



**MINUTES of Meeting
Monday June 12th in the school
Final for Approval**

Members Present - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Julie Hutchison, Marian Lever , Willie Oswald, Avril Keen, John Gray, Sue Rand and Richard Arnold

In attendance: Ian Denvir, Cllr Rob Davies and Steven McDonald (SC) + 13 members of the public.

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

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – Grace Edmonds

MV opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Police Report – read by Margaret Vass

A number of issues of anti-social behavior and two thefts were the main items.

The whole Police Report can be seen on the **CC website**.

EMcD had raised the subject of Rural Watch, a development of Neighbourhood Watch and said that she had a nearly full list of e-mail addresses for the 50 or so residents in the outlying areas around her home. She would be happy to coordinate activities via e-mail and there was general agreement that this would be a good move. A flyer insert directed specifically at these rural residents should be provided in the Blane Valley Bulletin (BVB).

4. Stirling Council Economic Development Group (EDG) – Steven MacDonald

SMcD introduced himself and said that he had been in post in the EDG since Jan 2017. His brief is to work with rural communities to develop economic development strategies. Past efforts had not progressed and he has a new team in place to make things happen this time. Action proposals have been submitted to SC and a first public meeting next Tuesday will take place to explain what they plan to do. They hope to draw up an agenda on what communities would like SC to do – eg tourism which is a big business as well as general business initiatives. The EDG has a development plan drawn up, but at this time this is totally fluid and can be changed. It is hoped that a rural economic development forum can be set up to exchange views on planning, tourism, business support etc to exchange views and to decide how SC can help. This area has a fantastic resource in the form of scenery, walking routes, distillery, gateway to the

Trossachs and these need to be exploited to help local businesses in the tourism sector.

Possible projects:

Broadband – source funding for better broadband. Douglas Baillie is on the team. Rural business and digital hubs - shared space for businesses; offices, meeting spaces, networking, shared production facilities (eg for food manufacture) Funds have been allocated for this financial year – looking for expressions of interest from communities on projects which the EDG can follow up.

There were views expressed that our rural area had been totally forgotten with no promotion of the assets we have and this was a feeling expressed by all the rural villages. We need all to work together to form a gateway to the Trossachs.

AH specifically addressed the walking opportunities with Mugdock Country Park adjacent, Loch Ardinning, John Muir Way and the west Highland Way both passing through the village. We have a cycle route 755 providing nearly continuous off-road cycling access to Edinburgh central. We need more facilities to promote and provide for this active tourism.

SMcD mentioned that they were looking at digital promotion of the area for walking, cycling and driving to try to market the area. Smart digital screens may be possible to provide information.

He mentioned various ways that funding might be sourced (it seems as usual SC has limited funds) including crowdfunding, Leader (access not easy and EU funded).

It was suggested that the EDG might take out advertising in the BVB to explain their aims.

Killearn hospital site is “on the radar” as a possible development area, but a business hub within the village is desired - repurpose an existing building?

AK made the point that business rates are penalising local businesses which are closing down at an alarming rate in all the local villages.

MV suggested that SMcD should come back to address the Community Development Trust.

She also thanked him for coming to our meeting. His ideas were received favourably.

5. Minutes of May’s meeting and matters arising.

Approval of minutes moved by ML and seconded by JG.

Matters arising:

a) Clarification of the double yellow lines issue at the Coop. These are proposed on the Coop side of the road to prevent double parking which had recently resulted in delays to an ambulance attendance in the area by inconsiderate drivers who had left inadequate width for an ambulance to pass! Access for lorries is an additional problem.

b) There were complaints about the quality of grass cutting generally and specifically in the cemetery where it is especially poor, EMcD and MV will raise this with SC.

6.Planning and Licensing – Avril Keen and John Gray.

A planning application in principle to remove a site from the green belt and to construct 70 houses has been lodged by Gladman at Campsie Road ref:

17/00434/PPP; details can be viewed on the SC planning portal. As part of this “deal” land further east of the site would be gifted to the council for a cemetery. 33% affordable housing would also be a requirement if development were allowed.

AK had spoken to Ian Jeffries to request more time for consultation and an extension until 7th August had been agreed. The Planning Panel would sit sometime in September, but all this will be confirmed in writing as insisted upon by AK. Christine Cox is now head of planning at SC.

A CC led planning working group would be reconstituted to handle consultations regarding the issue and to obtain the views from the village. A timetable and sequence of stages had been agreed in respect of this, with two drop-in sessions planned at the Village club on Wednesday 28th June and also Monday 24th July. These would be from 2.30 until 8.00pm and a rota of CC members was sought to man these. Information would be made available in the library, website, facebook and forthcoming Blane Valley Bulletin.

A Survey Monkey survey would be launched asking more open questions about local residents views on the proposals.

Finally, a special CC meeting would be convened at the Village Club on Monday 31st July at 7.30 to present findings.

The initial meeting of the planning group would be held at JG’s house on Sunday 18th June.

Wide ranging discussion took place with various matters raised:

Importance of communicating with the community and ensuring that the community is correctly informed –hence the drop-in days. It is important that individuals feed back during the planning consultation process direct to SC as well as within the village to the CC. Tracking of location of comments will be useful – ie from the village or Australia?

If planning agreement were to be granted, tight conditions must be sought and imposed; if it goes to the reporter he will stipulate conditions. We can have input on types of housing. There may be types of housing which residents DO want which might be stipulated to a developer.

Planning gain mentioned – MV is currently focused on £24K gain from the Cala development!

What are implications for existing services – sewage, schools etc ?

The proposed cemetery location is too far from the church for the elderly.

MV requested approval by the CC for an expenditure request to cover costs of providing information and collecting views from the village. This was agreed.

7. 20 mph consultation

Mark Russell MSP has launched a consultation on 20mph Members Bill at the Scottish Parliament The Bill proposes reducing the default speed limit on all restricted roads across Scotland from 20 to 30mph as the default speed limit. This has been implemented in other council areas in the UK. All the rural SW villages are of the same mind that 20 mph would be good. The CC agreed to support the Bill.

WO suggested that the email from MR be circulated so that individuals can comment.

8. Feedback:

Community asset study – none as the next meeting has been put back until 26th June.

SW area forum – feedback from SC regarding waste uplifts and recycling. The new regime has seen a big increase in recycling and more lorries have been purchased. Revised scheduling of recycle bins likely with more uplifts for green and less for blue bins.

Health and Social Welfare – from Marian Lever.

1. **Neighbourhoods of Care:** AT the 12 May meeting we heard that the business case for the Buurtzog pilot would go for approval to the Joint Board in June. The team of professionals would be no larger than 12 and volunteers will be recruited once the budget is agreed. We also had a demonstration by Mobile Emergency Care Services (MECs) and were encouraged to arrange a demo at a CC meeting.

We were also told to use the info@stirling link to report concerns for older adults. If the concern is urgent make that clear in the report so the message can be transmitted quickly.

We also heard about a new service being developed, Shared Lives, a service for adults aged 18+ with learning disabilities. It seeks to recruit motivated and caring individuals, couples or families to share their home and community life with an adult. It can take the form of offering a home, or somewhere to stay for a short break or simply offering day support for activities, learning or new experiences. It is regulated by the Quality Care Commission. The carers provide a service for the local authority on a self-employed basis. For more information contact sharedlives@stirling.gov.uk

2. **Strathblane Community Fund Update:** The dementia friendly signs have arrived and will soon be up in the Church and the Kirk Rooms. To view them why not go to either the community café on Tuesday mornings or Cuppa time on Thursday afternoons. There is money in the fund to support similar signage in the Village Club and the Edmonstone Hall if wanted.

The library and the school have made a start on Playlist for Life the first session of which was much enjoyed at Cuppa time.

As the church has been gifted a small keyboard to use at Blanefield House for the monthly service there we await agreement between other potential users of a community keyboard.

A small donation has been made to the lunch club to support the work they do for elderly residents in the village.

Currently there is a balance of just over £600 in the fund of which just over £400 is needed for currently planned spending. A suggested of a donation to the Heritage Society was discussed as being appropriate as many older residents are interested in this.

3. A second defibrillator has been donated to the village. We are in discussion with Trossachs SAR about this and we plan to locate it in the

BT kiosk near the Coop. When it is in place there will be a Heart Start class in the village.

The defibrillator issue was discussed and it was agreed that we should proceed to purchase the two telephone kiosks in the village for £1 each as offered by BT. BT have agreed to keep a power supply to them for seven years. The defibrillator at the Edmonstone Hall would be relocated to the adjacent telephone kiosk and the new unit would be located in the kiosk near the Coop. This would give best emergency cover to both ends of the village.

The library had requested mention during the meeting about Carers' Week is now running until 18th June with a chance for carers to drop in to see Rural Officers from Stirling Carers Centre at the Library.

9. Community comments.

SR suggested that with the recent break-ins in the village and the limited presence of police, CCTV at each of the exits from the village might be worth considering. It was agreed that this should be deferred until the next CC meeting. MV raised the issue of inconsiderate parking at the entrance to Campsie Dene Road which could have had serious consequences in an emergency. Adequate space had not been left by inconsiderate parkers for ambulance access and a recent medical emergency had highlighted the danger to life which this could cause. Residents are begging for action and MV has agreed that she will take this up on their behalf.

AH pointed out that there is ample parking available most of the time(except Sunday service time) at St Kessogs church and parking is welcomed there. Signage is poor and we should take steps after discussing the matter with the church to provide a more prominent sign.

10. Elected Members report – from Cllr Rob Davies.

RD advised that the new administration at Stirling was an SNP/Labour coalition and the mode of management has yet to be agreed. It has been confirmed, however, that elected member attendance at CC meetings will continue.

Ian Denvir advised that lighting in the village was due to be upgraded and maintained during July to September. This would be carried out by Lightways. Some work would be upgrades. He pointed out that with the new LED units some people might be experiencing light scatter problems into their homes. This can be adjusted to reduce nuisance.

He also advised road works being started in Station Road during first week July. This would necessitate some road closure periods between Cuilt's Farm and A81. Works would also be ongoing for another two weeks. This will require notification of residents, and, it hoped Fiona Murray who has an email list of most residents might be able to assist with notifications. JH to liaise with roads department.

11. Finance – from Sue Rand

Finances stand at Instant saver £2,337.55, Current Account £1,282.46.

12. AOCB

MV was pleased to be able to announce that for an initial trial period of 6 months the costs to hire the Village Club for future CC meetings would be fully funded by SC. Advantages – better acoustics, better heating and wi-fi for presentation material. Probably cost neutral to the council!

13. Date of next meeting Monday 4th September in the VILLAGE CLUB at 7.30pm.

A SPECIAL meeting to discuss planning matters will be held at the Village Club on Monday 31st July.

Blane Valley Bulletin Copy Date Monday 19th June 2017

Appendix I – Police Report – follows/ see online

Appendix II – police advice on bogus traders – follows/ see online

Appendix I - Police report

Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Strathblane Community Council

Reporting

June 2017 Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

There have been some issues with the primary school grounds at weekend in relation to persons congregating and leaving litter. The school janitor has also reported clearing up vomit, from this area on a Monday morning.

The janitor has also reported someone using a secluded corner of the school grounds to defecate on a regular bases in the early hours of the morning on week days.

Both these issues are being monitored by local officers however

Theft

There have been two housebreakings in the area since the last report. The person responsible has been identified and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Stirling regarding the incidents.

Reports are still being received regarding suspicious males/vehicles within the car parks at Mugdock Country Park. Any person using these areas and seeing any such suspicious activity is encouraged to contact the police at the time.

Road Safety

The main issue in relation to this matter continues to be in regard to the parking on A809 at Devil's Pulpit and persons walking on the roadway in this area. Local officers have recently issued a driver with a fixed penalty fine as a result of their actions at this locus. The local police will continue with short term measures to deal with this, however the issue requires steps to be taken by the Roads Department at Stirling Council to better manage and thereby resolve the situation. Community councils at Killearn, Croftamie and Drymen have all raised concerns regarding this matter and I would encourage anyone seeing the issues to not only contact the police but also the council to assist in building up a case to have the problem resolved.

Local officers have continued to carry out speed checks in the Blanefield area

High visibility patrols have continued in the village and local officers have also continued to monitor parking issues around Strathblane Primary School and Old Murock Road

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham and Pc Scott Craigie are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. 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

Appendix II – police advice on bogus traders:

DOORSTEP CRIME / BOGUS WORKMEN

What is Doorstep Crime?

Bogus Callers: Will attempt to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including:

Council Staff

Meter readers

Charity collectors

Police officers

in reality, they are criminals trying to steal your cash and valuables.

Rogue Traders: Usually cold callers, offering to make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or often completely unnecessary work.

We do not recommend dealing with cold callers for property maintenance and repairs to your home and garden areas.

Contact your local council to see if they operate a trusted traders scheme or similar, where you will find a list of accredited trades people.

Below is some useful advice and considerations.

Think:

Be on your guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.

Be aware of methods used by criminals to distract you such as being asked to make a phone call, to use your toilet, for a glass of water, or being asked to check your water or gas supplies.

Do not keep large amounts of money at home.

Does your premises or garden really require work to be carried out.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Be vigilant for vulnerable neighbours who may fall foul of these criminals.

About calling the police when you see anything suspicious.

Never let someone you don't know into your house, if you're not sure don't answer the door.

What can I do?

SECURE:

Use a door chain or bar: Always put the chain on before answering the door, and keep it on while talking to callers

If you have a door viewer- use it.

Keep rear, side doors and windows secure.

Don't feel embarrassed- genuine callers expect you to be careful

Ask for identification, whether you expect anyone or not.

Remember- ID's can be fake and shouldn't be relied upon.

Don't assume a caller is genuine because they are wearing a uniform

Obtain a written quote before agreeing to any work

If you have any doubts, tell the caller to come back when someone else is home, genuine callers won't mind rearranging

IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT

Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work- Never listen to scare stories, beware of traders who suddenly appear after storms or floods and claims of low prices if you sign up immediately.

Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls- do you really want or need these goods or services

Don't pay cash up front- never pay for work before it is completed and do not hand over large sums of money

Shop around if you decide you need work done- Get a minimum of three quotes from reputable traders or recommendations from people you trust

Cancellation rights- Any job over £42- traders are required to provide written notice informing the consumer that they have a 14 day cooling off period during which time the consumer can cancel the contract.

Should you require any further information please log onto

www.policescotland.co.uk

or contact Police Scotland via 101 or Trading Standards at your local authority on the following numbers

Clackmannanshire Council (01259) 450000

Falkirk Council (01324) 506070

Stirling Council (01786) 404040.