

Business Meeting

Monday 24th April at 8:00 pm in Auchengray Church Centre

Minutes

- 1 Present:** Alistair Marshall, Stephen Midgley, Margaret Addo, Barbara Robertson, Patricia Tucker. In Ian Aitchison's absence, Alistair had been asked and had agreed to chair the meeting.
- 2 Apologies:** Ian Aitchison
- 3 Adoption of Minutes of the previous meeting:**
Proposed by: Margaret Addo Seconded by: Stephen Midgley
- 4 Matters arising:** The subject of the boulders at the roadside near the former Auchengray village green area, discussed briefly at last month's meeting, was raised. Some Auchengray residents who were present stated that most of the villagers are happy with the boulders since they protect the grass verge from damage by large vehicles, farm machinery etc., and thus improve the appearance of the village. Others have raised concerns about the possible risk to passing traffic, suggesting that their positioning close to the road edge could be reconsidered or that they might be painted so as to increase their visibility at night. Since neither the owner nor any representatives from South Lanarkshire Council were present to clarify the situation, no conclusions were reached.
- 5 Secretary's report:** This included further information and correspondence on the Clyde and Avon Valley Festival from 6th to 14th May; a forthcoming meeting on the pros and cons of fracking, organised by Shotts Community Council for this Thursday 27th April; local broadband issues; and the Scottish government consultation exercise on Improving Parking in Scotland. These last two matters are listed and discussed under Agenda Items below. A handout was distributed with contact details for all these items.
- 6 Treasurer's report:** There are no outstanding debts and the current balance of our account is £508.71. Submission of the annual accounts is in hand.
- 7 Updates:** **Follow-up to December meeting with Big Lottery Fund, TCC and Tarbrax Village Hall Association:** members of the community council stated that TCC are now supplying copies of their Minutes to TVHA, as agreed at that meeting. Patricia informed us that they now have a new nominee secretary, John Tucker, and that they would be reciprocating with the above arrangement. TVHA have also stated that they are taking on board lessons learned from that meeting, and that they intend to keep the community informed. They have given notice of their AGM to be held on Tuesday 2nd May, to which all residents are welcome. Patricia agreed to represent the TCC at this meeting, and others could also attend if they wished.

A member of the public asked about the follow-up to complaints made to the community council by SLC Councillor McClymont. TCC members explained that we are still awaiting a meeting, to be arranged at our request by SLC's acting Liaison Officer Gordon Bow, which will hopefully be held in May after the council elections. We had already prepared, some weeks ago, full answers to all the points raised by the Councillor, but we are awaiting advice on the most suitable forum for presenting this reply and we had agreed not to say anything further in the meantime. A couple of those present were not happy with this and complained that they had received no further information since TCC distributed a letter to residents about the Hall's revised licence application in mid-December. TCC members reminded them that this was not the case, and that all residents had

received a full update and report on the decisions made and issues resolved at the Big Lottery meeting, distributed at the end of January with the TWA Newsletter.

The secretary also pointed out that the issues raised in December have largely been resolved, initially at the Big Lottery meeting itself and followed by other measures agreed and pursued since then, and that it was not necessary or helpful to continue to rake over a single issue which has now been overtaken by those decisions and by a general desire to settle previous disagreements. Other TCC members restated that we could not say any more until the forthcoming meeting has taken place, and that residents will be informed of the outcome. A member of the public asked that her dissatisfaction be noted in the minutes.

Wind Farm proposals: For the Fauch Hill project, an application has now been made to West Lothian Council and the deadline for objections or comments is 18th May. Opposition is being organised by the Save the Pentlands group, who were represented by Ray Kew at our meeting in March. Contact details, and addresses for objections, are shown in the handout. A map of the proposed site, showing its planned encroachment into the Pentland Hills, was also distributed. The Longhill Burn proposal, on land west of Pates Hill, is still at an early stage.

Future TCC meeting dates: these were given for the rest of the year as the Mondays of 22nd May, 19th June, 18th September, 23rd October and 20th November. All are expected to be held in Auchengray Church Centre at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.

8 Agenda Items:

Progress report on proposed TCC website: Patricia informed us that development is progressing well, and showed some examples of the items which would appear on the site. These would include photos of the area, TCC contact details, minutes of meetings, announcements, and details and biographies of council members together with a photo if possible. She has biographies of two members so far, and asked for the remainder as soon as possible.

Broadband issues: Councillor Ed Archer has supplied us with the latest information on the likely supply of superfast broadband to our area, between July 2017 and March 2018. For specific information about likely supply to your home, the Scotland Superfast website address is shown in the handout.

Improving parking in Scotland: A Scottish government consultation on parking issues runs until 30th June 2017, and is open to communities, businesses, other interest groups and individuals. Those present were asked if they would like TCC to raise any local issues in our submission. There was a short discussion on local parking difficulties in Tarbrax village in the area of the rows of cottages, especially as a result of inconsiderate parking with drivers blocking access for others, for delivery and emergency vehicles etc. Some residents felt that it would be helpful if South Lanarkshire Council were to adopt the private roads in that area, or for an additional car park to be considered. The website address for those wishing to take part in the government consultation is shown in the handout.

9 A.O.C.B.

A question was raised about progress towards informal discussions between the committees of WAT IF? and the community council. The secretary reported that TCC had been asking for this since early March and that a number of messages had been exchanged. Progress so far has been slow but we are still working on it.

10 Next meetings:

Monday 22nd May, 8 pm, Auchengray Church Centre
Monday 19th June, 8 pm, Auchengray Church Centre

11 Items for Newsletter:

Dates and times of TCC meetings for the rest of this year
Contact details of TCC office-bearers
Broadband update
Changes to councillors' surgery times, possible further changes after May elections.

12 Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm