



Minutes of the meeting held on

11th March 2020

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing), Michele Bennett, Hendy Spence
- Councillor Graham Lambie
- P.C. Gary Martin
- Pam Campbell (Community Link Officer)
- 9 members of the public
- **Apologies:** Karen Milliken

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

Approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- Councillor Lambie's report is attached.
- Michele asked Councillor Lambie if he could speak to Bruce Crawford and Alyn Smith to see if they could help the family who have their access restricted by the gates that have been erected on the Castle Drive.
- Meg confirmed that the mobile Bank of Scotland would not be coming to Fintry. It will go to Balfour and Killearn only.
- With regard to flooding issues, concern was also raised about the flooding of the Cloch Burn onto the B818 between Fintry and Killearn.
- Councillor Lambie asked the Community Council for a list of any work that needed doing on roads, footpaths, etc. The potholes on the B818 (Crow Road) were mentioned.
- A question was raised as to the use of large stones on the verges and their potential to cause damage to vehicles. Councillor Lambie agreed that this may not be the best solution to prevent further damage to the verges but did not know what a better solution could be. Smaller stones along the Crow Road just washed into the road after heavy rainfall.

V. Police Report

- It has been a quiet month in the village which is obviously good news for Police and residents. Police have however dealt with incidents ranging from floods on roadways to dangerous driving, from stolen number plates to hit and run road accidents.
- **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** There have been no reports of any anti-social behaviour in the village since the last report.
- **ROAD SAFETY:** Obviously with the heavy rain in recent weeks, driving conditions have been exceptionally hazardous. There were numerous reports of large floods on almost all of the roads on the outskirts of the village and some in the village itself. There was a 'Hit and run' road accident in the Main Street. A vehicle was turning and collided with and damaged a large wooden barrel, also causing damage to their vehicle. Enquiries are

ongoing. Myself and Steven have been out with the 'Speed Gun' on the outskirts of the village in the 40mph zone as previously discussed at the last meeting. There were no major issues, one driver was warned re travelling at 45mph. Obviously if drivers see us there and are aware that we might be there at various times throughout the coming months this may go some way into solving the issue regarding speeding on this stretch of roadway. I think the 20mph signs coming into the village especially from the Balfron side should definitely be more prominent/visible and I will be contacting the Roads Department in relation to this to verify what can be done to remedy this issue.

- **THEFT:** There has been no Theft by Housebreaking incidents since the last meeting which is of course good news for Police and residents alike. There was however the theft of a front number plate from a farm on the outskirts of the village. There have however been a number of thefts from shops in the surrounding villages. The incidents involved 4 males entering the relevant village stores and carrying out a debit card scam/fraud. They have managed to leave the stores with hundreds of pounds worth of goods. Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to these incidents. Look out for your neighbours!! On many occasions housebreakers are immediately apprehended due to a neighbour acting quickly in relation to something they may have witnessed from their address. There is no issue if anyone contacts Police and it turns out to be a false alarm. Also, if you do see a crime being committed, contact us on 999; it is quicker than the 101. All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.
- **SHUT OUT SCAMMERS:** Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople. There is a campaign started called "Shut Out Scammers" which is raising awareness of offenders who cold-call people at their homes and scam them out of money. Doorstep criminals may offer to carry out work at a reduced rate, asking you to hand over cash straight away and often in advance of any repairs being carried out. We have visited local businesses handing out leaflets and posters to highlight this issue. There is no specific look to a bogus caller or rogue trader. If you have any concerns at all, do not allow an individual entry to your home, or provide them with any form of payment and do not hesitate to phone the police immediately. Always ask for ID and only let callers in if they have an appointment and you know that they are genuine. If you would like to receive any of our advice and guidance on preventing crime then you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit our dedicated webpage at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>.
- **PUBLIC CONSULTATION:** Police Scotland is asking the public for their views on how to serve our communities in the future. This is on the Police Scotland website and the link to the survey is found below:
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/policingforscotland/>
- **SHEEP WORRYING:** In a neighbouring village a sheep suffered bite marks to its rear legs. This was possibly caused by a dog out of control in a field which contained a large number of sheep. No one has yet been identified as being responsible. It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. Worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep and, in some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. Find out more below in the 'Staying legal' sections below. It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call. If you live in or near a farming area, you must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep. If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.

- THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE: The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) offers guidance for people enjoying the countryside with their dogs and says: "In exercising access rights, you must keep your dog(s) under proper control. You must also ensure that your dog does not worry livestock." The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says 'proper control' means different things in different situations, but when around sheep you should:-
 - Not take your dog into a field where there are lambs. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. In open country, keep your dog on a short lead (2 metres or shorter) when there are lambs around and keep away from them.
 - Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control if you need to go into a field where there are sheep. The SOAC defines 'under close control' as close at heel and responsive to your commands. Stay distant from the sheep.
 - Keep your dog under close control in more open country where there are sheep and stay away from them.
 - The SOAC reminds dog owners that in some cases a farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking their livestock.
 - If you are handling a group of dogs, make sure that they do not cause alarm to livestock.
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE: It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems. PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:
www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol www.twitter.com/policescotland
- Michele confirmed that the faded 20 m.p.h. signs will be replaced and that speed surveys will be carried out in the next few weeks to determine how successful the speed signs have been in lowering speed limits. Other traffic calming measures may be introduced as well. Speed activation signs are already planned.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- There had been six applications for micro-grants and two for macro-grants (see table below).

Grants Applications March 2020				
Organisation	Grant	Value	Criteria Fulfilled	Reason
Stran Hendrick Nethball Club	Macro	£2,500	No	Non-Constituted Group and outside Fintry Catchment
Fintry Parent Fundraising Com	Macro	£2,500	Yes	
Flower Show	Micro	£100	Yes	
Oscar Wild- Sport Equipment	Micro	£245	Yes	
Fintry Bowling Club	Micro	£500	Yes	
Menzies Hall	Micro	£371	Yes	
Fintry Primary School Netball	Micro	£176	Yes	
Linda Pearson	Micro	£250	Yes	

- There is £4,500 in the resilience fund at the moment.
- There is now an option to open a long term savings account at the Co-op bank but this would require six months' notice for funds to be withdrawn. Consideration will be given as to whether this is a viable option.

VII. Menzies Hall

- Stirling Council currently takes responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Menzies Hall. Responsibility will revert back to the community in just over six years' time. There was concern over where the funding will come from. Some possibilities were raised including Kingsburn funds and help from the Fintry Development Trust.
- Pam recommended that the current Hall Committee request a condition survey be carried out before the proposed handover so that any issues can be dealt with by Stirling Council. A breakdown of running costs has already been requested.
- One resident wondered if it would be more cost efficient to demolish the current hall and build a new one.
- Meg asked what would happen if the Hall Committee were unable to take on the financial burden of running and maintaining the hall? Would Stirling Council continue to provide funding? It was agreed that this question should be asked as well as asking the Hall Committee if this strategy had ever been tried before by Stirling Council.

VIII. Core Paths

- Quotes are being obtained for the cost of extending the path from the cemetery to the Castle Drive. This is already designated as a Core Path and the land is owned by Stirling Council. Once quotes have been obtained, funding will be sought.
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have been approached for help to do some clearing along the Lade walk – cutting back rhododendrons, removing fallen trees etc. to make the path wider and safer.

IX. Planning

- An application for a two-storey extension at 11, Menzies Avenue for Mr. Joe Norman.
- An application for a new house, garage and home office in garden ground of school house, Fintry. (The school house, Fintry is Muirlands School at Earlsburn, Carron Valley).

X. Roads

- The B818 (Denny Road) will be closed from the 16-20th March between 0800 and 1600 hours to facilitate resurfacing works at Carron Bridge.
- The B818 (Crow Road) will be closed from the 19th-31st March between 0900 and 1600 hours to facilitate culvert replacement works near Jaw Farm. The road will be open for half an hour at lunchtime to enable parents to collect children from Nursery.
- There has been no update on the possibility of a zebra crossing on Main Street. Michele will make enquiries.
- Double yellow lines on the junction of Kippen Road and Main Street should be being done soon.

XI. A.O.B.

- A resident asked if there were any plans to refurbish Fintry Primary School. Councillor Lambie explained that the school is not on Stirling Council's priority list but is part of their rolling programme. Michele has been told that some of the woodwork will be replaced and painted this summer.
- Angela asked if there was any update on the bench at the cross being reinstated. Councillor Lambie said that an enforcement order was in place requesting that the pavement be repaired. The Roads Department would need to confirm that any work done is of an acceptable standard.
- A representative from the Rugby Club wanted to make Fintry Community Council aware of a mini-festival that will be taking place on 26th April and asked that information about the event be shared with the community. A lot of vehicles will be arriving but the Rugby Club is taking measures to alleviate congestion on the roads as much as possible. They have asked for Stirling Council to ensure that Fintry's bin collection on that day takes place before the event begins at 11.30 a.m., the emergency services have been notified and volunteers will be on hand to help direct cars to parking spaces. Michele suggested

that some cars could park at the cemetery particularly now that there is a good path from there to the Sports Field and agreed to send details about who to contact regarding this. A field at Knockraich Farm that is sometimes used for overflow parking when there is a wedding taking place may also be an option although this would involve a walk along the road.

- The proposed changes at the Sports Centre have given rise to lots of opinions both for and against so a survey will be distributed to all householders in Fintry to gauge feelings.
- A public Flood Forum meeting will be held on 23rd April at 7 p.m. at Fintry Primary School.
- Michele thanked everyone involved in helping with the recent tree planting. Approximately 2,500 trees were planted altogether.
- A resident thanked the Community Council for facilitating the tree planting and thanked the Fintry Inn for providing refreshments.
- Sue mentioned the glass bottle bins in the pub car park that need emptying. It had been assumed that these were emptied by Stirling Council and were a community asset. It now seems that this is not the case and the private company who had been emptying them is no longer doing so. Pam said she would check with Stirling Council.

XII. Correspondence

- A letter of thanks had been received from Strathendrick District Welfare Fund for the donation received from the Community Council. This had enabled them to provide help to some families in Fintry over the Christmas period.
- Correspondence had been received with regard to the flood monitoring camera on the Kippen Road. The camera only faces the Sports field to monitor the flooding there.

XIII. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 13th May, 2020

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Forth and Endrick News – Fintry – Wednesday 11th March 2020

Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnock Killearn
Kippen Strathblane

Councillor Lambie Report:

- **Coronavirus Situation in Stirling Appendix 2:** Our schools, early learning and childcare settings are currently open. They are following guidance on COVID-19 provided by the Scottish Government and public health authorities, and we continue to monitor events closely. The NHS Inform website <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus> is producing regularly updated guidance on COVID-19, and we advise this is the best resource to find the latest information and advice. Help Line: **0800 028 2816**. Also, check Jason Leitch (National Clinical Director for Scotland) <https://twitter.com/jasonleitch>

- **Culcreuch Castle Listing Details:**

- Entry Name: Culcreuch Castle
- Listing Date: 5 October 1971
- Category: A
- Source: Historic Scotland
- Source ID: 342927
- Historic Scotland Designation Reference: LB10467
- Building Class: Cultural
- Location: Fintry
- County: Stirling
- Electoral Ward: Forth and Endrick
- Parish: Fintry
- Traditional County: Stirlingshire

- **Listed Building Restrictions:** "It is a criminal offence to demolish, alter or extend a listed building in any way which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest unless you have listed building consent." Ref: Scotland's Listed Buildings – Historic Environment Scotland.

- **Culcreuch Castle Planning Response:** "the Planning Authority can issue a notice requiring restoration works if a listed building is falling into disrepair to the extent that the listing is at risk. However, very few Councils actually serve this notice because it compels the Council to step in and undertake the works if the owner does not comply."

- **Questions from Cllr Lambie:**

- Do you have any case studies from other Councils?
- Does the council have compulsory purchase powers if a listed building is falling into disrepair?
- Can the council negotiate a compulsory purchase order with a 3rd party e.g. National Trust for Scotland, Private Buyer etc?

- **Culcreuch Castle Access:** I have contacted Angela Simpson (Access & Sustainable Travel Officer); Guy Harewood (Sustainable Development Project Officer); Cllr Rob Davies; and Bruce Crawford MSP, about the core path concerns and access for authorised vehicles. **Update:** Angela has provided an update and I have the Castle as an agenda item for the next Stirling Area Local Access Forum Wed 18th March 2020

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- **Stirling Council Budget:** The Council has a significant budget shortfall to be met. It is planned to achieve this with a combination of efficiency savings and some income generation proposals.

- **Thursday 6th Feb: Scottish Government Budget Meeting**
- **Thursday 27th Feb: Stirling Council Budget Meeting**
 - Determination of Council Tax = 4.84%; HRA (Housing Revenue Account) – Revenue; Capital; Rents = 3.2%
- **Thursday 5 March: Scottish Budget Stage 3 debate and Vote:**
 - £40 billion budget approved by 63 votes to 55
- **Wednesday 11th March: UK Government Budget Meeting**
- **Thursday 12th March: Stirling Council Budget Meeting to set Revenue and Capital budgets**

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-democracy/budget/budget-2020-21/>

- **Balfron Bank of Scotland Closures:** Balfron and Killin are the two Stirling area branches earmarked for closure. This means there will be no banks in the Forth and Endrick ward. There is a petition against the closure at: <https://www.change.org/p/bank-of-scotland-save-balfron-s-bank>
- **Roads Programme and A811 Works:** There are 4 sections that have been patched with inlay and were surface dressed later this year. The full programme for the Forth and Endrick ward is on **Appendix 1**:
- **Road Safety – Finnich Glen:** The site is now subject to a 'live' planning application and I am now restricted in giving public positions of support or objection to the application. But I would be allowed to visit the site if accompanied by the council planning officer and the applicant. There is a new case officer Ritchie Gillies for the application and I have emailed him for a progress report, and if the application, given its size, will be referred to the planning panel by default, and not via an elected member referral. **Update:** Cllr Davies and I met with officers recently as there are concerns about the number of surveys/reports been asked of the applicant as we all want a solution for the site which provides off road parking, safe visitor access to the site, and an economic development opportunity.
- **Killearn Hospital Site - 20/00098/FUL:** I met Cala representatives and the site owner in autumn 2019 and the news is the clean-up costs are higher than anticipated. This includes the removal of contaminated material and poor ground conditions where some piling will be required for foundations. This may reduce the commuted sum for affordable housing but we are insistent that the mixed use area is not reduced. This area could be used for: Business Space; Bunk house for West Highland Way; Mini Care Village; Beatson Satellite Research Unit; Renewable Technology Centre. **Update:** This is now a 'live' application with the following summary "Erection of 86No. dwelling houses with (in principle) erection of 5No. Class 4/Class 1 buildings and care home facility, demolition of remaining buildings and remediation of the site, with associated infrastructure, open space, landscaping drainage and tree works."

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

• **Fintry and Other Ward Issues:**

- **Road Safety:** Along with Gargunnock - Kippen and Fintry have 20 mph speed limits within their villages. There are interesting reports about the benefits of a 20 mph reduction from ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and Brake - the Road Safety Charity. "A 1mph reduction in average speeds on urban roads reduces collisions by 6%". The respective websites are: www.rospa.com and www.brake.org.uk
- **Planning - 20/00030/FUL - remove Condition 2 of planning permission 03/00060/DET | The Isles Fintry:** This is not an unusual request where there is an existing agricultural occupancy condition which can constrain the next owner from obtaining an mortgage on the property. **Update:** This was approved and there didn't appear to be any objectors.
- **Fintry Flooding:** There was severe flooding at Jenny's Burn in Blanefield recently and I gave a mention of the work the Fintry Flood Forum was doing at Strathblane CC. A useful site with respect to slope stabilization and tree planting is <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/farm-woodlands/the-benefits-of-planting-trees>
- **Fintry Flooding:** I have reported the Clachan Burn Bridge to the flooding officers as the water level was close to the top of the bridge.
- **Fintry Flood Camera:** I've asked the council to let CCs know when and where floods cameras will be installed.
- **Cllr Lambie Road Maintenance Projects for Fintry 2020/2021:**
 - **B822:** Complete sections up to Kippen CC Boundary (aim is to achieve one completed road out of the village)
 - **Main Street and Endrick Bridge:** To include repair of previous poor quality utility repairs.
 - **B818 to A875:** Resurface section between Village Boundary and Honeyholm Roads Turnoff
 - **B818:** Specific sections between Ballikinrain and A875
 - **Streets and Footways – TBC with Fintry CC**
- **Mugdock Country Park:** I have suggested charging for the carpark and using the Friends of Mugdock currently set at £15 as a parking permit.
- **Balmaha Carpark Charging Proposal:** is a community expression of interest for ownership transfer of the carpark to East Loch Lomond Community Trust (ELLCT)
- **National Park Main Issues include:** West Riverside Application (Withdrawn); Visitor Management at Balmaha. Good news with some increase in Revenue = £8.5 million (£158 K uplift) for 2020/2021
- **Participation Requests:** As part of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Participation Requests are intended to provide opportunities for communities to work with the Council and others to be involved in service delivery and improving outcomes.
- **Councillor Graham Lambie** Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Appendix 1: Road Maintenance Programme 2019 – 2020 Forth and Endrick				
'A' Class Roads	Type	Value	Dates	Completed
A811 Stirling Carse - Gargunnock	SD	£166,015	19 th May	Yes
A811 Kirk Lane Junction - Gargunnock	SD	£61,650	"	Yes
A811 Balwill Layby - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£67,678	27 th May	Yes
A811 Ballat Crossroads to WD Boundary	SD	£145,733	3 rd June	Yes
A875 Boquhan - Balfron	Inlay	£85,488	Oct 2019	Yes
A875 Coop Area - Balfron	Inlay	£49,320	TBC	TBC
'B' Class Roads				
B837 Mill Burn - Drymen	Inlay	£70,418	Mar 2020	Yes
B822 Cemetery - Fintry	Overlay	£56,565	15 th July	Yes
B822 Balafark Farm - Kippen	Overlay	£56,565	29 th July	Yes
B835 Wester Auchentroig - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£69,135	15 th July	Yes
B835 Primary School - Buchlyvie	Inlay	£14,248	TBC	Yes
'C' Class Roads				
C6 Rowdennan	Overlay	£50,280	Mar 2020	In Progress
C21 from A81 to Balfron	Overlay	£50,280	22 nd July	Yes
C23 from B818 to Balfron	Overlay	£50,280	29 th July	Yes
'Unclassified' Roads				
Glinns Road - Kippen	Overlay	£26,397	TBC	TBC
Mye Road - Buchlyvie	Overlay	£31,425	22 nd July	TBC
Burnside Road - Kippen	Overlay	£67,878	17 th Jun	Yes
Old Gartmore Road - Drymen	Inlay	£37,710	TBC	Yes
Streets				
Endrick Way - Croftamie	Inlay	£20,550	TBC	Yes
Branziert Rd North - Killearn	Inlay	£63,505	TBC	TBC
Culcreuch Avenue - Fintry	Inlay	£34,661	15 th July	Yes
Footways				
Branziert Road - Killearn	Inlay	£55,000	Oct 2019	TBC
McNeill Crescent - Gargunnock	Inlay	£20,000	Nov 2019	Yes
Leckie Road Bridge - Gargunnock	Inlay	£20,000	Nov 2019	TBC
B818 Bogside Fence Repair - Fintry	PostWire	N/a	20 th May	Complete
Station Rd - Gargunnock	Fence	N/a	15 th July	Complete
	TOTAL	£1,370,781		

Key: SD = Surface Dress, WD = West Dunbartonshire

Councillor Graham Lambie
Forth and Endrick Ward
Stirling Council

Appendix 2: Coronavirus Situation in Stirling

Please note, the containment and treatment of this virus is being managed by the NHS and central Government. The messages below have been provided by our partners in these public bodies and residents should always visit either NHS Inform or the Scottish Government website for the most up to date information.

About the virus:

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan city, China. The spread of the virus is a rapidly changing situation which is being monitored carefully.

Typical symptoms include:

- High temperature or Fever
- A cough
- Shortness of breath
- How to avoid catching infections like coronavirus

You can reduce your risk of getting and spreading respiratory infections by:

- avoiding direct hand contact with your eyes, nose and mouth
- maintaining good hand hygiene - washing hands with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser:
- after coughing or sneezing
- after going to the toilet
- before eating and drinking
- avoiding direct contact with people that have a respiratory illness and avoiding using their personal items such as their mobile phone
- covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with disposable tissues and disposing of them in the nearest waste bin after use

Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

If you do not have symptoms and are looking for general information, a free helpline has been set up on **0800 028 2816**.

The helpline is open:
Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 10.00pm
Saturday and Sunday, 9.00am to 5.00pm

Situation in Stirling

Our schools, early learning and childcare settings are currently open. They are following guidance on COVID-19 provided by the Scottish Government and public health authorities, and we continue to monitor events closely.

The NHS Inform website is producing regularly updated guidance on COVID-19, and we advise this is the best resource to find the latest information and advice.