



MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday 7th November in the school Final for approval

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Richard Arnold, Julie Hutchison, Rob Davies, Marian Lever, Avril Keen and Willie Oswald.

In attendance: Cllr Ian Muirhead + 34 residents.

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

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – Grace Edmonds, Sue Rand and Police Scotland

MV opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public who had come along.

She congratulated John Gray, Grace Edmonds and Rob Davies on their election to the Community Council, having served until now as co-opted members.

She also thanked EN and her team for preparing the flower tubs for the winter.

She also advised the meeting that Lynne James had advised her of the forthcoming visit by Citizen's Advice on Thursday 10th to the library to offer advice on Home Energy and fuel allowances. It is hoped that if this is a success this could become a regular visit to give advice.

Finally she asked the committee for their approval to modify the posted agenda to cover all the regular and various special matters as quickly as possible during the early part of the meeting so that as much time as possible could be spent discussing the major planning matter regarding the pre planning application at Campsie Road. Unanimous approval given.

2. Declaration of interests –

MV reminded all of her association with RSHA as Chairperson.

3. Police report – No officers from Police Scotland were available to attend the meeting once again. This is disappointing as we have had no visitations since early this year (March was last attendance). The report had been sent out in advance to members and can be accessed in full at full report can be viewed in **Appendix I** on the website: www.strathblanec.org.uk

Main items in the report read out by MV were anti-social behaviour, theft of the cairn charity box and a serious motor cycle accident near Carbeth. Speeding in the village and inconsiderate parking, especially around the school at pick-up times, were going to be monitored and tickets issued.

There were also reminders about the forthcoming Air Weapons and Licensing Scotland Act which requires persons holding air weapons to hold a certificate to

do so and also about how to deter thieves from breaking in to your home now that the dark nights have returned.
Not reported was vandalism at the school during October week.
Everyone is reminded that the police are keen that any suspicious activity be reported to them – dial 101.

4. Minutes of September meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved by JH and seconded by RD

5. Telephone kiosks consultation

BT are planning to dispose of under-used phone boxes around the country and those at the Edmonstone hall and Dumbrock road fall into that category. They are willing to sell them for £1 to the community and would undertake to continue the power supply to them.

MV suggested that we take up this offer in respect of the Dumbrock Road unit with a view to using it to site a further village defibrillator. Fundraising would be needed for this. The Edmonstone Hall kiosk could be removed.

There was general agreement on this.

6. 50th Anniversary school projects

The school is looking for financial support from the CC in respect of this, particularly with respect to: a) provision of tablet computers and IT support for children, and

b) Improvements to the daily mile circuit which requires a weather resistant surface.

It was agreed that the CC would support and assist with fundraising for a) and item b) would be forwarded to the CDT for their attention and help.

7. After school buses from Balfron High

There has been general outrage on Facebook and elsewhere at the current situation

regarding after school buses where buses can currently only be boarded at the main road and full fares have to be paid. This is a disincentive to after school activities.

Balfron CC has written to Killearn and Strathblane CC's to take action over this and to

press for free travel. The CC were supportive of this.

Cllr Muirhead said that this withdrawal of service had been discussed with SC who had withdrawn the bus pass arrangement and it was a commercial decision to withdraw the service. The bus will, however, now loop past the school.

Areas with no bus service have a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) facility.

AK requested information on this as there is no bus service to Carbeth. WO

pointed out that availability of this service was not well publicized to the community at large, but the Balfron Head teacher has advised her pupils.

Cllr Muirhead will forward links and information.

8. Christmas tree and switch on festivities

Tree lights switch-on planned for Monday 12th December. A young pupil from the nursery class will be asked to do this. It is thought that Edenmill Foods will provide a tree again; last year's was excellent. Dumbarton Wind Ensemble booked to provide entertainment. It is hoped the Co-op will provide mince pies.

9. Elected member report – from Cllr Ian Muirhead

Buses – on 20th Oct all rural area councillors met with Fist Bus regional director to discuss concerns. He is under pressure from the company to improve profitability, but is trying to preserve as many services as possible. DRT cannot be called on where there is an existing scheduled service. The latter is likely to reduce so SC may have to consider DRT in due course.

Bins – the new bin roll-out is not going to plan due to staff resistance. There had been some deliveries today in the village and it was hoped that problems will be resolved soon. Brown bin uplifts will continue throughout the year.

Broadband – 81.2% of SC population have been upgraded to faster or superfast broadband falling, short of the 93.4% target. It is hoped that 100% coverage will be achieved by 2020. A new mast is proposed to provide wireless coverage for those few areas not able to get wired broadband. Other areas have taken the initiative to improve matters – get together with them to discuss?

10. Planning and licensing

a) 16/00650/FUL outbuilding conversion 55mtrs south of Carbeth House. This used to be a piggery and there was some discussion as to whether this was a qualifying building for conversion as it is also in the green belt. There were concerns that this modest conversion would be upgraded by extensions in time to a much bigger building. It was agreed that the decision would be left to the planners, but there should be a stipulation that no future extension would be permitted.

b) Pre-application consultation at Campsie Road.

MV had prepared a Possible Timeline and Process summary as a guide to the uninitiated in the planning process. She pointed out that it was the duty of the CC to listen to the community and then represent the majority view. The only support agreed at this time is for a new cemetery which was to be the final development at that part of the village following the Cala development and everybody in the village understood that this was the end of development in the area, in line with the Local Development Plan. There had been village disbelief when this application was announced, almost to the day after Cala departed from their site. At the recent presentation of proposals by Gladman Scotland, misrepresentation was immediately apparent in the introduction to their proposals which stated:

“The Council has identified the site in both its adopted and proposed Local Development Plans as being appropriate for release from the green belt and has accepted the principle of development on the site.”

This was thought by all who were au-fait with the current approved LDP to be nonsense.

The consensus of the meeting, along with comment from recent polls in the village, indicated that this was an unwelcome extension of urban development

outwith the village envelope into the green belt. At this stage of the proceedings we have no concept of what type of construction is planned, but the meeting was of the opinion that too much luxury house building has been on offer to date and not enough affordable-to-buy housing for younger families and smaller house units for the elderly to downsize and release property for families. Construction of smaller groups of houses of these types at other locations in the village might be seen to be acceptable.

The application is seen as a move by the landowner to increase the value of his land prior to attempted sale, and, following much discussion during the meeting it was agreed that the scheme should be vigorously resisted, led by a specially convened planning/action group who will, if necessary, strive to mobilise the skills within the village as was done around 20 years ago when Strathblane became the first village to repulse the efforts of Cala Homes to build at another treasured location in the village.

It was also agreed that the services of a Planning Consultant would be sought to guide the CC and the village.

MV reminded everyone that the developers were looking for responses from the village by 12th December and much discussion at the meeting centred around the pro-forma questionnaire provided by Gladden which was thought by many to be totally unsuitable. It was agreed that residents would be encouraged instead to e-mail SC Planning with their views on the development.

It was also decided that the invitation to Gladman to attend the next CC meeting might be withdrawn following consultation with the Planning Consultants.

Actions: Five members of the community have volunteered their services to help with resisting the application. JG will contact the Planning Consultants

11. Community comments

ML indicated that the start of the road resurfacing in Kirkland Road was imminent.

In Station Road the mud has been scraped from the footpath and it is hoped this is the precursor to hardcore being laid.

ML indicated that six Truecall devices have been made available for elderly/vulnerable residents in the community. This device blocks calls from all but permitted callers to reduce the risk of scams. Brian Wilson will be at the library on 13th Dec to demonstrate and allocate these.

12. Correspondence

MV said that the Community Connect fund could provide funding for two special colour editions of the BVB to permit publicising of succession planning for the future community council. It was agreed that we would apply to the Community Connect fund.

Priority Based Budgeting promoted by SC is coming back using a different format this year where there will be three drop-in sessions at Balfron High on Monday 21st November at 4.30, 5.30 and 6.30. A session can be booked at www.stirlingcouncilpbb2016.eventbrite.com

A Boundary Commission consultation is under way, proposing to cut the SC area in half with a line through the centre of Falkirk. The CC will submit comment on this, but will request comment from the community through the BVB.

13. Date of next meeting **Monday 5th December** in the school

Copy date for Blane Valley Bulletin **Monday 21st November 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.

See **Appendix 1** on-line at www.strathblanecc.org.uk

Appendix I – Police report

Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting

November 2016 Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

On 16th October 2016 a report of noisy music was received coming from a farm at Old Mugdock Rd. On police attendance the noise was found to be excessive and the occupier made aware who turned the music down.

On 21st October a complaint was received from a resident re roadworks taking place outside her home on Cuilt road. Police attended and all was found to be in order, the noise was not excessive.

Overnight between 31st October and 1st November a windscreen was smashed on a vehicle parked in Netherblane.

Theft

Overnight between 11th-12th October the cairn at Strathblane church was broken into and the charity box stolen.

Enquiry is still ongoing in relation to this and the above vandalism but if anybody has any information, they are urged to contact Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

Several members of the public contacted police to report suspicious activity locally. Each incident was investigated. Such reports are always welcomed and encouraged, and the information gleaned from them can be invaluable to police enquires and investigations.

Road Safety

On 2nd October an RTC involving a motor cyclist and 2 cars occurred on the A809 near to the Carbeth Inn. The motor cyclist lost control of the bike and collided with the other two vehicles sustaining serious injuries. One driver of the vehicles sustained a minor injury.

Complaints have been received about speeding in the village and inconsiderate parking, particularly around the primary school at drop off/pick up times.

Both of these will continue to be monitored and tickets will be issued where appropriate.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PCs Ray Murphy and Steven Graham are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Both officers have access to this email address mailbox, and 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

Other Incidents
/ Activity of
note

POLICE MESSAGE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

At 2am on Sunday 30th October the clocks went back an hour to mark the end of British Summer time. This also marks the start of the darker nights which can make it easier for thieves to target your property if they can see that nobody is home. We need your help to make it make it harder for the thieves so please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

Air Weapons Surrender Scheme

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 comes fully into effect on 31 December 2016. The new law will require any person who possesses, purchases, uses or acquires an air weapon to have a certificate to hold them legally.

It will be an offence not to have a certificate for these purposes from 31 December 2016, unless you are exempt, but you are now able to apply to Police Scotland for a certificate.

The new Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act will:

- Clearly define the air weapons which will be subject to licensing
- Broadly follow the principles and practises of existing firearms legislations
- Enable a fit person to obtain a licence to own, possess and shoot an air weapon in a regulated way without compromising public safety
- Ensure appropriate enforcement of the new regime with robust offences and penalties to deal with any person who contravenes the regime

Unwanted air weapons can still be handed into designated police offices. Your local designated police office is Balfron.

Further information can be found at <http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/airweapons/>

