



MINUTES
Monday 5th March 2018 in the Village Club
Draft

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

In attendance: Councillor G Lambie; Scott Craigie, Police Scotland; + 3 residents.

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

Apologies: John Gray; Ian Denvir

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

MV welcomed those present, and thanked the residents for joining us despite the weather. She reflected on the recent snow emergency and said that triggering the Community Resilience Plan on Wednesday opened channels of communication with SC. This was so much better than in 2010. MV was able to speak to officers at SC and calls were returned. Council staff were clear that we were one of the hardest hit areas. MV said that the cascade aspect of the Resilience Plan is no longer appropriate as we could use Social Media to reach most people. She will suggest to SC that the Plan format is changed to reflect this. However we do need to find ways of ensuring that any vulnerable people who do not use social media are supported. ML noted that one of the benefits of triggering the Plan is that volunteers helping in the community are covered by the council's insurance. SR thanked MV for her efforts in communicating with the community. She said that Facebook is a vitally important tool for communicating. There is such a force for good in the village and we need to find a way of harnessing this for future emergencies. RA suggested that we could ask in the BVB for volunteers. He also mentioned that Just-in-time is not good enough for food resilience. There was a suggestion that the co-op in Killearn had a delivery on Friday but that the manager there believed that the van would be unable to reach Strathblane. GE will write to the manager in Killearn to query this.

A member of the public asked about the grit bins, which were removed in the autumn. MV said that she has had no response to her query about this.

EM asked if the Government would help councils to pay for the emergency. GL said that SC is applying for funding from the Bellwin Scheme, which gives discretionary payments for environmental issues. He believes that councils need to work collaboratively regarding the purchase of large-scale equipment for snow clearing etc. GL also said that SC needs to supply more grit bins to allow communities to help themselves. He will take this up with SC.

AK said that SC did well in bringing in contractors to help clear the roads and also in using local farmers.

There is a resilience meeting on 26th April, which RA and MMcN will attend.

MV will ask the resilience team if we can have a debrief meeting as well.
MV will write to SC to thank them for their efforts last week.
The biggest thank you of all goes to our tremendous community for turning out and helping to organise the community during this unprecedented event.

2. Declaration of interests –

MV declared an interest in the Planning application for Corrieknowe.

3. Police Report

PC Craigie reported that the issues with antisocial behaviour in the park and at the school continue. Local youths appear to be attracting others from out with the area to join them. PC Craigie is working with the Schools based officer at BHS to resolve the issue.

There has been another housebreaking in the area. This is an ongoing issue in Dunbartonshire as well and a positive line of enquiry has been established. PC Craigie asked that any suspicious activity should be reported to the Police.

There are still parking issues on the A809 at the Devil's Pulpit. Officers continue to monitor the area.

PC Craigie joined the Stirling Traffic Sergeant over a weekend recently where two marked cars and an unmarked traffic car were operating around the village. Road checks were established at various points in and around the village and a number of offences were detected, which are now subject to reports to the Procurator Fiscal in Stirling.

There will be a second community officer joining PC Craigie, but there is no date for this yet.

AK raised the issue of the Police response to the removal van that was stuck on the Cuilt Brae Road. She called 101 at mid-day on Saturday but did not receive a good response. She requested that the police put signs up to indicate that the road was closed, but this did not happen. The issue was eventually resolved by Sgt Goldie and the van was removed about 8.0 pm.

A member of the public noted that the Neighbourhood Watch and Smart Water notices have gone with the replacement lampposts. He asked if these could be replaced. PC Craigie said he would try to find out.

MV mentioned the major accident on the A81. We need discussions about diversion routes. Old Mugdock Road is unsuitable for the volume of traffic.

MV asked about the possibility of keeping Road Closed signs in the village.

4. Minutes of February Meeting and matters Arising

The minutes were accepted. Moved by JH and seconded by RA

Matters arising: AK and EM have composed a letter to SC regarding the flooding on Stockiemuir Road.

MV said that we are still waiting for feedback regarding the logs blocking Jenny's Burn.

MMcN raised the issue of the burn at Ballewan, which is blocked by fallen trees. Duntreath estate has said that they will deal with this but so far nothing has been done.

5. Christmas Decorations

The member of the public who asked for this item to be included on the agenda was not present so no discussion took place.

6. Feedback from the SW Forum

There is still work going on to engage young people via BHS The Community Prefects have been having meetings with pupils and will feed back to CCs.

There was an interesting discussion from Home Energy Scotland. MV said that we should be publishing more information about what people can apply for.

There will be a discussion on the roads budget at the next meeting of the SW Forum.

WO reported that the trial of extra buses to Stirling on weekend evenings had been a success and has been extended to August 18th 2018. The departure time from Balfron is 18.20. The timetable is currently being tweaked to create a connection with the 17.00 hours service from Glasgow. WO noted that the return bus arrives in Balfron about 23.45, which is long past the latest bus to Strathblane. He asked Ian Denvir to inquire about the possibility of a connecting return service to Strathblane.

7. Road Safety Campaign

This is a follow-up from the P5 video last month. SR and MV will return to the school to discuss how to take this forward. MV said that it is important that we do not let the momentum drop on this. Stuart Geddes was extremely helpful but pointed out that the funding for traffic calming is linked to Safer Routes to school and that we can't access this funding until the school plan is complete. Mrs Cassidy feels that they have an adequate plan. MV will meet with her to discuss how best to match this to the required bureaucracy. Stuart Geddes was so impressed by the work the pupils had done that he agreed to release some funding for some modest measures.

SR commented on the speed of some cars going through the village while the pavements were still snow covered.

8. Road Maintenance

MV hoped to pick up local views on the condition of the roads. She attended a conference discussing participation requests as part of the Community Empowerment Act. Helensburgh CC has asked for a partnership with Argyll and Bute Council regarding road maintenance. If we had a working partnership with SC via Community Empowerment legislation we might be able to get something done with our roads. The CC agreed that MV would complete a participation request for this.

9. Planning and Licensing

Corrieknowe, Campsie Dene Road. [18/00106/PPP](#) This is a new application, following the local review body determination. This is now for one house instead of two. We will comment that the trees at the entrance to the site should be removed. We will also ask for the house to be set back out of the sight lines from the main road and note that the house should fit in with the topography of the area.

10. Elected member's Report – Councillor Graham Lambie.

GL recorded his thanks to everybody involved in clearing the snow in the village. He said that all the grit bins should have been topped up and an additional pile of grit delivered to the library car park. This had been done.

GL thinks that the A809 has the worst surface in the SC area. He has requested that the council uses some of the Reserve budget for emergency pothole repair. SC has increased the capital spend for roads from £3.5M to £4.5M The draft road maintenance programme should be available in late March, subject to our input. GL has asked roads officers for an update on repairs to Kippen Bridge.

SC has plans for road safety improvements, including Speed Activated Signage and 40 mph buffer zones. It is intended that communities will be given the opportunity to engage with officers regarding road issues in their areas.

The Ballat Bridge is due to be complete around Easter. The Springkerse Bridge is due to close in April for 6 months and drivers seem to be adapting to the disruption to date.

GL asked Humza Yousaf to consider upgrading the A811 to a trunk road, but this was declined by the Chief Executive. GL intends to pursue this issue directly with the Minister.

The warning signs have been erected at Finnich Glen. This allows police to charge visitors who put themselves and rescue services at risk. GL and RD hope to have double yellow lines put in place at the bridge.

There have been some changes to the SC budget for 2018/19 following the PBB meeting. The Smith Gallery and Big Noise have been removed from the Stop/Reduce options, but will be encouraged to look for other sources of funding in the future. This is also being applied to Mugdock Country Park where management has been asked to create more commercial revenue, possibly through charging for the car park.

Planning: The Planning Application for Campsie Road 17/00434/PPP has been appealed to the Government with a target date of March 13th, although this may be delayed by the adverse weather. There is a plan for a large solar farm near Gargunnoch. An application for a new Crematorium on the site of the old Bannockburn Hospital was approved. The Cononish Gold Mine near Ben Lui, Tyndrum was approved with a bond covering final site restoration at the end of the 17 years agreed mine operation and a contingency if the company is liquidated during this period.

The Killearn Hospital site has remained on the LDP. WO asked what the next stage would be for this site. GL thinks that the council needs to use regulatory powers to ensure that the site is used and needs to partner with a developer here.

11. Community Comments

SR mentioned the bridge at Park Place. MV said that she has been in touch with Scottish Water and they will fix the problem.

12. Finance

Current Account - £1030
Instant Saver - £1185

SR reported that we still do not have anyone willing to examine the books. GE will ask Tony Higgins if he would be willing to do this for us.

SR said that we have spent a lot of money on the Gladman issue. She suggested that we could perhaps put our actual figures in the BVB to encourage people to contribute to it.

SR will ask Jean Cowie about using the Community Connect Fund for the BVB. At present we do not have sufficient funds to support all we do. AK mentioned that this is despite none of us claiming travel expenses.

13. Correspondence

MV had had a letter from SC about Your place, Your Priorities funding. We have to submit a project by March 16th under one of the headings reflecting the council's priorities. The proposals have to be presented on April 24th in either Stirling or Callander. It was decided that a sub-committee would meet on Monday 12th to discuss this and complete an application. AH commented that the time scale is

too short to provide the detailed information required on the form. GL suggested that he would ask for a formal extension.

There was a general discussion of possible local projects, including signs welcoming visitors to the area, information signs, a new edition of the walker's map and a website with local attractions. These will be discussed in detail next week. MV suggested speaking to Steven McDonald from Rural Economic Development at SC. MMcN will do this.

12. AOB

WO had emailed the members of the CC regarding the EU general data protection Regulation and how this might affect the CC. MV will find out more about this.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 9th April 2018 in the Village Club

Copy date for the BVB is March 19th 2018.

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