



**STRATHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(Incorporating Strathaven and Glassford)**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2011 in the Ballgreen Hall,
Strathaven**

1. Sederunt: Alan Montgomery (Chair), Wendy Gilmour (Secretary), Margot McDonald (Vice-Chair & Minute Secretary), Peter Mansell-Moulin, Gordon McAllan, Douglas Buchanan, Paulo Quatro, Claire Taylor, Councillor Filshie, PC Mayberry, PC Elder, PC Fleming.

Visitors: I Gow, Colin Anderson (Banks Renewables), Rachael MacLeod, Gordon Thomson.

2. Apologies: Donald Grierson, Morag Arnot, Jo Bradshaw and Councillor Campbell

3. Community Police Report

PC Elder was invited to give the police report for 22nd February to 29th March 2011.

He reported 29 crimes in this period. There had been a few drug detections. A number of thefts from motor vehicles were reported and these appeared to result from cars being left unlocked.

He reported that statistics for the year showed Serious Assaults down by 37% compared to the previous year. Common Assaults were down by 18%, Complaints to the Police down by 56%, Housebreaking down 8% and theft from motor vehicles down by 0.5%. Also he reported that there were less carrying of knives detected.

He was asked if this was the result of increased police presence and it was felt that the new community policing arrangements were helping.

He was questioned about a recent housebreaking and again he reiterated his advice about locking cars.

He also recommended that in the summer months the public should ensure that doors remain locked when people are in their gardens.

AM said that he found the figures very encouraging and thanked the police for the report.

I Gow then asked about support by the police for the lollipop crossing in Kirk Street. They agreed to look at this.

4. Presentation by Banks Renewables.

Colin Anderson introduced his team of Gordon Thomson, Project Manager for the Kype development and Rachael MacLeod the Project Planner.

A presentation ensued which looked at the proposal for 26 turbines. 4 main categories were discussed.

1. The Visual Impact

2. Transportation

3. Local Opinions

4. Telephone Questionnaire conducted by Banks.

There were a number of questions relating to No 1-the issue of "Flicker" was raised. There was reassurance that a survey had been carried out on the 7 properties closest to the turbines and that no problem had been detected.

Questions on transportation tended to relate to the issue of Brown's Brig and the fact that other developers were re-thinking their transportation. G Thomson said there would have to be an

“engineering” solution to this but it was still thought to be viable. There was disquiet expressed about any cabling being overhead as opposed to underground. A question was also asked about the response of the CAA to the proposals.

The results of the telephone questionnaire suggested more people supported the proposals for the turbines than those who opposed it although there was a reasonable number who did not have a position on the matter.

A new proposal was one to allow the community a share in the Windfarm for 25 years by setting up a Community Trust with a guaranteed payment into the fund of £350,000 per year for the 25 years. This would be shared by the four communities involved. C Anderson said that they would set out in writing their proposals on this matter.

A community presentation will be given in the Strathaven Hotel on the 6th April 2011.

5. Minutes of the Meeting on 22nd February 2011

The minutes were proposed by Wendy Gilmour and seconded by Gordon McAllan.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The situation regarding potholes was raised. It was reported that the roads have been all inspected and that potholes were being attended to. This was noticeable in our area.

7. Correspondence and Secretary’s Report.

Report attached

WG outlined some of her communications.

She has sent letters and photographs to SLC in relation to the Crosshill Annexe.

Westfield Farm’s request for planning permission was highlighted.

7. Treasurer’s Report

DG had submitted a written report. The Balance of funds for disbursement stands at £94.98. £40 had been paid for web updates and the Treasurer received his expenses of £20. WG and MMcD to receive expenses of £50 and £45 respectively. Total expenditure against the Administration Grant would then be £701.02

9. Reports

a. Rural Partnership Conference.

G McA issued a report.

A presentation was given on the work of the Rural Partnership. Voluntary Action in SLC has been formed and will help and support community initiatives. The work of the credit unions was the subject of a presentation and the issue of Development Trusts was also discussed.

b. Planning Aid Scotland-Training Session.

This was attended by WG and DG. This looked at the new planning system and Planning Aid for Scotland led the workshop. Further details available if required.

c. Strathaven Transportation Working Group.

WG, DG, and PMM attended this meeting with SLC representatives.

Minutes are available. Some items were, “A” road status to be removed from Thomson Street; proposals for the Common Green traffic lights area and discussion of the forthcoming Transport Strategy.

d. Strathaven Town Group Meeting

Issues included the problem of refuse in Strait Close; the ownership of Craig's Bridge; the Strathaven Calendar development; issues of the future of the three buildings, John Hastie Museum, the West Kirk and the Crosshill Annexe; the local resurfacing roads programme. Also a report was given on the Town Centre Study which can be accessed at

[http://ruraldevtrust.co.uk/downloads/Strathaven Town Centre Study.pdf](http://ruraldevtrust.co.uk/downloads/Strathaven_Town_Centre_Study.pdf) A paper copy is available from John Gold on 01555665064 or email john@ruraldevtrust.co.uk

e. Feedback from the Special CC meeting on 15th March 2011.

Summary: The West Kirk will close for use from the end of June. The Church of Scotland will decide its future. Contact will be made with SLC concerning the exterior of the Crosshill Annexe. Suggestions required for the use of the John Hastie Museum and for the relocation of the contents of the museum.

Councillor Filshie reported that there is no immediate answer regarding the legal situation of the John Hastie Museum. She made some contact with the Covenanters' Association. She highlighted that Business Gateway based in the old Barncluith school in Hamilton would help put Community plans together.

10. Windfarms in general.

No further business.

11. Web Updates

It will be noted that the Museum is closed. There is hope that a link will be established to the Town Mill's website.

12. A.O.C.B.

WG will write to SLC Leisure and ask for an inventory, by category, of items within the John Hastie Museum and those held in store in Crosshill Annexe that belong to the town.

FW asked if there had been a noticeable decrease in litter in the Sainsbury's area. It was felt that the bins in the area are not emptied when they are full and that Sainsbury's themselves could do more in ensuring the area is tidy. A letter will be written to Sainsbury's Head Office about this.

WG raised an issue from members of the public about the problems accessing prescriptions in Boots in the Common Green. This appears to be a growing problem. It was suggested that Boots Head Office should be made aware of this.

FW mentioned that the Abbeyfield Trophy had been given to the school and will be awarded for Visual Arts. The school prom is scheduled for this week!!

13. Date of Next meeting

AM thanked members for attending. The next meeting of the Community Council will take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Ballgreen Hall on Tuesday 26 April 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30p.m