



**MINUTES**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 in the Village Club**  
**for Approval**

**Members Present:** - Willie Oswald; Sue Rand; Julie Hutchison; Margaret Vass; John Gray; Rob Davies; Elspeth Neill; Marion Lever;

**Apologies :** Grace Edmonds; Richard Arnold; Avril Keen; Alan Hutton

**In attendance:** Councillor Ian Muirhead; Ian Denver; + 13 residents.

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

**1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies**

**Apologies** – as above

MV welcomed everyone to the meeting & apologised the meeting was held in the Village club as opposed to the school due to a mix up with booking

At the moment Ian Denvir is working with the CC on a cost sharing exercise to establish if we could move permanently the village club.

**2. Declaration of interests –**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Police Report**

Yet again we have no Police report. It has been noted in the local press that we have had no Police presence over a long period of time, this is of concern to the village..

**4. Minutes of January's meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were passed; proposed by EN and seconded by ML

□ **Matters arising**

- Refuse collection generally getting better
- Following a report to roads development officer about perceived dangers on Campsie Rd at new CALA development it was agreed they would put white markings down the middle of the road. This was carried out on Sunday 5th Feb.
- Old Mugdock Rd parking - Council has agreed to do something with it however too busy with deregulation of parking in Stirling, will get to it in March.
- RD & MV attended meeting in Balfron regarding road closure at Ballat. Three Quarters of the Bridge has been damaged. Strathard CC is concerned as the road could be closed from Easter to Sept with this being their main tourist season. A suggestion was to close May/June reopen July/Aug for tourists and then close again. Reps from all CC meeting to work with Scottish Water & Stirling Road on diversions & signage to maximise business opportunities. Traffic actively discouraged from using short cut at Balfron Station

- Christmas Tree lights : RA looking at options to replace Christmas Tree lights, possible to replace one string another suggestion was to add in some colour. SR & GE working together on a community pride grant to cover costs. Colour was agreed.

## **5. Update on Gladman Developments proposal south of Campsie Road**

MV & JG Met with Mark Richardson the rep for Connell Estates. It was a good exchange of views, the Estate want value for their asset, the community want a cemetery, there may need to be a compulsory purchase on the land. The Estate has been invited to attend a CC meeting. Gladman are currently analysing & reviewing matters. MV stated the community has demonstrated that it is not against developments on a smaller scale. There is a need in the village for low cost home ownership not just large houses, also more social rent houses. There is a worry that this housing application if it proceeds could hold up the development of the cemetery. MV to discuss with Stirling how this could be resolved. The meeting was shown a map of how much land Connell owns, ML stated as a community we have normally had a good relationship with local land-owners.

## **6. Community Hub Study**

Out of the blue money has been allocated for a feasibility study. MV;AH; ID & Alf Young met with Stirling Council. Tracey Mills from Stirling Council will be the person leading the project. A series of 4 workshops has been set up over a period of 8 weeks. The working group will be made up of 2 reps from CC 2 from CDT and 1 person from each of the organisations represented in the village that have premises in. The study will look at options to maximise use of accommodation in the village. The fact that the library has a limited life, with a suggestion it could relocate to the school if it was to be extended. Also investigated would be the money required to keep all village property up to date that currently involves significant fundraising. A similar exercise happened 30years ago and was met with a great deal of hostility. A question was asked of the CC, do we have the power to veto potential suggestions, MV replied definitely yes as this is a community led project.

## **7. Elected Member's Report**

- Buses - Local members have had meetings following the loss of services & sudden change. Specific changes will take place from the 6th March . MV has had email from Balfron CC making representations to Stuart Carruth regarding the 16.00 bus from Stirling to Balfron, people coming from Larbert have to wait until 18.00 and this is not acceptable. SCC are happy to support this. There was also a discussion around attempting to synchronise buses with trains from Milngavie.
- City Deal - IM met with Carol Beattie and was slightly disappointed as the whole thing vague now due to being widened to include CLACKS. It is definitely possible to spend some money outside of the city as such. Some of the ideas would be for example; improvement in Broad-

- band; Freshen up main streets in the villages; Balfron looking for a new running track. MV brought to notice the lack of signage on the A81 promoting tourism. IM said there is a trial of a smart sign in Killearn to draw attention to what is going on in the village. There is also a trial of a rural business hub in Dunblane.
- Leader Project - Strand of EU funding for community development, an allocation of £2.7M to spend to 2020 or Brexit if sooner. 14 Projects have been awarded funding some examples are farm diversification, tea planting, Glamping sites etc. Community organisations can apply for this funding.
  - Contaminated Land - A report on the contamination cleanup suggest it is finished. MV & Blane Residents Association are reasonably happy it is accurate however felt it should have been shared with the residents in advance.
  - BroadBand - Recent meeting reported 81.2% Super Fast Broadband. SC committed to find solution for areas that will not be covered by Digital Scotland and existing provision . IM has a list of broadband projects that SC is funding, eg Balquidder, installing a mast where companies can piggy back on.
  - Sport Services - There will be a special CC meeting on Thursday 9th Feb re sports services. They have been put out to tender with this meeting to decide whether to go with a commercial provider in place of Active Stirling. This will be a 25year contract for £25M. WO concerned at scrutiny and comparison of tenders. In house providers may be inept a tendering in competition of commercial operations. JG if the tender allowed continuity of personnel as clubs already have an established network of relationships. Concerns that all of this is happening 2 months prior to elections.
    - MV wondered that councillors are rushed into decisions without proper time to prepare & assess implications for example Strathendrick House

## 8. Planning and Licensing

Strathblane Country House Hotel has dropped application from 4 flats to 3 flats. CC want noted on the application that there is no possibility of sub-dividing to eventually end up with 4 flats.

ID mentioned new head of services Christina Cox, she is arranging new training sessions with planning officers . It will be the 20th March for the rural areas.

Residents asked if we could discuss the application for Moor Rd, they are concerned about the amount of traffic that will be added to Old Mugdock Rd .The CC are going to make more comments on Moor Rd. Can it be drawn to the attention of Roads that this is in fact 4 houses so could this be referred to the planning panel? Moor Road is a private road with no one having been notified of the application. WO looked at the layout and challenged the planners that all houses are off 1 driveway. There were concerns raised regarding water pressure. SR asked if it was possible for residents to ask for a representative of roads to come out for a site visit. Old Mugdock Rd is already an existing situation with informal lay-bys developing. It was suggested a petition with 50 or more signatures

needed to send to SC to raise these issues. It was agreed to make further comments re Old Mugdock Rd and relate them to the comments in the Local Development Plan.

## 9. Community Resilience

RA attended seminar, briefing notes will be appended to the minutes.

MV looking for a volunteer to update our resilience plan. WO agreed to take forward updating the plan.

## 10. Strathendrick Home Update

- Neighbourhoods of care: staff training to develop the self programming local teams is continuing.
- Playlist for life is being supported by the libraries. Strathblane is the lead village in this development. Music resources are held in the library to download on Ipods. Children from the Primary School are to attend Cuppatime to work with individuals to develop their playlists. In addition staff at Blanefield House were trained to develop playlists with residents.
- There is a Technology Awareness Project at Balfron High School aimed at helping older people with skills. As pupils from the school live in all local villages there is potential for this to be used across the SW rural area.
- Volunteering is to become a choice in the BHS curriculum. As it develops there may be opportunities for senior pupils to volunteer in local projects eg After School care.
- Balfron Lunch Club Meals at Home project now delivers to three local residents. Volunteers take a meal out from the lunch club, sit and chat for a while then serve the meal. Other villages are encouraged to develop this, perhaps as a bridge for local residents returning home after a short stay in residential care as a link back to lunch club. Balfron will help with advice on equipment etc.
- Smart technology: the demos of the technology in the Rural North west was not well attended. Strathendrick House is now equipped to deliver this. A demo of the technology will be part of the agenda of the next meeting, in early May.
- Strathendrick House is developing a discharge pack for residents. We offered copies of the BVB to be included.
- Local villages are encouraged to invite demos of various supports such as MECs and Living Well to community council meetings

## 11. Community Comments

- Devices held at the Library that block nuisance calls. 3 have been given out. If you need 1 please request at Library, this will be a first come first serve basis.

- Dementia Day - Extra Money remaining from Test Site funding is being held by the Church. This is not for Church use, local groups can apply for funding. There is between £1000-£1500 remaining. It is up to each organisation to use the money how they can. This is a one off grant, once it's gone, it's gone.
- Lunch Club Balfron - This cooks meals & delivers to residents. ML to speak to Lunch Club to see if possible for similar approach in Strathblane. Would it be possible to support people who have been discharged from Hospital or Care Home, they could have meals at home before moving onto Lunch Club.
- Locking Pole at Park Place - RA suggesting we put in Community Pride grant application to put up signage to stop cars going along the track. The community were very clear that when the allotments were allocated that cars should be the exception for all users. The horse riders should not abuse access to the track it is to take feed not for each time horses need fed. People who use the track should replace the bollard right away not leave it open. We need to get locals back to doing it properly. WO asked Edward Pickard if the padlock was a common SC one, he thought yes. ID was asked if he could speak to John Barr to shed some light on it. The piece of ground is owned by the Council so should be their padlock.
- Scottish Water Update - They have a leak in turbine one which will be fixed in May. The repairs to the bridge have become complicated as there are a number of legal issues involved.
- Parking at Dumgoyne - This is very inadequate and dangerous. At one time Sir Archie was going to make land available however this has not happened. Farranes Construction are using the land that was set aside.

## 12. Finance

A group has been established on how to spend money for succession planning.

Current Account	£1,516.28
Instant Saver	£2,336.59

## 13. Correspondance

- ML attending meeting on 15th Feb at Stirling Community Hospital.
- ID informed us SW rural forum would be on Monday 20th Feb
- JG received a survey to complete from planning aid Scotland. These were the people the CC contacted for advice on the Gladman submission. This was to reassure them of how useful they had been, they are a charity and do we want to donate? Could we also make people aware of their advice? £50 donation agreed.
- The Council has agreed to pay the let for the village club this evening.

## 14. Date of next meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the school



**Blane Valley Bulletin Copy Date Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Contact us at [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk). Also on our website [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk). Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin