



Tillicoultry Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TILlicoultry COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, TILlicoultry ON 8TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT :- Ian Gordon, Elma Mitchell, Billy Shepherd, Ian Millar and Mima Allan.

IN ATTENDANCE :- Donald Balsillie, Bobby McGill, Walter McAdam, John Biggam and 17 concerned Tillicoultry residents.

APOLOGIES :- Chris McCallion, Shirley Coyle, George Banner, Paul McCormick and Robert McAulay.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mima welcomed all to the meeting and stated that after the agreement of the Minutes of the last meeting each of the Councillors would have an opportunity to speak.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Elma Mitchell and seconded by Ian Millar. There being no dissent the Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

POLICE REPORT/PACT

Shirley was on annual leave and had alerted another officer to give the Tillicoultry report. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Donald Balsillie said that the fall out from the budget was that Alva pool would be closed and that the Alva Community Council had been consulted but, as usual, ignored.

The closure of Tillicoultry Community Centre and the Family Centre were reprehensible.

Sterling Mills had made application to the Planning Authority to waive the Section 75 Agreement about food retailing within the Sterling Mills Complex because they have an interested client.

Tesco have expressed an interest in the Community Centre site but have not given any details which Clackmannanshire Council are willing to give to the general public.

It is unlikely that the Tullibody Family Centre will accommodate the families from the Hillfoots.

Donald Balsillie made one political comment in his dissertation which was that the £8m cuts were exacerbated by the current Administration.

John Biggam said that he was in general agreement with Donald Balsillie's comments.



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Walter McAdam read from a Clackmannanshire Council official paper which stated that the closure of Tillicoultry Community Centre would realise a saving of £13,000. There was an allegation that this closure would save £52,000 in the first year but at a saving of £13,000 per annum the figures do not add up.

It seems possible that if Tillicoultry Community Centre fails to attract Tesco then we may well see a Tesco Express in the Family Centre and the Community Centre site would be used for elderly housing. Neither scenario is particularly appealing with the loss of a well used facility.

Bobby McGill said that all the foregoing was rubbish. He said that nothing would be sold off until Clackmannanshire Council agrees to the sale but said nothing about serious consultation with the community.

Bobby McGill said the saving of £13,000 for Tillicoultry Community Centre was an asset management exercise. He did not say how the saving would be made.

Bobby McGill stated the budget must be balanced. He stated that Clackmannanshire Council could not afford to keep the Tillicoultry Family Centre, Tillicoultry Community Centre and Alva Swimming Pool. The question was asked, if this was the case why were millions of pounds being spent on Alloa Town Hall and the Spiers Centre. He had no sensible answer.

There ensued a debate of closures or supposed non-closures within Clackmannanshire.

It was pointed out that at the budget meeting it was decided by Clackmannanshire Council the Tillicoultry Community Centre, Tillicoultry Family Centre and Alva Swimming Pool shall be closed. Bobby McGill said that alternative places will be found for all but there will be consultation after the decision has been made. (Shades of the Dalmore Centre) How can we change such a decision? Clackmannanshire Council according to its Standing Orders cannot change one of their decisions until a six month period has elapsed.

There followed a discussion about closures and non-closures and where there were going to be.

People have been told that the Tillicoultry Family Centre will close in two weeks which is a ridiculous situation.

Walter McAdam said that 33 families were currently using the family Centre with another 9 on outreach. Clackmannanshire Council had decided that all 42 families would be served by the outreach system. The point was made that outreach would not give the group therapies which were available in the Family Centre and also contact other people. Bobby McGill made no comment on this subject. It was put that the outreach would also be more expensive so where was the saving? Bobby McGill was not forthcoming on this suggestion.

A question was posed about closing Clackmannanshire Council's facilities other than Alloa and Tullibody to centralise as much as possible in Alloa and Tullibody. There was no proper answer given.

There followed a varied discussion on the state of Clackmannanshire.

Bobby McGill said that no moves have yet been made to sell Tillicoultry Community Centre but the Council has been approached by a retail outlet. The meeting was agreed that parking etc would not be acceptable to a retailer or their customers within the Community Centre area. Clackmannanshire Council have not given any indication of what benefit would be given to Tillicoultry if the site was sold for retail purposes. Bobby McGill was not forthcoming on that subject.



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Walter McAdam raised the point that the Sterling Mills application to waive their Section 75 agreement to permit one retail food outlet to take a unit in Sterling Mills has not been recommended by the Planning Department to Clackmannanshire Council because there was a site within Tillicoultry High Street which was available. It is a blunt suggestion that the Planning Committee, or whatever they are called now, are to agree to a development sometime in the future which has not been the subject of any consultation with the Community concerned.

Bobby McGill said that there had been no moves yet to sell the Community Centre site (with its buildings) although the Council has been approached by a retailer.

There was a hail of complaints about lack of consultation with the communities concerned about any closures.

It was agreed by the meeting that there was, and has been, a serious lack of consultation between Clackmannanshire Council and the communities.

The meeting agreed that it would be an enormous mistake to move the Library to the Primary School because the Library in the middle of the town was the best site.

It was pointed out that the gymnastics element in the proposed Johnstone Centre was the sticking point for Alva CC but the swimming pool should be kept open.

There was no future plan for the Hillfoots as far as can be ascertained and any consultation with the communities about the future of the buildings concerned is somewhat vague.

The Clackmannanshire Councillors present were left in no doubt of which way the community would prefer them to vote on Thursday 10th March 2011 regarding the waiving of part of the Section 75 Agreement at Sterling Mills.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held on 17th March in Room 6 at Tillicoultry Community Centre at 7.30pm and that a general meeting would be held on Thursday 24th March in the gym at Tillicoultry Community Centre at which the Chief Executive, Angela Leitch would be present with, hopefully, other Council officers and the leader of the administration. (This meeting was subsequently changed to Tuesday 22nd March at 7.00pm).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary had received the following :- Wickstead flier, Gaming Act registration, Scotways magazine and bank statements.

The Association of Scottish Community Councils had sent a note of a meeting in Glasgow to be held on 26th March 2011, which was for members of the organisation only. As Tillicoultry CC is not a member of this organisation no one will attend. A copy of the ASCC magazine contained more information which may be useful than its predecessors.

A letter had been received from Clacks Council stating that the Community Centre would close in the summer of 2011. A week later, another letter was received which stated that this was not necessarily the case. We will have to wait and see.

A meeting has been arranged at the CC office on Thursday 10th March with the Grants Director for EDF Burnfoot Wind Farm Community Fund to launch the Fund. Representatives from Tillicoultry, Dollar and Alva CCs will attend with Donald Balsillie also attending.



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Zurich had given the CC a quotation for the year beginning 11th April 2011. It is slightly up from last year but the insured values for the CC equipment should be checked and increased if necessary.

The Third Sector Forum is in the process setting up a Company Limited by guarantee to allow the Sector to comply with the Scottish Government's wishes.

Peter Norman has approached the CC to enquire about a possible twinning with a French town. Mr Norman will check out all the bits and pieces including possible costs. It was agreed that the Mr Norman be invited to the next CC meeting to expand on this invitation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

An amount of £472 had been banked from the Hoole and there was some more to be added. There followed a discussion on the Hoole and how it should be organised. The finances were still fairly healthy.

PLANNING REPORT

The plans for the development at Harvieston were as expected and caused no concern.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Ian Millar said that he could no longer do as much as he had been doing for the Gala. He required to have someone to type and send the "begging letters" to remind the sponsors of the Gala. It was agreed that a Gala meeting would be held in the CC office on Thursday 17th March at 6.00pm. All those still present were invited to attend this meeting.

ANY OTHER REPORT

None.

AOCB

None.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

The next meeting of Tillicoultry Community Council will be held in Tillicoultry Community Centre at 7.30pm on 12th April 2011.



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AGENDA

MEETING ON 12TH APRIL 2011

1. APOLOGIES
2. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS
3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
4. TWINNING
5. POLICE REPORT
6. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
7. SECRETARY'S REPORT
8. TREASURER'S REPORT
9. PLANNING REPORT
10. SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT
11. ANY OTHER REPORT
12. AOCB