

Monimail Community Council
Minutes of meeting, 9th June 2008

1. **Present :** C. Bache; W. Fenton; B. Forrest; J. Gordon; W. Henderson; A. MacGilchrist
M. Grossert; P. Laidlaw; J. Rotheram; P. Gray; G. Smith; J. Vaughan.
C. Gilbert (Fife Council)
Apologies if anyone is missing from attendance list as we forgot to put round a sheet for signing!
2. **Apologies :** A, Arbuckle; H. Grant; L. Harvie; G. Mossman; N. Mossman; T. Nesbit
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting :** minutes of the meeting were accepted
4. **Matters Arising**
 - Letham Toll : BEAR Scotland :** Regarding parking in the slip road/lay-by area at the junction, this issue was brought to a head due to vans from a double-glazing company being parked there all day. On that day the Police had received a number of calls and a Traffic Warden came out to have a look – his response was that the parking there was legal before the vans were eventually moved. A meeting was held with Mel Edwards of BEAR and a Police Safety Officer on Thursday 29th May. It was suggested that the area be built-up to the same level as the pavement, leaving one low area at the end. This would allow any Service/Emergency vehicles to “bump up” onto the pavement but would hopefully deter the “ordinary” motorist from stopping there to use phones etc.
This proposal will go in front of the Scottish Executive so it will be August before we know of any progress.
 - **Bow of Fife Speed :** no update
 - **Twinning :** a team of 15yr olds were over for football and enjoyed their visit. 2 Lecturers and 4 Students have spent time at Elmwood and 10 farmers are due over in the next few weeks to stay in the area.
 - **Whinney Park :** seem to be conflicting opinions regarding whose responsibility this issue is – one reckoning it is a Council Issue and the other the Farmer! Colin Gilbert awaiting a definitive response on this and if it is the Farmer’s responsibility then Fife Council will take up the issue with him.
 - **Monimail Cemetery :** Council have committed to sorting this but no date as yet.
 - **Drains :** squad due out in the summer months. Problem here is that in rural areas, a full squad is required as road traffic management is required while jobs being done!
5. **Treasurer’s Report :** The account balance stands at just under £1380 and now includes the recently received Floral Enhancement Grant
6. **Planning :**
 - **Bakehouse :**
Has been passed
Concerns about the trees in the area were noted. If there is any likelihood they are to be removed then the Council should be contacted
 - **Planning Permission :**
Concerns have been raised over the number of home improvements being carried out within the Community that appear to be going ahead without Planning Permission. Being a Conservation Area, any alterations to the outside of a property must be submitted to the Planning Authority for Permission. These include some of the following alterations/additions recently carried out :
 - **Replacement Windows & Doors**
 - **Outhouses (Sheds/Summer Houses etc)**
 - **Satellite Dishes****The Community Council requested that someone from Planning attend the next CC meeting to discuss what being in a Conservation Area means and what actions are now required by all residents who have undertaken improvements without appropriate planning permission. C. Gilbert will approach the Planning Department**
7. **Village Hall Report :**
The recent Hall AGM saw NO “members of the Public” attend (other than the 6 week old child of a Committee Member!).
The recycling bins are to have a permanent base and screening erected.
The cost of Hall Lets is to be reviewed with two scales set – one for winter and one for summer. In doing this, those hiring the Hall in winter months where more electricity and heating is used will pay more than those in the summer. This is in response to potential energy price rises and is the first rise in 18months.
8. **The Secret Garden :**

The good news is that the Secret Garden can now provide funded places for pre-school kids meaning the choice is now not limited to Kingskettle or Ladybank for local infants.

9. Playpark :

A recent Public Consultation in the Hall regarding park facilities saw around 40 people come along to air their views. The School and toddlers group have also been involved in this process. Various options including climbing/obstacle courses, exercise equipment, swings, play items etc and possible some sort of Orchard (good for screening) down at the bottom end.

The next plan is to have a group formed covering all different age groups to look at the different ideas and assess what is most practical to move forward.

Three ideas have been put forward for possible shelter although concerns over the size and potential site were raised – might act as a “magnet” for people outside the village to congregate!

The group will report their findings to the next meeting (11th August)

10. Community Woodland :

An application to “Awards for All” has been submitted.

There will be a need to survey the whole village (Community Council Area) and at least 50% of those surveyed would need to accept the purchase

11. Best Kept Village :

Preliminary judging is due to start within the next couple of weeks.

The Verge – a number of years ago a request was made to Fife Council that it be cut back regularly, however this was subsequently reduced to once per year. The question of responsibility was again raised and Colin Gilbert is to ask Community Services about this.

We don't want to go down the route of around 9 years ago when a resident of The Row approached the CC asking if something could be done about the Verge. Various options were put forward and it went to a public vote where, by 1 vote, it was agreed that the verge be left to Wildflowers. Various experts came in and grants were awarded to plant out the Verge, however everything fell by the wayside as some residents still wanted to have the area across from their houses cut back.

The reason the Verge has us marked down in the BKV judging is this very fact that it is patchy rather than entirely cut back or left in it's entirety to Wildflowers

12. Parking on School Brae :

An issue was raised within the last couple of weeks when various vehicles had struggled to get up School Brae (Bin lorry etc) due to the number of cars parked. The School needed to be contacted and we understand Staff have had to move cars on a number of occasions. The situation is to be monitored over the next couple of months as it is unlikely to be an issue with the School Holidays.

One suggestion was that cars be parked down at the Well Tree, however it was pointed out that this area is not Council property and possibly private land.

13. Questions :

Phone Box –Consultation Notice was received regarding proposed removal of the phone box. It was agreed we write back requesting that the box itself is not removed

14. Any Other Business

20mph Limit : can this be extended to cover the whole Village? We do not want traffic calming (islands/bumps etc) but the whole Village is essentially an access route to the School.

Colin Gilbert to progress/suggest this

15. Date of Next Meeting : Monday 11th August 2008, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm

WHAT'S ON
AUGUST 2008 ISSUE

FLOWER SHOW
****THIS WEEKEND****
Saturday 9th August 2pm-4pm
Village Hall
Letham

Schedules available from : Geoff McDonald (810250)

COFFEE MORNINGS
(IN AID OF HALL FUNDS)
3RD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
STARTING 20TH SEPTEMBER '08
LETHAM HALL
10^{AM} - 12^{NOON}
(RAFFLE DRAWN 11.30AM)

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2008
LETHAM HALL
7.30PM
Panel of well-known Local Horticulturalists
Bob Mitchell
Willie Duncan
plus others
Entry £5 (includes Glass of Wine)