



MINUTES
Monday October 2nd in the Village Club
Draft for Approval

Members Present: - Margaret Vass, Alan Hutton, Richard Arnold, Julie Hutchison, Grace Edmonds, Sue Rand, Willie Oswald, Evelyn Macdougall, Avril Keen and John Gray.

In attendance: Councillor Rob Davies, Ian Denvir, Mark Gibson + 7 residents.
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust * Denotes an action)

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

Apologies – Mike McNulty and Marian Lever

MV opened the meeting and welcomed those present, especially Mark Gibson from Edenmill. She then asked for agreement from the CC that the agenda should be altered to include a presentation from Mark Gibson and to substitute the Station Road proposals for the Community Asset study. This was agreed.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Mark Gibson – Plans for Edenmill

The first priority for development at Edenmill will be to move the entrance gates to accommodate people leaving their cars to walk on the John Muir Way. Additional lighting will be added in the Christmas tree yard to make it safer. This will not affect neighbouring properties. There is a plan to add new windows to the existing office building to improve the work environment. There will be a new application to build a permanent shed to replace the marquees currently used at Christmas.

They propose to build two new bridges over the burn to allow better access to the Christmas tree plantations and also to build a welfare unit for staff on the tree plantation that will house tools and toilet facilities. There is also a future plan to erect wigwams near the bunkhouse.

MV thanked Mark Gibson for attending and sharing his plans in advance of planning permission.

4. Police Report

The report is available on the CC website

5. Minutes of September meeting and matters arising

There were no amendments or additions. The minutes were approved by JG and seconded by JH

Matters arising: Angela McGibbon has apologised for the delay in the double yellow lines on Old Mugdock Road. The work order for these has now been issued. There will also be yellow lines at the entrance to Campsie Dene road.

MV has met with Alan Milliken and Lynne McKinley regarding the Bothy. She has also spoken to the Senior Building Standards Officer and Alf Young has spoken to Stuart Carruth who assured him that the issues would be fixed. So far nothing has changed. The Bothy is classed as a public building and therefore must have toilet facilities. MV has agreement that people can use the toilet facilities in the Kirkhouse and there will be a notice in the Bothy to that effect. Building Standards say that this is not enough. MV is still hopeful that the issue can be solved otherwise there may be some press coverage. In the end the building may have to be handed back to SC, wasting many hours of voluntary work from the community. Robert Davy, who has been dealing with the Bothy on behalf of SCDT, told the meeting that an inner frame has to be inserted to support the existing walls and that the building is tiny. When Listed Building consent was given it was stated that the internal walls should be removed. Including a toilet would mean that these walls would have to be reinstated. RD has an email from SC saying that toilets would not be required in the Bothy.

6. Community Resilience

WO said that the VC Management Committee has agreed in principal that the VC will be the designated emergency centre. GE received a letter to this effect from Sheila Hall.

Last month the CC discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to cover some of the cost of the work needed to get the VC up to standard. WO thought that this should wait until there is a clear picture of the likely costs.

There have been a number of replies to our appeal for assistance if necessary and the CC thanked all those who have volunteered.

7. Station Road Bridge Proposals

AH outlined the situation regarding the proposed one-way priority at the bridge on Station Road. He emphasised that this was never intended as a traffic calming measure, but to ensure safer walking/cycling routes. There is a very narrow footpath between the entrance to the new railway path and Blane Crescent, which means that pedestrians have to use the road. There is a proposal to provide a new link path from the railway path that will come out at the bridge. Ah has been working with Angela McGibbon. The plan is to widen the pavement, and therefore narrow the road, at the bridge. Traffic coming into the village from the Cuilt Brae will be given priority.

Issues in comments from the community: Direction of priority, width of the footpath, trees and sightlines, the use of the road as a diversion in emergencies, increase of heavy traffic on the Cuilt Brae road, control of parking.

AH said that there should be signs indicating that the road is unsuitable for heavy traffic. MV suggested that the CC contacts SC again to go through the details of the plan. JG, WO, AK and RA all raised the issue of the priority direction. All believe the proposed priority will lead to congestion and gridlock on Station Road, especially on occasions when the Stockiemuir Road is closed. WO suggested that the footpath could be widened by removing trees and a wall rather than narrowing the road. RA suggested that the footpath could be widened at both sides to allow for priority from the village.

MV asked if the best way forward is to have a site meeting with Stewart Geddes and Angela McGibbon to discuss options. The CC agreed to this. EM suggested that the speed limits should be reduced to 40 and then 30 mph for the length of the road.

8. Planning and Licensing

AK reported that there are no current applications. Comments on the Gladman application are now showing on the SC planning portal. WO asked that we minute our displeasure at the length of time it has taken SC to put the comments on the website. The comments on the Gladman proposals were posted on the CC website. The Planning correspondents will look at the possibility of putting all planning applications on our website.

9. Elected Member's Report

Councillor Davies reported that the first SC meeting of the new session took place last week.

SC resolved to write to Holyrood to object to local objections to planning applications being overridden by ministers.

RD asked Jim Thompson, the Roads Convenor, about parking at Finnoch Glen. There is no provision for parking there. The same situation exists at Queen's View and Dumgoyne.

SC plans to hold a review of the roles of CCs. There is a degree of concern that SC might use this review to close down some CCs. MV asked RD if CCs will be informed that this review is taking place. She finds it disrespectful to the volunteers in CCs that there has been no letter informing them about the review. SC often fails to talk to CCs about CC issues. MV is also concerned that SC is reviewing the role of CCs at a time when the Community Empowerment Act is being implemented. ID said that Community Engagement will probably be involved with CCs in the review. He believes the idea might be to amalgamate some CCs to give them a better voice. RD will try to find out how the review will be carried out and what the agenda is for this.. MV asked him to find out when CCs will be consulted. He will do this.

The corporate structure for Active Stirling will be changed to allow SC to regain control.

10. Feedback

SW Area Forum: Representatives from Police Scotland attended as requested to discuss lack of attendance at CC meetings. They are unable to attend meetings on Mondays due to shift patterns.

There was a presentation from Steven McDonald from Economic Development. One of his issues is making sure that rural communities get a share of the City Deal. MV thinks we need to start complaining about all the work going on in Stirling. The rural issues are the new slip road for the motorway and the bridge in Callander. MV thinks there are more important area to address e.g. the Killearn Hospital site and the frequent flooding in Aberfoyle. Car parking is also needed if tourists are going to be attracted to our area. The City Deal could address this.

Bus branding – local village names will be put on the sides of buses.

BHS now have community senior prefects for each village. They will gather information about issues for young people in our area and feed this back to us.

Local Improvement Plan: This is going to be important for the new administration in Stirling. There are 4 themes – prosperous, healthy, achieving and resilient. The idea of the session in July was to allow CCs to feed in comments to add to the work of officials. MV commented that the focus is still on urban areas.

Planning Democracy: WO attended at training and advocacy workshop in September. The current aim of Planning Democracy is to achieve Equal Right of Appeal in planning decisions and a level playing field in Planning. Representation should be viewed equally with the views of communities given equal weight in planning decisions at the highest level. We have some issues with SC but WO said that Stirling seems to be very benign compared to some other councils, some of which do not engage with CCs at all. This contravenes their responsibilities to CCs as part of the planning process. WO recommended that we should support Planning Democracy. He asked if a representative from Planning democracy could attend the next SW Forum. The CC agreed to support Planning Democracy and members completed postcards for MSPs as part of their campaign. MV thanked WO for his work on this and for attending the workshop.

11. Community Comments

A member of the community reported that she had had great difficulty in getting medical help for her seriously ill husband on a Sunday. No ambulance, palliative care, nurse or doctor was available for several hours. She complained to Forth Valley and had a meeting with staff at Larbert, but got no satisfactory explanation. MV said she would ask ML to contact the lady regarding this situation as she is the health representative. WO suggested that ML might write to Bruce Crawford about the matter.

12. Finance

Instant Saver Account - £1597.00
Current Account - £1337.00

SR reported that the Admin grant of £412 has been paid. In to our account.
SR asked that the CC agree to have GE and EM added as signatories to the accounts. This was agreed.

SR asked ID about payment to the VC for hire of the hall. ID said that Fiona should email the invoice directly to SC.

Scottish Power will transfer money directly into our account as per last month's minutes.

13. Correspondence

MV has been in discussion about putting a plaque on the wall of the VC saying that the CC meets here. It was agreed that this should be kept simple.

GE had a letter from Sheila hall agreeing to the use of the VC as the Emergency Centre.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 6th November 2017 in the Village Club

Blane valley Bulletin Copy Date Monday 16th October 2017