

FALKIRK CENTRAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 24th February 2010 in Breton Court, Falkirk.

PRESENT: Community Councillors A. Ballingal (AB), M. Cooper(MC). G. Morgan(GM) and B.Nimmo(BN)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor B. Meiklejohn

APOLOGIES: Community Councillors R. G. Adams (RA), R. Masson (RM)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2010: There were no amendments and acceptance was proposed by AB, Seconded by BN.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

a) GM said no further information on situation re buses, nothing can be done about First Bus but we may be able to do something about tendered services (i.e. Bryan's) if enough people interested. Councillor Meiklejohn said a number of issues about buses in general, escalated now by news of Tesco closing. A meeting has been secured between Provost, Transport Officers and First Bus on 9th March. First Bus would not attend if any community involvement but we may be able to build on this and arrange a meeting with community councils and /or residents associations later. She will provide feedback after this meeting.

b) GM not yet met Chloe Hunter re application for Grant because we need details of expenses. AB felt we needed to review allowances for expenses. Councillor Meiklejohn said mileage allowance set nationally and no increase on 40p per mile for some time as tax payable above a certain amount. Half line rental for phone can be claimed but she doesn't claim for calls. After further discussion of individual claims, Councillor Meiklejohn suggested an approach to Brian Pirie as to how other Community Councils handle this.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In absence of Treasurer through illness, Convener reported Balance at end of January was £485.34. Since then £28.32 was paid for ink cartridges, we received 03p. in bank interest and we are due to pay £7.50 for rent for tonight's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Letter from Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate & Neighbourhood Services re "Review of Funding to External Organisations" which basically informs us that there will be a 3% reduction in the budget for the Council Small Grants Scheme from 1st April 2010.

b) Letter from Provost Reid in reply to an enquiry from GM re CHP heating charges.

c) Letter to GM from Steve Rolfe, Corporate Policy Officer, thanking us for sending representatives at short notice to workshop on 13th January. They aim to hold another event towards the end of April.

d) Notice re meetings on 10th and 17th March at Callendar House at 9.30 a.m. re Falkirk Outdoor Access Strategy. Councillor Meiklejohn said this is something well worth looking at from point of view of retaining open spaces we do have, otherwise we could find every piece of land taken over for housing, e.g. land at Dawson Park and Westfield Park at Bog Road. However, funding has been acquired for a bridge to

allow for a path from the Wheel to the Helix.

e) Email from RA re item to be discussed under AOCB

STATUTORY ADVERTISING:

Discussion re suggestion that all Council statutory advertising, i.e. job adverts, planning applications, etc. should be done through the internet. We disagreed strongly with this.

A.O.C.B.

The Email from Community Councillor Adams with a request that it be discussed in his absence concerned correspondence between our Convener and a Mr. Pitts a member of the Central Scotland Racial Equality Council. This correspondence originated with a personal email from Mr. Pitts to our Convener and escalated into a verbal attack on GM with allegations concerning the members of this Community Council. There was a rather heated discussion particularly between AB and GM concerning GM signing correspondence as Convener of the Falkirk Central Community Council when correspondence should be channelled through the Secretary. GM pointed out that there was a precedent for this. Councillor Meiklejohn interposed to suggest that the past be buried and we move on as a new Council. Eventually it was agreed that we should have a discussion on Procedures in Communication at our next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH AT 7.00 P.M.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.