

Monimail Community Council

Minutes of meeting, 14th August 2006

1. **Present** : A. Arbuckle; C. Bache; A. Black; D. Dallas; J. Fairley; W. Fenton; B. Forrest; J. Gordon; M. Grossert; D. Hamilton; M. Kidd; H. Laidlaw; P. Laidlaw; A. MacGilchrist; T. Nesbitt; J. Rotheram; G. Smith; J. Vaughan

2. **Apologies** : H. Grant; N. Mossman

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** : minutes of the meeting 12/06/06 – add H. Grant to the attendance list

4. **Recycling Bins**

Laura Duncan – Technical Assistant (Recycling), from Fife Council Environmental Services was present at the meeting to listen to the Community view on what has happened to the recycling area in the Village. With the Council Depot in School Brae now under a new lease, the Community Council was informed that the recycling containers had been removed, although this letter was received some two weeks after the bins had actually disappeared! Essentially the bins had been removed without prior notification which was not looked upon too kindly by a number of people in the Village who used the facilities regularly! Apparently, Environmental Services were told under no certain terms that now the area had been leased the bins were to be removed immediately although LD pointed out that the CC were sent a letter around 18 months ago stating that the recycling facility may not always be possible to be kept there. This was in turn referred to the Village Hall Committee who after discussion were not willing to have a recycling centre down in the Hall grounds.

Cllr Arbuckle has written to those concerned to ask why the bins were removed so quickly without prior notification. The Community are also aware that previous enquirers for leasing the Depot had been told that the bins would have to remain where they are – why has there been an apparent change of policy?

A fairly lengthy discussion took place about where the bins could actually be re-sited with some suggestions being the Farm or the small piece of Council land in to the left on the way up School Brae, slightly further past the depot. Both were deemed not suitable and the overwhelming feeling was that the only suitable place in the Village now would be the Hall grounds.

This would have to be referred to the Hall Committee who in the past had concerns about fly-tipping, however it was pointed out that screening of such centres is used and collections take place every week. It was also pointed out that with the household refuse collections likely to move to fortnightly next year then more recycling facilities would be required!

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Hall Committee and the possibility of a trial period would be discussed, however it was noted that almost all attendees at this CC meeting felt the Hall is the only suitable place in the Village – Laura Duncan was thanked for coming along to the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising :**

- **Play Park** : Nothing to report

While discussing the playpark the question of the shelter in the park came up. Recently the shelter has had a number of kids climbing all over it and it won't be long before a serious accident happens. It is also used as a "public toilet" and is becoming more of an eyesore.

Is it needed? – it is used by the school kids at football training if the weather is poor and their school bags etc are stored there when in the park

Could it be moved elsewhere or at least replaced by a more modern shelter slightly further away from the fence? Once possibility could be to paint it with "anti-vandal" paint to deter climbers!

AA to contact the Council re our concerns

Twinning : A number of visiting families are due for the Cupar area around October time.

Toll Junction (BEAR) : Nothing to report on this other than a number of Surveys appear to have been carried out recently in the area.

6. **Treasurer's Report :**

The account balance stands at £653.44

7. **Planning :**

Trimlans Proposal : this application appeal has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

Mountcastle Quarry : no date as yet for the planning application to be heard

Tree-House at Melville House : this has been erected without planning permission and an action has apparently been raised by Historic Scotland. No views were offered and the CC has no view so this is to be left with Historic Scotland!

Tree-Preservation Orders : there is currently no-one at Fife Council responsible for TPO's. AA to see if he can establish how we should go about obtaining TPO's !

Bakehouse : The sale apparently fell through so could the previously discussed potential for Community use? Check ownership and could approach the D Stewart about it.

8. Best Kept Village

Notification has been received (02/08/06) that Letham was not placed in this year's competition!

9. Village Hall

Fife Council have approved the part-funding of disabled toilet facilities. It is proposed that these should start sometime early September and all going well be finished by the next CC meeting. The 50th birthday celebrations on Sunday 25th June were well attended and enjoyed by everyone there who got an insight into what the area was like many years ago.

10. Jimmy Stewart Memorial

The account set up for this fund now sits at £331 plus there is the donation of half the collection from the church service also to be added. The family need to be contacted about moving the project forward. Unfortunately a new seat will require planning permission although Cllr Arbuckle suggests we should argue the point that we are simply replacing what used to be there! Cllr Arbuckle to investigate and comment.

11. Questions for Cllr Arbuckle

Cllr Arbuckle reported four issues :

1. Proposed 20mph speed zone – plans to be drawn up for implementation early next year. Cllr Arbuckle has requested the CC be sent plans immediately they are drawn up for comment!
2. The white lines/signage etc at the top of The Row requires to be re-instated since they were removed when the area was re-surfaced.
3. Broken culvert at the top of The Row needs to be replaced
4. Hugh and Pat Laidlaw have cleared 5/7 of the drains at Monimail as best they could however they still need to be done properly from the inside!

12. "Secret Garden" Project

Cathy Bache addressed the meeting about her current project, a summary of which is provided :

By August 2007 The Secret Garden @ Monimail will be registered with the Care Commission as an outdoor nursery, operating Monday – Friday and have purpose built premises within the grounds of Monimail Tower Project. As a Company Limited by Guarantee The Secret Garden @ Monimail is a Social Enterprise where all profit from the business will remain within the company to further the aims and objectives, and has a board of directors and members to oversee this development.

Playing outdoors in all weather the children will have the opportunity to discover, investigate and learn within the natural environment: enjoying the spaciousness of garden and woodland, the interest of farm life, watching the seasons change, discovering wild life and in amongst it all developing on a personal level physically, emotionally and creatively.

The Company will employ staff who have the skills and experience to:

- facilitate within the natural environment learning and discovery through free and independent play for pre school children in order to develop an awareness of nature, changing seasons and the rhythms of the year;
- encourage positive values and co-operative play to develop the individual's sense of worth in relation to the world around them;
- make available a proportion of spaces to children with challenges in their lives such as social, emotional, behavioural, learning or physical difficulties;
- encourage the sharing of knowledge and skills between family and community members and the children themselves;
- encourage additional access, out with the project's opening hours, to groups and individuals that would benefit from time spent in this natural environment.

It was commented from the floor that this seemed to be an excellent idea. Cathy mentioned there is to be a "Friend of the Secret Garden" mailing list and she can be contacted at the following email address for further information : thesecretgarden@phonecoop.coop

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 9th October 2006, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm