

Monimail Community Council
Minutes of meeting, 11th February 2008

1. **Present :** A. Arbuckle; D. Dallas; W. Fenton; B. Forrest; J. Gordon; H. Grant; M. Grossert;
D. Hamilton; C. Jones; M. Kidd; P. Laidlaw; G. Mossman; N. Mossman; Z. Ritchie;
N. Stoddart; T. Nesbitt; J. Rotheram; G. Smith; L. van Koten; J. Vaughan.
C. Gilbert (Fife Council), Jill Donnachie (Smart Community Fife)
2. **Apologies :** L. Harvie
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting :** minutes of the meeting were accepted with comment re. Item 6 : states 1½ storey permitted for previously for a planning application where it was actually single storey that had been permitted
4. **Smart Community Fife**

Jill Donnachie is the Project Coordinator for Smart Community Fife (SCF) and she attended the meeting to present what the project is about. SCF is a non-profit organisation based in Strathmiglo and consists of a Committee of Howe Residents who want to make internet and information access more readily available and easy to use. What we have is a Community based website providing a web-based information source, being Community driven that within 3 years will be self-sustaining. It has been up and running since December 2007 and will contain relevant information for the local Howe Communities and will respond to Community needs.

The SCF website is basically 8 Community Websites grouped under the one umbrella, covering areas from Freuchie, Auchtermuchty, Letham area through to Strathmiglo. The Letham section covers Letham, Monimail and Bow of Fife.

It is an ideal opportunity for Communities to share what is going on and will act as a local information point with events listings, business directory, news items, area organisations etc.

The site will work in conjunction with the current Letham website and can be easily updated by user groups such as the Community Council, Village Hall etc.

The project is still in the early stages and any comments/suggestions for future development are more than welcome.

The website address is : www.smartcommunityfife.org.uk Please feel free to visit!

Jill was thanked for her presentation and it was hoped that the Community would use the website to it's full
5. **Matters Arising**
 - **Letham Toll : BEAR Scotland :** There has been no correspondence however new signs have just appeared along with red road markings making the junction more prominent.
 - Bow of Fife Speed :** Improved warning signs for the Bow of Fife main road are apparently scheduled for the next financial year
 - Twinning :** Two Lecturers from Lycee Professional are currently visiting Elmwood College with a view to forming links
 - The Rotary Club & Yvonne Gray Dance are having ongoing talks
 - An u-15 team from France is due over in May to play the u-15 side affiliated to Cupar Soccer Sevens/Colts
 - Seniors party due to visit France in April
 - 20mph Limit :** Request is that the whole of Letham village is included, however Transportation apparently target roads adjacent to Primary Schools as a priority. We DO NOT want any speed bumps/calming measures – only the reduced limit!
 - Whinney Park :** Water pouring down across the road at the corner is very dangerous especially at this time of year. Contact has been made with the farmer who owns the fields to look at the problem as it his responsibility to address the issue.
 - Monimail Drains :** Problem has been referred to Transportation
 - Monimail Cemetry :** Broken fencing and gate have been referred to Community Services. Also, the new signposts that were deemed inappropriate have not been replaced since being removed a while ago!
5. **Treasurer's Report :** The account balance stands at just over £554
The £150 from Jimmy Stewart's family for the memorial seat is still to be received.
The Floral Grant for next year has been received but still awaiting the "per capita" grant
6. **Planning :**
 - **Steadings, Letham Farm (2 houses) :**
Has been passed for storey and a half

- **Outline Planning** : under the new Planning Act, Outline Planning will no longer be an option – full planning only, and all planning applications will be subject to Community scrutiny. It is highly unsatisfactory under the current system where outline plans can so easily be over-turned and original set conditions can be ignored! Cllr Arbuckle is to inform the Planning Committee at the next meeting that the Community and Community Council are not happy with reversal of decisions and the complete disregard of Community comments
- **Mountcastle Extension** : plans have been submitted for further East extension

7. Village Hall Report :

There should be a new Notice Board within the next few weeks.

8. Community Woodland : *Andrew Thomson of the Woodland Trust is due to come and discuss the benefits and pitfalls of Community Ownership. Notice will be given to the Community to enable as many people as possible to attend.*

The Community Woodland project is being run by a group to create an organisation to look after the woodland on behalf of the Community. It is not a “Secret Garden” project, but more to do with preservation and regeneration.

A comment from the floor was that the cost of managing woodland can be high and the wood is there for people to use through right of access!

The Secret Garden -

Currently having a look at a possible lease agreement with the Hall. Ongoing dialogue with Community Services about the Park and the gates in the middle, along with the possibility for some outdoor exercise area for adults to be included in the Park.

The project is at an exploratory stage just now – the next meeting is Sunday Jan 20th at 11am

9. Best Kept Village :

Grant awarded and to be used initially to buy plants for the flower beds at the Hall. Watering plants was raised again and help was requested. It was suggested an outdoor tap be made available from the Hall

10. Questions :

Who is responsible for Water Hydrants? A lorry has run over a hydrant causing damage and when Scottish Water were called they said to contact the Fire Brigade. Their response was it was a Scottish Water issue who in turn said it was only an issue if water was running out from it!

11. Any Other Business

Zoie Interiors : open day to be held at the end of February and will be advertised locally. Idea is to invite locals in to see what has been done top the area in the last year and to inform everyone of what Zoie Interiors is all about

Giffordtown Village Hall : an evening of Accoustic Music is planned for Saturday 1st March

Peak Oil :

Basically we are reaching the peak of global oil production after which we begin to run out of easily extractable oil. This will lead to scarcity and an increase in prices which will affect all our lives. The “Transition Network” offers a wide-ranging, long-term model that can be used by communities who want to respond to Peak Oil and climate change. In Fife there is a growing Transition Movement with a network of local initiatives developing. They want to move forward and are asking for Community views

For more information about Peak Oil and/or Transition Fife, the following web links are available :

<http://transitionfife.blogspot.com>

www.transitiontowns.org

www.energybulletin.net (follow Peak Oil tab)

12. Date of Next Meeting : Monday 9th June 2008, Letham Village Hall, 7.30pm

WHAT'S ON

MARCH 2008 ISSUE

**** VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING**

**LETHAM VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 19TH APRIL 2008**

**** FLOWER SHOW**

**Saturday 9th August 2pm-4pm
Village Hall
Letham**

Schedules now available from :
Geoff McDonald (810250) or
Gordon Smith (810404)

**** HALL CLEANER**

Letham Village Hall are looking for a cleaner : approximately
2-4 hours per week
If you are interested or want more information, please
contact Juliet Gordon (01337) 810298