

Minutes of Meeting of Kemback, Pitscottie and Blebo Community Council

AGM 11th May 2009.

Blebo Craigs Village Hall.

www.blebo.org/council/

Cllrs Present: Jack Lord (Chair), Liana Steven (Vice Chair), Graham Neilson (Treasurer), Ken Cochran (Secretary), Alison Aiton, George Miller, Sheena Sturrock, Simon Weller, Julia Young, Fife Cllrs Margaret Kenedy and Bryan Poole.
Apologies: Keith Auchterlonie, Fiona Bond, Fife Cllr Roger Guy, Julian and Gill Cochrane.

AGM Opening Remarks: Chairman Jack Lord outlined the agenda for the evening and gave opening remarks regarding the second year of this council's activities including planning applications, data protection, postal traffic survey, and thanked Fife Councillors, police and public officials and the public for their participation in the meetings.

Secretary's Report: Ken Cochran outlined types of incoming and outgoing correspondence and thanked the local council for its responsiveness to enquiries. 256 copies of the traffic survey have been posted. Liana Steven is collating the responses.

Treasurer's Report: Graham Neilson presented the annual accounts, describing the annual grant and normal expenditures. This year there have been some traveling expenses for meetings. Some money in the account has been ring-fenced for local improvement. We currently have about £600 in the account. £35 has been spent on data protection registration. The accounts were proposed by Alison Aiton and accepted by the meeting.

Safety Camera Partnership: Andy Jones reported on a speed survey taken in Pitscottie, outlining "85th percentile" speeds on the main approaches to Pitscottie. Enforcement has produced some reductions in speed but Ceres road remains a problem. Andy indicated that enforcement alone is unlikely to resolve the speeding problem but will continue. Highest speed recorded was 59.4 MPH in the afternoon. Tickets have been issued. Speed comparisons were given with Gateside and Craighrothie. Reducing speed limit does not seem to reduce average speeds. The cost of average speed cameras may be coming down though they are prohibitively expensive at present. This would free-up staff to enforce elsewhere. The chair thanked Andy for his detailed report.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 9th were proposed by Julia Young and George Miller and were approved.

Matters Arising -

Blebo Phone Box: BT have had their request to discontinue service in Blebo Craigs turned down by Ofcom. About 17 of the boxes proposed for removal in Fife have been saved.

Pitscottie Traffic Calming Survey: Chair apologized for the delay due to a misunderstanding. Liana Steven indicated that 48 people so far have responded. Approximately half feel that nothing should be done. Strong feelings have been expressed on both sides with varied comments on traffic calming measures. No firm consensus has yet emerged. The meeting further discussed the alternatives. Lack of Cupar by-pass was mentioned as part of the issue as traffic reroutes to avoid congestion and traffic calming. Traffic volume is contributing to road damage/land-slip. Various options were aired including temporary closure of Dura Den. A proposed speed limit of 40 MPH in Dura Den is out for public comment by Fife Council at present.

Dairsie Bridge Parking: Gordon Hughes reports that site meeting assessment ruled out traffic priority changes. Transportation services will delineate a distance back from the bridge for vehicles to park. Comments from the floor did not support the assessment that the priorities were correct. Some suggestion of traffic light control was made though this has been made before.

Paths: Pitscottie Mill area path blockage has been referred to Alison Irving. Council will insist the path be re-opened. Scottish outdoor access code applies if not in the curtilage of a residence. Path from Flisk to Durdum Brae has been cleared but is messy. Community Justice have offered to allocate offenders to community projects. Workers are properly supervised and can work to quite high standard with proper Health and Safety considerations. SatNavs sometimes send vehicles along the path. Suggestion sign be placed indicating not suitable for vehicular traffic.

Planning: Alison Aiton reported nothing on the immediate horizon. Work being done at Holly Cottage has not had any objection from Fife Council. Blebo village envelope has changed a little but not in a way that affects Holly Cottage. Plans at Holly Cottage were submitted in 2005. Proposal was for renovation of old barn and garage to fit in with 1999 repair of Holly Cottage. Current planning proposals are kept on the fife.gov.uk website.

Kemback Road Maintenance: Secretary will write to Fife Council to request repair of road subsidence due to cable work.

Drainage: Gullies at St Andrews Motor Homes have been cleared out and resolved. Pitscottie Cupar Road has had drains improved but culvert under road needs cleared.

Blebo Woods: Trail bikers have been digging, cutting tree limbs and constructing jumps etc. Christopher Thomson (land owner) indicates they have outdoor access rights. Safety issues for other users may be a concern. Desire was expressed to open dialogue with bike riders. Example of good practice in Falkland was mentioned. Alison Aiton will check with university group.

Closing Remarks: The Chair expressed thanks to everyone for coming.

Next meeting: August 10th in Kemback Church Hall, Dura Den at 7:30 PM