



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Monday 1st February 2016 in the primary school
Final for approval**

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Richard Arnold, John Gray, Elspeth Neill, Julie Hutchison, Willie Oswald, Grace Edmonds, Avril Keen and Marian Lever.

In attendance: Stewart Smolarek, Scottish Water + 6 residents.

*(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust *
Denotes an action)*

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies – from Margaret Vass

MV welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies - Sue Rand and Davies.

2. Declaration of interests –

MV declared her interest in the Rural Stirling Housing Association and would step down from chairing that section of the meeting dealing with a proposed housing development on site SBL06 adjacent to the A81 at the western entry to the village.

RA declared an interest in the village web site issue and would not take part in any deliberations re this item.

3. Police report – from PC Raymond Murphy and PC Steven Graham.

Few incidents to report – petty anti-social behaviour in the village and theft of a bike at Mugdock Country Park. Also an abandoned burned out car at Craigallian Road.

Full police report on-line in **Appendix I** at www.strathblanefield.org.uk.

4. Scottish Water update – from Stewart Smolarek

Turbine 1 is up and running; no2 on hold awaiting pipework repairs. This is dependent on some other work being completed at Ross Priory.

River banking and bridge works are delayed due to technical issues with the existing bridge structure. Several weeks delay likely.

The path link to the Gowk Stane is making progress and on completion of all works an access for walkers will be made into the fence to the SW site.

5. Minutes of January's meeting and matters arising.

No errors or omissions reported. Minutes approved by JH and seconded by GE.

Matters arising:

JH had been in touch with Gordon McLachlan of SC in lieu of David Maley who was on nightshift, regarding the poor condition of Dumbrock Road. He felt that unless it could be proved that contractor damage had caused the deterioration, SC would in the end have to carry out repairs. This would have to await budget monies.

Comments had not been sent yet regarding the route of the John Muir way, adjacent to the new forestry road at Carbeth.
Comment from the floor suggested a problem with the SC Planning Portal. While there are issues with this, information can be accessed.

6. Health and Social Care Integration.

MV and GE had attended the recent meeting in Killearn details of which had been relayed in the recent issue of the BVB. Apologies had been offered regarding the lack of consultation regarding the issue of Strathendrick Home closure which had originally been mooted as far back as 2007! Current emphasis is on improving care in the home.

It is hoped to provide intermediate/respite/re-enablement care locally in, possibly, Strathendrick House, part refurbished. A working group is being set up with GE and ML involved. They feel this proposal would be the correct solution for our area, but have worries about where money will come from.

Councillor Berrill had received unanimous support for his proposal that no resident would be moved out of Strathendrick House until everyone had their care needs satisfied in whatever way they wished.

ML said that this winter, in fact, four beds had been specifically allocated for intermediate care.

A meeting will be held at Balfron High School on Tues. 23rd February at 1.45pm. ML and either MV or JH would attend this – GE unable to attend.

Various other comments regarding care in our area drew attention to the isolation associated with care at home and that delays in obtaining care was lifespan reducing.

Health care at home in our area was deemed to be poor when compared to others e.g. West Dunbartonshire.

7. Issues for young people – no young people were in attendance, possibly due to exam commitments?

JH and GE from the CC had attended a meeting at Balfron HS but the turn-out had been poor with no reps from other local CC's present. A date has been set for the morning of 20th April to meet up with pupils from 3rd and 4th year along with a keynote speaker and there would be a "marketplace" to introduce young people to the idea of community involvement. This age group can go forward for 2/3 years before they move off to university etc. Another meeting prior to this date is planned where the deputy head Tracey Patrick will move matters forward. Feedback in connection with this will go to the next SW Forum on 15th Feb with JH + GE involved

8. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) 2nd tranche.

A further £5m in savings have to be found over and above what has gone before. Feedback on this is required by 6th Feb which is after the next Community Conversation at Balfron HS on Wed 3rd at 6.00pm. AH, JG, JH and WO will attend this. AK asked if they could discuss extra monies for social care at this meeting.

9. Planning and Licensing – Avril Keen.

- a) There were few items of note at present; one or two house extensions, a heat pump installation and a garden office.
- b) Church bothy conversion – the CC is supporting this project to provide a visitor centre. Rev Begg is hopeful that the project will be complete at some time in the future when a visitor from the US, assumed to be connected in some way to the John Muir trail, will be visiting.
- c) JG raised a query regarding time-expired planning applications for houses in garden ground in Moor Road. Would we agree to support renewed applications? General view that if we were supportive before we should be so again unless any planning policies have changed.
- d) Planning schedules are arriving with AK, but not JG. She will forward them on.

10. Elected member report – None; Cllr Berrill unwell.

11. Community comments

- a) JH advised of a problem at the entrance to Blane Cresc where, in wet weather, a large “lake” develops. Several attempts by contractors have failed to get a resolution.
- b) EN advised of a similar problem in the road outside the Coop. WO has reported this to SC, but no harm if others do likewise. Blocked gully appears to be the problem here.
- c) Drain adjacent Blane Valley Inn car park has been repaired 2/3 times to cure water problems. This seems to be OK now.
- d) GE drew attention to overgrowing hedges over Danny’s Brae. As these are probably on private land it is up to the householders concerned to address this. MV suggested that a general article in the BVB re overgrowing trees and pavement parking might be apt to encourage good neighbourliness.
- e) There was further discussion about the temporary lights at Dunglass View and also the narrowing of the road for future traffic calming measures. This is currently perceived as dangerous, although maybe only temporarily, while footpath works are in progress opposite the Cala site.

11. Finance –

SR had sent in the following balances - Current account £3546 and Instant Saver account £2322. MV has signed a few cheques in SR’s absence.

ML pointed out that the defibrillator pads were time-expired and due for replacement at a cost of £63.24 +VAT. This included a new battery and should be good for another 3/4 years. Expenditure approved.

Website – more information has been received regarding CC websites and this will have to be considered. A proposal has been submitted by Jo Arnold. Have consulted with Alan Campbell who is willing to continue to run the website, but pointed out that he was currently out of pocket as he had not submitted accounts for past annual recurring running charges in relation to hosting the website. Hosting costs should not exceed £50 pa, plus domain name fees. It was agreed unanimously that the CC should look to respective reimbursement of this, but it could not be financed out of the current grant.

JG said that the web site is a work in progress and MV reiterated the urgency of spending the grant before end March this year.
A link to Facebook is important and an important task is to keep the website up to date with what is happening in the village.
Napier University is also leading a project on “digital presence” which had been attended by AH.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from Steve Mason of SC regarding an application by Westpoint Homes to build 18 housing units at plot SBL06 south of the A81, of which 6 would be affordable homes (33%of the total)

MV vacated the chair and this part of the meeting was chaired by AH

RA was requested to write to the developer to arrange a meeting with the CC where SC and RSHA would be present. A development committee a la Cala homes will be set up.

It is important that even if the CC were to decide to oppose the planning application, we strive to achieve the best options for the community and neighbouring properties. As in our comments to the Local Development Plan there are a number of problematical issues relating to this site, not least the logistics of access, it was thought sensible to invite both Tony Teasdale of RSHA and a representative of Westpoint Homes to our next CC on 7th March, if possible.

The next meeting of the Stirling South Western Area Forum will be 7.00pm on Monday 15th Feb. JH, GE, ML and WO agreed to attend this.

A letter had been received from the Post Office regarding changes and upgrades to the retail offering throughout the country. This was seeking the views of users on the service they receive. The CC discussed this and agreed that our new facility at the COOP was generally good . There were no significant changes proposed apart from longer opening hours – increasing to 6.00am to 10.00pm seven days per week. The only issues raised in connection with our local service was lack of privacy at its location next to the main entry to the Coop and the fact that those being served and waiting to be served caused the automatic door to stay open unnecessarily! RA will respond to the Post Office accordingly.

A letter had been received from the Stirling Community Health Partnership Forum advising a meeting on Wed 17th Feb at 7.00pm at Stirling Community Hospital. Details of this will be handed in to the library for information, as anyone can attend.

A new Community Councils' website has been launched:
www.communitycouncils.scot . This appears to be a blanket organisation covering all individual CC's in Scotland.

13. AOCB

- 1) Following the recent petition regarding road safety issues at Carbeth, works have started to reduce the height of the banking which currently restricts vision at the Cuilt Road junction.
- 2) There are grounds to believe that Alan Barnes –Graham will be willing to gift a strip of land to the community to allow formation of a safe footpath in connection with the West Highland Way.
- 3) There had been suggestions from various quarters that on the CC meeting dates this year the school was not available, the meetings be convened at the Village Club. This had in the past been the home of the CC, but free lets from SC made the school more attractive. The Village Club now has wi-fi which, it is thought, might be usefully employed during CC meetings and the rental is also slightly cheaper than the Kirk Rooms where we have migrated in the recent past. This change of venue was unanimously agreed. RA will update the meetings schedule and forward this to Helen Geddes.

13. Date of next meeting – Monday 7th March 2016 in the school

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy date Monday 15th Feb 2016

Contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk . Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin.

Appendix I Full Police report on-line only at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

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Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting Period:

February 2016 Compiled by PC 660 Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Call at Southburn Rd, re youths ringing doorbell and running off. No identification of persons responsible.

2 separate reports of youths on quad bike and scrambler bike. No trace on Police arrival.

Theft

On 15th January 2016 report of a theft of bicycle from Khyber car park, Mugdock Country Park. Further reports of males acting suspiciously within Mugdock Country park in the last week. Enquiries are ongoing with regards to the theft as they may well be linked. A visible presence was carried out by ourselves to deter these people last week and advice given to businesses there.

Overnight on 17-18th January a resident in Milndavie Rd, Strathblane reported footprints in the snow around her house. Nothing was stolen and no attempt had been made to break in.

On 19th January 2016 a vehicle was found burnt out at Craigallian Road. It is a stolen vehicle from outwith the area.

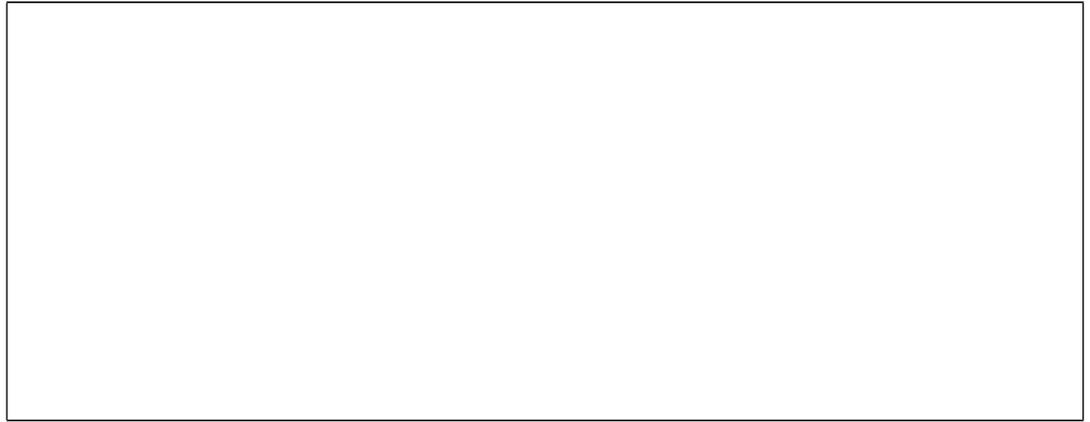
Road Safety

There have been no road accidents reported since last month's meeting.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

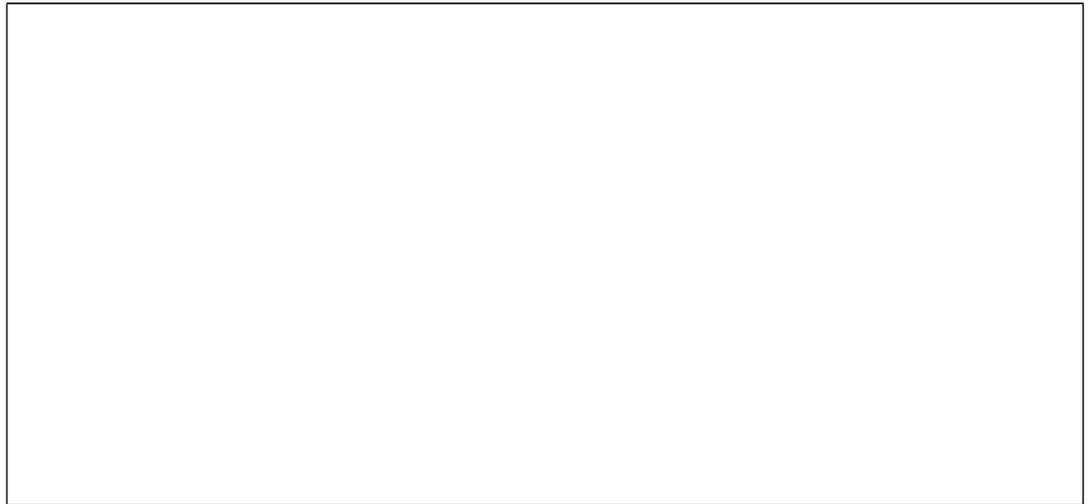
PCs Steven Graham and Raymond Murphy are the Ward officers in the Forth and Endrick area. It is our intention to engage with the local community more than in the recent past has allowed us to. Please feel free to email any concerns to the email address below.

**Other
Incidents /
Activity of
note**



**Issues raised

Community
Council
Feedback**



Your Community Team are: Constables Steven Graham and Raymond Murphy
They can be contacted via the email address ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police or by phoning 101
We regularly publish information on the 'Forth Valley Police' Facebook page and tweet using @StirlingPol