

## Monimail Community Council

### Minutes of meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005

1. **Present :** Cllr A. Arbuckle; D. Dallas; W. Fenton; B. Forrest; V. Goodsman; J. Gordon; H. Grant; M. Grossert; D. Hamilton; L. Harvie; M. Kidd; P. Laidlaw; J. Rotheram; J. Vaughan
2. **Apologies :** J. Fairley, J. Stewart  
J. Stewart is due to go into Hospital for a blood transfusion and was unable to attend. A card was passed round for attendees to sign offering their best wishes.  
A letter was read out from Mrs M Gibb (Letham Primary Headteacher) apologising on behalf of the Eco Group who are unable to attend the meeting. They will be available to present to the next meeting in February.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting :** accepted
4. **BEAR Scotland**  
Gary Allan of BEAR was present at the meeting to discuss a preliminary outline design for the Toll junction. A drawing was presented and Mr Allan informed the meeting that there was a high maintenance project to replace the carriageway between Melville Roundabout and Letham junction, including the widening to two lanes from the roundabout for 400m to allow the passing of slow vehicles.  
The drawing presented outlined an idea for the Toll junction whereby a “ghost island” is introduced on the main road and the junction altered to a larger stagger – re-alignment of the road from the Bow to meet the main road opposite the last (most westerly) cottage. This idea was not considered to be an improvement and in fact the feeling from the floor was that it would make matters worse by encouraging slow traffic on the short stretch coming out of the Bow road along to the Letham entrance.  
Speed through the junction is a major concern and it was commented that it would be nice if traffic at least observed the national limit and surely providing an overtaking lane off the roundabout would only encourage faster driving after that stretch?  
The question of the need for the Bow road arose as it is used primarily as a short cut for travel to/from Cupar, however it was pointed out that access to farmland is required so even if the road was to be restricted it would not stop people using it!  
The main road has in the region of 7000 vehicles passing daily and the Bow/Letham junction has around 250 manoeuvres either side daily.  
The final option mentioned to Mr Allan was the parking area in front of the houses on the main road. The feeling is that if this was done away with then the junction safety would improve overnight as parked cars and vans in this area are the biggest danger at the junction.  
  
Again it was pointed out that the drawing was only a preliminary draft and the CC thanked Mr Allan for coming to the meeting and stated they were at least encouraged that BEAR were actually looking at this stretch of trunk road. It was agreed an extra meeting take place in January to discuss the junction further after which the CC would respond to BEAR.
5. **Matters Arising :**
  - **Footpath to Fernie :** there are no plans to upgrade the footpath between Letham and Fernie
  - **Twinning :** A group of 4 members have been to France to move the twinning project forward. A young football team will be coming across (nine 9yr olds) to play one of the Cupar Soccer Sevens teams. There is a meeting due next week to discuss hosting some seniors. The schools/secondaries are keen on exchanges but there are Disclosure Scotland issues. It is hoped that Bairds in Cupar will soon have a display in their window about the twinning and the area in France.
  - **Monimail Triangle :** New seat now in place.
  - **Play Park :** No progress due to holidays.  
**Dog Fouling :** the dog warden is to be asked to review signage in the Park as there are two different conflicting signs present – one says “no dogs” the other stating that any mess should be removed!! Are dogs allowed there or not??

**6. Planning Report :**

A number of planning applications for the area have been lodged recently, however there are two that are raising some concerns/issues :

**a/ Dwelling House for Manager of Fernie Castle Hotel**

Plans were shown to the meeting. A very large house is planned for the grounds just off the road to the stables, Fernie Cottages etc. This development is causing some concerns for local residents, especially it's size and proposed use.

**b/ Dwelling House at "The Tremilins"**

Again plans were shown to the meeting and as with previous proposals for this area, concerns were raised. The area is outwith the village envelope and as such would only likely be considered if there were to be planning gains with the project. One proposal would be fund improvements to school brae creating a turning circle at the top possibly with some parking, allowing adoption of this stretch of road.

Precedent being set by developing outwith the envelope was the major concern voiced from the floor

Because of the lateness of these plans coming in, in order to allow full discussion with residents of the village it was agreed that they be discussed further prior to full response from the CC. This is to be done at the extra meeting in January.

**7. Letham Village Hall Update :**

The disabled ramp is now complete and views from the floor were that it looked good. The Hall Committee are very pleased with it and feel it enhances the entrance area. Still waiting for news of the Grant Application currently being considered by Lloyds TSB

**8. Best Kept Village/Floral Enhancement**

Floral grants has been applied for

**9. Questions for Councillor Arbuckle:**

The Local Plan update will now more likely be in April rather than January. Cllr Arbuckle also commented that it is a good idea for the CC to get together in January to discuss the BEAR proposals and get in early with comments

**School Brae Gritting** : reason given was that there is not a turning circle, however Bruce Forrest was not convinced with this argument. Cllr Arbuckle is to take the subject back as the fact a school is there makes such a route a necessity to be gritted.

**Monimail Road Visibility** : pruning has now been undertaken

**School Sign** : A request for a sign on the main road indicating a school was in the village was made to BEAR this evening.

**Protect Rural East Fife** : There has been recent press coverage of this committee that has been set up. Major developments are planned for St Andrews, Newport, Tayport, Newburgh etc., way beyond what is necessary and needed and all Councillors in NE Fife have requested scaling back for revised plans. They do not want to see Communities spoiled. If the CC want to get involved with this group there should be no issues however they are warned to make sure what PREF's agenda is!!

CC are to contact PREF

**10. Any Other Business**

- **East Area Transport Plan** : Finalised copy now available with no changes to the Letham proposals.

**Core Paths** : there are meeting in Auchtermuchty this week for the second phase of the Core Paths Network. J. Vaughan is to attend

**11. Date of Next Meeting (normal)**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm

**12. Date of EXTRA meeting to discuss Junction and planning issues :**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm