



**MINUTES**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in the Village Club**  
**Final for approval**

**Members Present:** - Willie Oswald; Julie Hutchison; Margaret Vass; John Gray; Richard Arnold; Evelyn Macdougall; Marian Lever; Alan Hutton; Mike McNulty; Grace Edmonds

**In attendance:** Councillor Graham Lambie; Ian Denvir + 6 residents.

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

**Apologies:** Sue Rand; Avril Keen;

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

MV welcomed everyone to the meeting. She told the meeting that she and SR had attended the primary school to talk to P5 pupils about the role of the CC. They had an excellent afternoon. The pupils identified issues that concern them e.g. vandalism in the playground and the park, speeding in the village and noisy cars and they had real enthusiasm to follow through on these issues. MV told them that the CC is already addressing the speeding issue and has asked for a solution from SC. The plan is that some of the P5 pupils will attend the February meeting of the CC and we hope to have representatives from both Police Scotland and SC in attendance at that meeting. Three or four of the pupils thought that they would like to join the CC in the future and promised to speak to their parents about possibly volunteering. After the meeting both MV and SR received thank you letters from all the pupils and several thanked the CC members for volunteering.

**2. Declaration of interests –**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Police Report**

There was little to report this month. The police repeated their request that any suspicious activity should be reported to them.

**4. Electricity Supply in the area**

Tom Melrose of SP Energy could not attend the meeting. WO said he had been advised that the supply network to our community was very robust. The likelihood of any outage was low. It was not realistic to have a community generator, however in the event of a severe prolonged outage SP Energy would supply a generator.

## **5. Minutes of November meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were passed, moved by JH, seconded by RA

Matters arising: ML reported last month that she had been unable to contact the lady who had problems accessing medical help. She reported that she had finally spoken to the lady. ML also reported the matter at the Neighbourhoods of Care meeting.

The Community Fund has now arranged for the keyboard to be stored in a locked cupboard in the VC. It can be booked via the library.

MV reported that Robert Davy expects to get the Building Warrant for the Bothy later this week

GL offered to attend the site meeting in Station Road on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

RA has spoken to Fiona Arborida about the post at Park Place. She promised to tighten up procedures regarding this, but the post was left out again this weekend. RA will write to her.

## **6. Report on CC Governance Conference on 25th November 2017**

WO and ML attended this. MV congratulated CC members on responding to the questionnaire. ML said that very few CCs had two representatives at the meeting. ID confirmed that the overall attendance was low. GL said that elected members were not well represented either. Attendees discussed the questions on the survey. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan was mentioned briefly. ML said that her table was disappointed that there was no opportunity to discuss the Community Empowerment Act. CC boundaries don't always coincide with local councillor areas or even with primary school catchments in urban areas. Rural CCs were happy with existing boundaries. Attendees were advised that the findings and full survey should be available by Christmas and that there will be further consultation in early 2018. MV told ID that we seldom get feedback promised at these events.

## **7. Report on SWAF meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

WO and ML attended this meeting. ML reported that the meeting was held in a classroom, which was not ideal. ID has asked for the lecture theatre for future events. The agenda was changed to allow Tracy Patrick, the Depute Head, to introduce a new BHS initiative, Community Prefects. A number of prefects attended the meeting. The concept is that the Community Prefects will hold periodic Community Assemblies for senior pupils from their community. It is hoped that one or two members of their local CC will attend, The Community Prefects also plan to attend CC meetings when time allows. The Community Prefects introduced themselves to the CC members present. Contact protocols still have to be finalised but CCs were asked to nominate a member to be a contact. GE agreed to be out contact.

Claire Symonds introduced the concept of “Equal rights of Appeal”. She encouraged everybody to send postcards to their MSPs regarding including the Community Right to Appeal into the forthcoming legislation.

There was discussion on transport, including the current unfair system of making 16 year olds pay full fare while still in full time education. This is a particular issue in rural areas. There was also a discussion on the difficulties of inter-village travel except on the main bus route. ML was asked to provide an update on care, which will be covered in item 9.

A comment was made that other community partners used to attend the meetings to listen to local concerns, but that they now only attend when specially invited to discuss a particular issue.

## **8. Community Emergency Plan**

WO reported that work on this is ongoing.

## **9. Report on Neighbourhoods of Care meeting 13th November 2017**

A representative from Solicitors for Older People Scotland gave a presentation about the importance of having a Power of Attorney in place to look after your interests if you become unable to do so. Without this relatives cannot act on your behalf even for simple things like making a dental appointment. These are strictly regulated by the Office of Public Guardianship and are the simplest way to safeguard your interests. Attorneys agree to take on the responsibility if necessary. Once incapacity has happened the only solution is to set up an Intervention Order or Guardianship Order through the courts, which can take some time and is expensive. SOPS can be contacted on 0800 152 2037 for advice.

Neighbourhoods of Care project; staff engagement sessions have been taking place covering this project and the care Village in Stirling. The latter is ahead of schedule and under budget. It will offer 116 rooms for intermediate care. The neighbourhood care team will build on the cooperation that already exists and will provide care for the population of the Rural South West.

Strathcarron Hospice: they have community nurses to offer a befriending service, especially during the last year of life. They have local volunteers who are trained and supported by the hospice. They hope to get funding in the Spring for a project to set up local circles of support, where a trained volunteer will work with a family to identify who in their circle can offer some support. ML pointed out the difficulty of finding volunteers in an aging population. Strathcarron also has an End of Life Planning pop up display, which they are happy to bring to local communities. ML raised the issue of a local resident who had difficulty in getting support for a terminally ill relative at the weekend. The team promised a better sign-

posting of local contacts and support. MV commented that this signposting might not have been useful in this case when it might have been better to call

999 and that it might be useful to remind people that they can call 999 in emergency. ML pointed out that you would be taken to Larbert in that case. Sylvia Armstrong mentioned that people are unaware that there are first responders in the area. This will be mentioned in the BVB

## **10. Planning and Licensing**

JG has updated the website and circulated all CC members with the results of the Gladman Planning Panel. The application was refused on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Gladman has three months to file an appeal. The report on the LDP came out on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The reporters said that Stirling has not allocated enough building land but that the site here should not be one of the areas identified. They considered that a cemetery would be a good use of the land. The reporters supported the LDP in this area and also rejected the proposal to build at Mugdock. Stuart Arrol asked if the CC or any resident could comment on a possible appeal MV said that we could submit any information that we already have via the Stirling planning department. Douglas McAdam asked if we now know about the cemetery plan. GL said that these depend on the land being available and that it will probably have to be a CPO. He will take this up with SC. MV asked if we should have somebody from SC to speak about this at our January meeting. ID will look into who we should contact.

Planning applications: Corrieknowe has been appealed to the local review body and there is a hearing on January 15<sup>th</sup>, which anyone can attend.

[17/00881/FUL](#): Carbeth Inn refurbishment and expansion – the applicants talked about this at a previous meeting. MV said that we should positively support this application.

The remaining applications this month are all for extensions which we have no concerns about.

## **11. Elected Member's Report – Councillor Graham Lambie**

GL circulated a comprehensive report which can be viewed on the website. MV told GL that we have issues with bins not being collected in rural parts of our community. EM mentioned neighbours whose bin is not being emptied following an accident to the lorry on their road. GL said that the residents can email him and he will pass this on. MV mentioned that the calendars were not accurate when they were issued. GL asked the CC to let him know when there are problems. He also said that any resident can have a second blue box if they request it.

Planning: GL thinks it is unlikely that Gladman will have grounds for appeal. The Killlearn Hospital site is still on the LDP

GL mentioned the bridge repair at Balfroon Station. The road closure has been extended until March 2018. There is an ongoing problem with parking and safety at Finnoch Glen. Warning signs have now been installed which means that the police now have powers to charge visitors who put themselves and members of the rescue teams at risk. Parking at Glengoyne is still an issue.

MV asked about the 40 MPH sign at Edenmill. There should be warning signs when there is an event at Auchengillan. GL and RD have requested that the sign should be relocated beyond the Edenmill entrance, but officers have resisted this due to national legislation. AH raised a query about what the term urban means with reference to 20 MPH limits. We have previously supported this suggestion. JG asked if the new bus services in some rural areas are provided by small local companies. GL thinks it is provided by 1<sup>st</sup> Bus and that it is a “use it or lose it” service. It covers Balfroon but does not reach us. MV asked about the removal of dog poo bins on poles. This could cause major problems in our area, especially if they are not replaced by larger bins. ID said that enforcement officers would come out for dog fouling issues if they are contacted.

## **12. Community Comments**

There were no Community Comments this month

## **13. Finance**

Current Account - £1630.05

Instant Saver - £1337.73

EM and GE are both now counter-signatories for the CC. MV asked about giving a donation to the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble when they play at the Christmas tree switch on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A donation of £50 was approved

## **14. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence this month

## **15. AOCB**

The Christmas tree and VC will be decorated on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.0  
The Christmas lights will be switched on on Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
WO received an email from Planning Democracy stating that the planning bill will be announced this week. He asked that we consider a press release about this to the Stirling Observer. He will forward the information to CC members later.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 **in the Village Club**

Contact us at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.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