



MINUTES
Monday 8th January 2018 in the Village Club
Final

Members Present: - Willie Oswald; Margaret Vass; Richard Arnold; Evelyn Macdougall; Alan Hutton; Mike McNulty; Grace Edmonds; Sue Rand; Avril Keen

In attendance: Councillor Rob Davies; Scott Craigie, Police Scotland: Barbara Docherty SC + 8 residents.

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

Apologies: Julie Hutchison; Marian Lever; John Gray; Ian Denvir.

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

MV welcomed everybody to the meeting. She told those present that this will be an important year for the CC with elections in September. With a number of the current members standing down the community will be hearing a lot about succession planning. We will be doing our best to promote our work and the value we bring by having a strong CC. She thanked CC members who had helped to put up and then take down the Village Christmas decorations. She then pointed out that, although the agenda looked light, several items had come up while we should have been in recess and would be discussed at suitable points in the agenda.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Police Report

MV welcomed PC Scott Craigie from Police Scotland and thanked him for attending the meeting in his own time.

Pc Craigie told the meeting that there are plans for the community police to attend more meetings and they hope to attend every three months. He will email the dates that they hope to attend once plans have been finalised.

The police have been patrolling the football pitch and play park to prevent anti-social behaviour. This appears to have been successful. There have been some thefts of cars in the area and PC Craigie reminded that meeting that vehicles should be locked when left.

There are still issues with parking at the Devil's pulpit and SC is looking at various ways of dealing with this. AK also raised the issue of parking on Cult Road at the West Highland Way. This is dangerous for walkers.

MV asked PC Craigie about the chemical spill on Friday evening. The labelling on the container concerned suggested dangerous chemicals but in fact it contained an agricultural disinfectant and was not dangerous. MV noted the very fast

response by the emergency services. She thanked PC Craigie for attending the meeting.

4. Minutes of December Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were accepted. Moved by AH, seconded by RA

Matters arising: Item 1 – We have confirmation that we will have representation from Police Scotland and SC for our session on traffic calming with P5 pupils next month.

Item 5 – The building warrant for the Bothy has been received.

The result of the site meeting on December 5th at the Station Road bridge was very positive with agreement that the vehicle priority would be reversed. The issue of safer routes to school was considered. Mrs Cassidy has sent copies of the forms needed for these routes to MV. These are very complex and will be time consuming for head teachers. MV noted that we want to be fully involved with this once it happens.

The locking pole at Park Place is still a cause for concern in our drive to stop unauthorised access. RA had circulated a letter that he sent to Fiona Aborida regarding use of the pole but said that he has seen no improvement since. He asked how we could put pressure on the riding fraternity to stick to the rules. Edward Pickard said that he would have a word with Fiona to see if that helps. MMcN said he has emailed the Allotment Group to ensure that they abide by the rules.

Item 6 – CC Governance Conference. A report on outcomes from this will go to SC elected members and then there will be formal consultation with CCs. MV would have preferred to have information before it goes to SC so that we could make any issues clear to our local councillors. MV noted that she was delighted to see there will be money in CC grants to allow CCs to hold meetings in the most suitable properties and acknowledgement that school lets are not free. She was sorry to see that there was a lot of evidence of bad practice in the report, which taints the Council's view of CCs. The next stage of the consultation will be after March RD asked MV to send him a copy of the report. She will do this.

5. Taking the cemetery forward

Barbara Docherty from SC reported that the proposed site for the cemetery was allocated in 2014, but that subsequently Gladman put in a bid for housing on the site. BD does not think that they will win their appeal, but it is possible. If the company refuses to sell the land Compulsory Purchase is the next step for SC. BD hopes that this will not be necessary and that Gladman will give up. She has been canvassing other SC officials regarding support for Compulsory Purchase and David Crichton from Land Services is supportive of this if necessary. SR asked how often Compulsory Purchase is successful. BD said that she has never been involved in this but thinks it would have to be referred to the Scottish Gov-

ernment. There are currently about 30 burial plots available in the cemetery and 42 spaces for cremated remains. SR suggested that we should ensure that the community have information about the cemetery and BD will email details to MV. AH asked what happens if the cemetery becomes full and BD said that Killearn or Balfron would be the options.

MV thanked BD for attending the meeting.

6. Feedback from Mugdock Management Meeting

Julie Hutchison is unwell so was unable to give her report.

7. Planning and Licensing

Gladman have appealed the refusal for Campsie Road. The Community Councillors agreed that we do not need to make any further comments, but JG has circulated a proposed submission to the Reporter, picking up some new points in Gladman's appeal. MV asked for agreement from the CC members to send this in. This was agreed and AK will send it to the Reporter this week. MV suggested that we should not ask for a hearing as Gladman have not asked for one. This was agreed. A resident queried the situation regarding sewerage. This was covered in our original submission. The Reporter will have access to all our original comments. MV said that individuals should write to the Reporter and we will publicise this on our website.

There were three new planning applications.

Auchenloch Lodge replacement house - [17/00961/PPP](#). It was agreed that we have no concerns with this application

Retention of access track east of Dumgoyach - [17/00934/ FUL](#). Duntreath Estate wants to retain this path, which was used to replace pylons. We have no concerns with this.

Craigellen, Moor Road replacement house – [17/00931/FUL](#). We have no concerns with this application

8. Elected Member's Report – Councillor Rob Davies

Following on PC Craigie's report of more frequent attendance at CC meetings RD reported that Gargunnoch CC had complained about lack of attendance and this seems to have triggered action from Police Scotland.

Stuart Carruth will be making a Ward visit on March 9th.

RD enquired whether gritting in the village had been adequate in the recent freezing weather. AK said that the Cult Brae had not been well gritted. RD said that most complaints received had been about the pavements rather than the

roads. In 2010/11 there was a lot of discussion about liability for clearing pavements outside houses. It was made clear that individuals are not liable if anyone slips on cleared pavement. It was noted that grit bins are seldom kept full.

RD had received an email about SCs review of small charitable trusts. He urged the CC to make representation about the use of the money allocated to this area. GE will respond to this agreeing to the proposals.

RD is still trying to get parking restrictions put in place at the distillery, Devil's Pulpit etc. There is some conflict with SC who is trying to attract visitors to the area.

RD has had an approach from someone who wants to buy and rebuild Craighend Castle. This person has applied before but did not get support from Mugdock Management Committee. MV said that the SCDT tried to organise a project to develop Craighend some years ago. We do not have enough information at present to make any decisions on this proposal. The applicant wants to talk to the CC about his plans but we see little point in this at this stage.

9. Community Comments

A resident has contacted SC about a tree in Jenny's Burn on Station Road, which will potentially cause flooding. SC says that the land is owned by Netherblane and the Council cannot help. The Council should deal with this. MV will forward the email conversation to RD who will take the matter up with SC.

Residents in Minldavie Road are trying to pursue the issue with the field drain, which causes constant flooding on the road. Residents think that the installation of the new streetlights has contributed to the problem. MMcN has raised the issue with SC and two residents have also reported the problem. RD will look into this.

The pelican crossing in the village has an intermittent fault in cold weather. This is dangerous for children crossing the road. The problem has been reported to SC but they say that the contractor needs to deal with it. The Council appears to have vacated responsibility for the crossing but needs to pursue the contractor to have it remedied.

There is an ongoing problem with Broadband in the villages. MV said that we need a mapping exercise of where and when the problems arise. We will put an item about this in the next edition of the BVB. MMcN is happy to coordinate the mapping exercise. He needs residents to keep a log of the occasions when they have problems.

MV has been contacted by a resident in Glasgow Road, complaining that some residents in Campsie Dene Road have dug a track, moving water into gardens on Glasgow Road. MV is logging this complaint and has reported it to the Campsie Dene Residents Committee.

EM raised the issue of flooding on Stockiemuir Road, apparently exacerbated by work authorised by SEPA. SC says this is SEPA's issue and SEPA claim that it is not their problem so nothing is being done. WO suggested that the resident should write as an individual to his MSP and that we could also do this on behalf of the CC. MV asked for agreement from the meeting that we should ask Bruce Crawford to intervene. This was agreed. RD will raise a query with SC.

10. Finance

Current Account - £1620.60

Instant Saver - £1337.73

SR reported that the Christmas tree lights raised £106.90. We donated £50 to the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble.

MV asked if we have found somebody to audit the accounts. EM offered to ask her neighbours who are accountants, if they are prepared to do this.

RA asked about the sign at Campsie Dene Road regarding parking at St Kes-sog's. SR said that there is money available for this. AH said that access to the car park is difficult and suggested that a passing place could be constructed on the drive. AK suggested that SC could be asked to fund this, as they want to encourage visitors to the area. WO suggested that the CC could work with the church to make a funding application for this. He asked if a fire access line could be put at the entrance to Campsie Dene road as well as double yellow lines.

11. Correspondence

MV has had an email from Lynne McKinley inviting her to an Education Focus Group on Wednesday. She will attend this, having checked that Lynne wanted her to attend, as she might be quite critical in view of the Place Based Approach meeting.

Balfron CC do not want to participate in the Place Based Approach consultations and MV was going to propose that we do not participate either. However Lynne McKinley has agreed to meet with the chairs of Balfron, Killearn and Strathblane CCs to see if they can get the approach back on track. MV will attend this and report back.

GE had a letter from Licensing about the Annual Review. AK will look at this.

12. AOB

MV noted that our meeting on April 2nd is Easter Monday. This could be moved to April 9th with the May meeting being on May 7th, but this is also a public holiday. MV and GE will discuss this.

WO has not had time to revisit the Planning Bill Consultation but will do so and circulate his comments to the CC.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 5th February 2018 in the Village Club

Copy date for the BVB is January 15th 2018.

Contact us at contact@strathblanec.org.uk Also on our website www.strathblanec.org.uk. Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin