



**MINUTES**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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; John Gray

**In attendance:** Councillor A Berrill; Alan Harris Co-op Pioneer member; + 4 residents.

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

**Apologies:** Marian Lever; Avril Keen; Scott Craigie, Police Scotland; Ian Denvir

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

MV welcomed everybody to the meeting

### **2. Declaration of interests –**

There were no declarations of interest

### **3. Police Report**

PC Craigie was not present at the meeting, but had sent his report. The issue regarding youth disorder in the area around the primary school and the park appear to have decreased, although these areas will be monitored as the nights get lighter.

There have been two further instances of housebreaking in the area and a mountain bike was stolen from a shed in Kirkland Avenue last week. PC Craigie asked that people remain vigilant and report any suspicious people or activities to the police.

Then issues of parking on the A809 near the Devil's Pulpit remain and it is expected that this problem will be ongoing as the weather improves. There have been a number of meetings over the winter involving some of the people who are being affected by this. The police will continue to uplift cars parked dangerously or causing an obstruction and the owners charged accordingly.

The actions of people who require to be rescued from the gorge will now all be the subject of police investigation. If they are found to have committed the crime of Reckless Conduct they will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Stirling. Instances leading to people being charged with this crime will be publicized in the hope that this will make people think more carefully about their actions when visiting the gorge.

#### **4. Minutes of March Meeting and matters Arising**

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

Matters arising: At the last meeting GE agreed to write to the manager of `Killearn Co-op regarding deliveries to Strathblane during the snow. She spoke to the manager of the Strathblane shop who said that he did not expect a delivery that day and that the depot sets the van drivers' routes. As a result she did not send the letter.

#### **5. Alan Harris; Co-op Pioneer Member for Strathblane**

AH began by apologizing that Paul Boyle was unable to attend the meeting due to staff shortages. Ah was appointed in March to liaise between the CO-op and members of the community. 1% of what members spend on Co-op branded goods is returned to the community. This scheme is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. In year 1 SCDT, Brownies and the Pipe Band each received £500. In year 2 £2000 was donated to various organizations and in the current year Mugstock, the Fun Hut and the Pipe Band have all received money. He emphasized that residents should remember to use their cards every time, as this is what generates the fund. Money is also provided from the sale of bags. AH's task is to encourage local organizations to apply for the next round of funding. This has been successful and they have 8 applications, from which 3 will be selected.

The local manager has a small budget that he can use to give small donations to good causes. AH said that, if any organization needs donations of e.g. biscuits for open days, they should just ask.

WO asked what percentage of sales are to members and AH said only about 39% This affects the funds available to the community so residents should be encouraged to join and to use their cards.

AH said that it would be useful to have a signs for the shop on local roads to attract walkers and that anything the CC could do to help with this would be appreciated.

MV thanked AH for coming to speak to us

#### **6. Feedback from Mugdock management Committee meeting**

JH attended this meeting. She reported that they are currently in a better financial position. The aim is to allow East Dumbarton and Stirling Councils to reduce their contributions.

There has been a suggestion that the ruins of Craigend Castle should become a living wall. Graham Lambie said that he had spoken to somebody who was interested in using it as a training area for stonemasons.

They are planning to put a cover on the overflow car park to improve it. They are also planning to build a new barn type structure for use by the Forest School, which is very popular. The existing outlets are happy with the way things are going and the committee is looking for ways to increase the number of places available for outlets.

AH said that we distributed their annual programme in the BVB and that they have put some of our walking maps in the shop.  
Mugstock will take place again this year.

## **7. Feedback from Your Place, Your Priorities Event**

MV re-capped briefly about this event. £64,000 was given to the Stirling area by the Government, matched by SC, to fund local projects. We were notified of this on February 28<sup>th</sup> and projects had to be submitted by 16<sup>th</sup> March. The inference was that not every application would be accepted but in fact all were – 49 in total, including several from the village. The CC formed a sub-group, with permission to submit, to put in a proposal to develop the land behind the disused toilet block. We then had to go to Callander to give a two minute presentation, followed by one minute of questions. Each person present had five votes, only one per project. All the available money went to projects in the Trossachs and Teith Ward, none of the projects for the Forth and Endrick Ward were successful.

MV emphasized that all of the projects were good. The issue is with the voting process. Anybody who arrived late was debarred from voting, despite the fact that many were travelling long distances. Anyone over the age of 10 could vote. MV does not consider that the process was fair as it discriminates against very small communities. She was contacted by the Stirling Observer who have run two articles about this event. She talked mainly about Carron Valley who are a very small community and never had a chance of getting money. MV said that this was an excellent opportunity to fund local projects but that the voting was flawed. She has written to our local councillors and to Bruce Crawford .

WO had concerns about the process from the outset as it relied on a populist voting mechanism that had nothing to do with the needs of the communities. There was no mechanism for evaluating the projects, local needs, alternative funding etc.

AH said that the model is totally flawed. The important thing about spending public money is that it is done in a democratic way. The only people eligible to vote at this event were those who could travel to Callander on a particular day. He believes that the split should have been on a ward basis rather than an urban and rural basis.

MV has asked to see the votes for every project but this information has not been provided. AB also asked for this but has not been given the information either.

MV thinks we should respond to the council in a positive way. She asked CC members to send comments, which she will collate. WO suggested that a copy should be sent to the relevant minister also.

Edward Pickard said that the process sounded like an abnegation of responsibility by council officials.

AB agreed with what had been said and added that he thought the money should have been banded and a proportion given to each project rather than the whole amount. SC needs to learn from this process and improve on it. He noted that some of the issues did not arise in the urban area.

SR said that the timing was the first problem and that it should not be done in such a rushed fashion again.

MV concluded by saying that it was an excellent idea, poorly executed.

## **8. Road Safety Campaign**

This is a standing item following the video from Primary 5 pupils. At the last meeting we discussed submitting a participation request about this issue to the council. MV has completed the form and circulated it to members, several of whom have suggested additions. She hopes we will be able to have greater participation in how the budget is spent. MV would like to work with neighbouring CCs on this. She will add comments from members and submit the form.

## **9. Consultation on the review of Community Councils**

The proposed document is easier to read. MV thinks that the changes are good as they strengthen the role of CCs. Some CCs have been perceived as being small cliques who do what they want to, don't publish accounts etc. and appear not to be accountable.

MV asked all CC members to complete the online survey.

MV and ML will attend the conference on April 21<sup>st</sup>

AB said that this is an ongoing process at present as far as SC is concerned.

## **10. Planning and Licensing**

MV gave a brief update on Gladman. The Reporter has asked SC to supply more information on housing land supply. This must be supplied within 14 days and Gladman then have 21 days to respond, therefore we do not expect there to be a decision for several weeks.

Troughstone Cottage: [18/00161/FUL](#) The original application was for a replacement house for one that was burnt down. The new application is to build a house on an old stable block. The applicant suggests that there is a cluster of houses there, but we do not believe that this is the case. We previously asked for the application to be clarified. JG suggested that we say that there are too many false justifications in the application and that we should reject it until a more honest application is made. This was agreed.

## **11. Elected Member's Report – Councillor Alistair Berrill**

The Balfron Station aqueduct is now scheduled to open on May 7<sup>th</sup>. AB says that communication has been poor. There was a SC meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> which mainly dealt with technical issues. Two motions were put forward by the opposition group. The first, to scrutinise how well SC does in enforcing a range of activities was rejected. The second, an additional £750,000 to the roads budget, was passed.

AB is again trying to push for the A811 to be designated a trunk road.

Dunblane CC gets a very detailed police report with day-to-day activity. AB will find out if all CCs can get similar reports.

SC is looking at the Planning Process within the parameters it can control. They plan to extend the power to refer applications to the Planning Panel to CCs. They also plan to streamline the process of deferral of planning meetings so that those attending will know in advance if an application has been deferred. WO queried if some of this might be superseded by the Scottish planning Bill.

## **12. Community Comments**

MV reported that the European Cycling Championship would take place in our area on Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup>. There was an information session about this event in the VC but it was poorly publicised and very few residents attended. MV and AH went and found it very interesting. This will be a multimedia event, with helicopters filming the cyclists and a lot of spectators expected. Local businesses will be publicised if they are offering special deals for spectators. We will be supplied with bunting etc for the event. However the A81 will be closed for most of the day and it will be difficult to access Glasgow. There were SC officials at the information session. There will be a traffic management plan in place. MV pointed out that there are a lot of narrow country roads in our area and suggested making Old Mugdock Road one way for the duration of the race. RA asked if SC would be given extra money to repair the roads, especially the potholes at Loch Ardinning. MV asked about this at the seminar and was told that it would not. She asked AB to raise this issue with SC. He will talk to Angela McGibbon and David Crichton.

EM reported that there are a lot of abandoned road signs on the A821 following the completion of the roadworks there. These should have been collected and returned to the depot. MMcN will contact SC regarding this and also the 40MPH signs at Dunglass View.

WO said that a private vehicle has been accessing the new path at the B821 end. SCDT paths group should be able to deal with this. AH will look into it.

SR raised the issue of the road and pavements at Park place. Work to repair these has not been carried out. MMcN will look into this.

Edward Pickard reported that we featured on the front page of the Scottish farmer due to 5 sheep being killed by a dog that had escaped from its owner in Mugdock Country Park. The police are taking the matter very seriously. MV said that this issue is worth publicising in the BVB

## **13. Finance**

Current Account - £1168.61

Instant Saver - £1377.73

SR reported that the books are currently being examined by Tony Higgins. The Campsie Dene Road Residents' Association has offered to contribute £150 to the cost of the sign for parking at the church.

#### **14. Correspondence**

SC is holding a snow debriefing session on Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>. MV will attend and suggested that MMcN should also go. MV will say that the use of social media was very effective and that the old cascade model has been superseded by this.

MV received an invitation to a civic reception to thank the community for their contribution to the snow emergency. She will go to this and suggested that MMcN and Andrew McGregor and Annabel Sharp should also attend in recognition of the work they did at this time.

GE had received notification about the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, which will donate trees to communities through the Woodland Trust.

#### **15. AOB**

MV advised the meeting that there should be a meeting of the HUBCO group in the near future.

#### **16. Date of next meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in the Village Club**

**Copy date for the BVB is April 16th 2018.**

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