the development currently being executed at Denhead, which was approved by the planning department, despite it being totally incongruous to the existing buildings and surrounding area. As there is no third party right of appeal following the grant of planning approval, it places more emphasis on planners to get it right in the first place, as third parties are left with the consequences.

Planning

Inconsistencies: A wide ranging discussion took place on the various contradictions and inconsistencies of in the planning processes and procedures in Fife Council.

Both Fife councillors present explained their role and in particular the conditions that may require them to 'declare an interest' on a particular issue. CCC considered that overzealous application of this practice would mean that the most informed councillor may not be present at the meeting, which would be counterproductive. Comment was also made regarding the current method adopted at Fife Council Planning meetings, where all planning matters are presented by one planning officer. It was very apparent from attendance at the May planning meeting that this system does not work as questions asked were not answered and information requested was not available. The recent CCC experience and

confusion by the planning department over CCC responses and comments regarding the current Feddinch Golf Course Development are evidence of this inconsistency.

The inconsistencies in the procedures and processes of the planning system make the statutory role of the Community Council extremely onerous and difficult and at times seemingly impossible.

Due to a bizarre interpretation by Fife Council, of the part to be played by Community Councils, it now appears that Community Councils must now advise the planning department on each and every communiqué that the Community Council should be treated as a Statutory Consultee, which clearly contradicts the spirit and intention of the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1973. It is therefore not surprising that few residents wish to become community councillors and those currently in place are reconsidering their position.

Road Repairs:

Following comment and complaints by residents, regarding the poor quality of work being carried out by Fife Council repairing pot-holes a letter dated 23rd May was sent to the transportation department and a reply received dated 10th June. The reply acknowledged that they had to ‘revert to temporary pothole repairs’ due to the increased numbers from the severe winter, but for budgetary reasons they would not return to repair them in line with their usual ‘high quality patch repair work’. Best practice suggests that this approach is throwing good money after bad.

Craigtoun Park:

Fife Council have agreed to operate and run the park with no admission charges for at least one year and have passed the running of the railway on to a private operator who will make a usage charge. They have also revised their ongoing investment costs downwards from £3.85m to £326,000.00.

AOCB:

The chairman explained about the road closure planned for 1 week from the 20th June on the B940 Peat Inn to Higham.

The chairman read a letter of thanks to the Community Council from Andrew Carstairs and his wife from Balone for the gift on his 95th birthday.

A ‘launch’ of the project for wind turbines at Lingo by West Coast Energy was planned for 6:00pm on Thursday 16th June at the Inn at Lathones.

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th July at 6:30pm.

Proposed.....

Seconded.....

Signed.....Dated.....

