

**Monimail Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

1. **Present :** A. Arbuckle; D. Dallas; G. Evans; M. Farrell; S. Farrell; W. Fenton; B. Forrest; J. Gordon; H. Grant; M. Grossert; D. Hamilton; H. Laidlaw; P. Laidlaw; A. MacGilchrist; T. Morton; N. Mossman; R. Smiles; G. Smith; N. Stoddart; J. Vaughan.
2. **Apologies :** L. Harvie; B. Hay; G. Mossman
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting :** it was pointed out that the double-glazing company working on the property at The Toll were not there all day (as minuted) but had finished by 1.30pm
4. **Matters Arising**
  - Letham Toll : BEAR Scotland :** no update.  
A letter has been received from a resident at The Toll pointing out a number of personal issues regarding parking/access to the main entrance to the property.  
Also pointed out is the fact that there is no lay-by between the Melville Lodges roundabout and Kilmarnock. This has been mentioned previously and Mel Edwards of BEAR Scotland was not aware of this – apparently there should be a lay-by roughly every three miles so he is currently looking into this.  
Lorries and vans stopping at the Toll junction to use mobile phones are a danger to all residents trying to exit Letham. It has been agreed that, in the interim, BEAR be contacted to paint hatching in the area to discourage parking and the use of the area as a deceleration lane/ run in to the junction.
  - **Bow of Fife Speed :** no update.  
Question from a Bow resident regarding the “slow down” signs promised – from memory they are to be sited at some stage during the current financial year.
  - **Twinning :** nothing to report. Requested to remove from agenda as regular item. Any major information will be communicated as “any other business”
  - **Whinney Park :** with the recent heavy rain, water has again been pouring down off the fields. Cllr Arbuckle to chase up!
  - **Monimail Cemetery :** nothing started as yet – Cllr Arbuckle to chase.
  - **Drains :** not been sorted yet, local resident cleared as best as possible due to flooding. Verges in this area also need attention. Cllr Arbuckle to chase
  - **School Brae Parking :** cannot comment until School Term starts
  - **20mph Zone :** currently nothing to report. When any work is to be done then Transportation should consult with us prior to this. Cllr Arbuckle to follow-up  
There are concerns about the speed of traffic up/down The Row so it was suggested some Police Enforcement of the current 30mph would be worthwhile. Suggestion of air-strips to survey the traffic.  
The current 30mph sign is obscured by bushes – they are due to be cut back shortly !
5. **Treasurer’s Report :** The account balance stands at just over £1331. The Community Grant has now been applied for so we should receive the “per capita” grant soon
6. **Planning :**

Unfortunately there was not anyone from Fife Council Planning able to attend the meeting however it is hoped someone can attend in October. **There are serious concerns within the village regarding 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 and the plan is for a Planning Officer to come to the meeting to discuss the way forward particularly with retrospective permission etc.**

  - **Bakehouse :**  
Concerns raised over the apparent height of the works being carried out. Roof appears to be higher than previous and possibly wider! It was stated that if there are any concerns over any work being different to what has been passed then we should contact an Enforcement Officer
  - **Tree Preservation Orders :**  
A map outlining all the trees we wished to have TPO’s on was submitted a few years ago to Fife Council. It was suggested that being in a Conservation Area this was not necessary as all trees were automatically protected. As we have now discovered, this is not the case. As long as notice is given and there are no objections, then trees can still be removed. Permission to remove trees from the area surrounding the Bakehouse project must have been given in the original outline planning granted in 2002!  
Map to be re-done to outline specific trees
7. **Village Hall Report :**

The recycling bins now have (after some lengthy discussions between Fife Council, Hall Committee and Scottish Gas) a permanent base and screening erected. This is in the site first suggested by the Hall

Committee! The quotes for Double Glazing have been split to allow us to apply for a number of smaller grants. This will be done within the next few weeks.

8. **The Secret Garden** : Nothing to update

9. **Playpark** :

A meeting was held in Letham Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> July where various options for the Park were presented. A further meeting was held last week to look at fundraising ideas to help raise money to supplement Grants. There is a meeting due this week with Fife Council to take on the whole project

The Community Council have received concerns from a number of local residents over the inclusion of a "Graffiti Wall". These concerns were voiced at the CC meeting, the main concern being that there is active encouragement for youngsters to paint/graffiti the wall – there are currently no issues in Letham with any sort of Graffiti so why encourage it?

Also, maybe local youths would be responsible in their use of such a wall, however it could attract youths from other areas to leave their mark on the wall and possibly further afield within the village.

It was suggested that "Graffiti" was just a name for the wall and it could purely be a "kicking" wall and also there for youngsters to "express" their artistic talents. While everyone agrees that there is a gap in facilities for teenagers and the proposals for the Park will address this the feeling was it would still attract all the negative issues surrounding Graffiti in general.

It was commented that Newburgh has a beautiful, well looked after park however further down the park an area is covered with Graffiti which spoils the whole area.

It was mentioned that there were no objections raised at the meeting in July, however it was pointed out that this meeting was during the first weeks of the School Holidays when a lot of people are away. It is only since residents have received information about what was presented at that meeting that the CC have had people raising concerns.

The total cost of the Park project will be in the region of £50-60,000 of which at least 10% needs to be put forward by the community (not simply in cash term but also time/labour etc) so any help that people can offer would be most welcome.

10. **Community Woodland** : Nothing to report

It was suggested that instead of looking at the woodland, some consideration could be given to the Field adjacent to the Hall. If there is overall support for this then it would be easy to set up a trust. Fife Rural Partnership could offer help/advice on Community Trusts if required

11. **Best Kept Village** :

Again, the areas did not progress through the initial stages! Grass-cutting around the hall has been curtailed slightly due to the "Lawnmower Society's" lawnmower being broken. It was suggested that "Freecycle" for the possibility of obtaining a replacement, however if this is not forthcoming then it has been agreed that the Community Council will supply funds for a new mower.

12. **Transition Town** :

A meeting was held in Falkland recently for all interested people in Scotland. New group started in Tayport and meetings have been held in Cupar. Involvement in Climate Change Fund – community ways to reduce carbon footprint (local food, car-sharing etc). Possibility of a Community Pub also to be discussed.

13. **Questions** :

Paperless Planning – there has been no action progressed on this and consultation is required. Those without access to pc's should not be prejudiced against !

14. **Any Other Business**

15. **Date of Next Meeting** : Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm  
**Please note this has been brought forward a week so it doesn't clash with School Holidays**

**WHAT'S ON**  
OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE

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**COFFEE MORNINGS**  
(IN AID OF HALL FUNDS)  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY EVERY MONTH**  
**LETHAM HALL**  
**10<sup>AM</sup> – 12<sup>NOON</sup>**  
(RAFFLE DRAWN 11.30AM)

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**GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME**  
**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008**  
**LETHAM HALL**  
**7.30PM**  
Panel of well-known Local Horticulturalists  
**Bob Mitchell**  
**Willie Duncan**  
**Alistair Barnard**

Entry £5 (includes Glass of Wine)

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**WINE-TASTING**

**Forthcoming Event**  
**Towards End November/Start December**  
**(date to be finalised)**

**Details will be posted Soon !**