

Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council

Minutes for Monthly Public Meeting

Catterline School, 31st January 2012

Attendees and Apologies

Present: Tim Crabb, Bill Dargie (chair), Karen Hales, Jim Marshall, Ann Masson, Aileen Swarbrick, Andrew Watt, Eeva-Kaisa Arter (secretary)

Attending: Cllr George Carr, PC Ian Edwards and PC Kevin McGhee
Jillian Evans- resident of Catterline, Carolyn Duncan and Eric Duncan

Apologies: John Carr, Andrew Chedburn and Phil Murray

PCs Ian Edwards and Kevin McGhee

The representatives of the police reported that there had not been any crime in the CKD area.

The police were running a drug awareness campaign and hoped that any drug-related activity, if detected, would be reported to Crimestoppers.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and the motion that they be approved moved by Karen Hales and seconded by Andrew Watt.

Matters Arising

Aileen Swarbrick pointed out that the money available to the Heritage Project was £7000, not 700.

It was confirmed that the hazardous tree at Catterline bridge had been taken down.

Jillian Evans, chair of Catterline School Parents' Association

Jillian Evans briefed the CC on the consultation on school estates, which began in February 2011 and was now closed. Part of the process involved a questionnaire, which was also completed by the CC. This was followed by a feed-back event at which Jillian was the only person to present rural issues. One of her concerns was that small schools had become the subject of scrutiny in relation inter alia to the number pupils, school capacity and condition of the school building. Aberdeenshire Council was preparing a report based on the questionnaire, one of the findings of which was that the school's role in a community was important.

In response to Jillian’s query about the CC’s policy on education and her concerns about the future of the village school, cllr George Carr gave assurances that Catterline School was not [at least yet] being monitored. Equally, he noted that the school roll at Kinneff School was demonstrably short and proceeded to identify some of the problems affecting schools in small catchment areas. These included difficulty in getting a head teacher; parents removing their children out of concern that declining pupil-numbers would deny [their] children ‘a rounded education’; school buildings that were not fit for purpose; and the obvious financial constraints involved in running a school for small numbers. Karen Hales was able to inform those present that sometimes the running costs for rural schools were three times higher per capita than in larger schools. Cllr Carr emphasised that education should not be about ‘pounds, shillings and pence’ but rather giving children the best possible start in life. For example, if there was only one child in a school but it was none the less financially viable, there would still not be the ‘critical mass’ and social interaction that are integral to a good education. He also mentioned that re-zoning might well alter the catchment areas, although there was nothing in the pipeline yet and, in any event, it would have to be done gradually. He would come armed with some numbers next time.

Jillian Evans wondered if there was any scope for more flexible rules regarding the ownership of the school (Catterline) or perhaps shared ownership of the building. George Carr pointed out that the school would then have to compete with independent schools and there would be implications for the curriculum.

Finally, Jillian welcomed suggestions from the CC for a £30,000, school-based/related project funded from a donation in a benefactor’s will

Financial Matters

The Savings Account remained at £341.01 and the Current Account at £496.46.

Planning Applications

Ref.	Valid from	Address	Proposal
APP/2011/4136	2011-12-12	Whistleberry Radio Station Kinneff Montrose	Erection of Dwellinghouse
APP/2012/0172	2012-01-23	Land West of Westown of Barras Barras Stonehaven AB39 2UJ	Erection of Dwellinghouse Formation of Access

Matters Arising from Planning Applications

There were no objections to the above planning applications.

Travelling People

Cllr George Carr mentioned that a site had been found for Travellers three miles south of Stonehaven, but no further progress made in the matter.

Roads

It was reported that there were plenty of potholes in Catterline and Kinneff as well as in the road to Drumlithie.

Roads hotline 08456 081205 for any defects or problems.

Dunnottar Woods

Cllr George Carr informed the CC that the project to restore Lady Kennedy's bath would start shortly, weather permitting. There was more money available for the work from the Aberdeenshire top-up fund and from the Forestry Commission.

Any Other Business

The CC was reminded about the Community Councils' Forum at Mearns community centre, Laurencekirk on Thursday 23 February, from 7 to 9 pm. In addition to members of community councils in ward 19, representatives of community groups would be attending.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th February 2012