



MINUTES
Monday 14th May 2018 in the Village Club
Draft

Members Present: - Willie Oswald; Margaret Vass; Marian Lever; Richard Arnold; Evelyn Macdougall Mike McNulty; Grace Edmonds; Sue Rand; Julie Hutchison.

In attendance: Councillor R Davies; Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Colin O'Brien; + 3 residents.
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust * Denotes an action)

Apologies: John Gray; Alan Hutton; Avril Keen; Scott Craigie, Police Scotland; Ian Denvir

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

MV welcomed everybody to the meeting, especially Colin O'Brien. She thanked Keith Vass for looking after the IT tonight.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest

3. Deputy Lord Lieutenant – Colin O'Brien

Mr O'Brien gave us a brief background to his role as Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Stirling and Falkirk. As representatives of the Crown the Lord Lieutenant and his deputies preside over citizenship ceremonies, present awards, assist people in getting cards from the Queen on 100th birthdays etc. He also nominates people to attend the Royal Garden parties at Holyrood and asked us to consider if there is anybody who we would like to nominate.

MV thanked Mr O'Brien for attending.

4. Police Report

PC Craigie was not present at the meeting, but had sent his report. There have been further instances of housebreaking since our last meeting. Several garages were broken into, there was an attempted house breaking in Craigenlay Avenue and a house was broken into and a vehicle stolen in Campsie Dene Road. A suspicious white van was seen in Milndavie Crescent and a male was disturbed at a door in Southburn Road. The police asked us to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.

The issue of parking on the A809 is ongoing.

5. Minutes of April Meeting and matters Arising

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

Your Place, Your Priorities: MV submitted our comments to Lynn McKinley and had a long conversation with her about the process. Lynn admitted that the process could have been better. MV pointed out that we have a Community Action Plan that feeds into the council plan so we already have a lot of input into priorities. She also noted that Callander, who received a lot of the YPYP funding, also receive £60,000 from a hydro scheme.

MV submitted a Participation request, but this has not been acknowledged.

MV and RA attended the final Hubco meeting. The Hubco report had been circulated to all CC members. This group comprises representatives of all groups with community facilities/assets and tasked with looking at facilities in the village, particularly ways in which the school building could accommodate the library and increased nursery provision, along with an activities space, a large multifunctional hall and business space. Their conclusions were that the library position is urgent as the building has only about a three year lifespan left and that the nursery provision will not be an issue in the immediate future as increased nursery provision is likely to be provided in a different way. As expected there is a significant funding shortfall to create a community campus. MV advised that the SCDT is currently investigating if funding could be raised to provide the im-

proved facilities required. They are submitting a bid for funding for a feasibility study. The CC agreed to support this work by the SCDT and made it clear that community consultation is vital and should be externally facilitated.

ML mentioned that funding for an all weather mile course in the school playground is one of the charities in Waitrose this month. She encouraged anyone shopping to put their tokens in the school box.

6. Consultation on the Review of Community Councils.

MV and ML attended the meeting. The process was similar to the first consultation with people being put into discussion groups. ML was disappointed by a lack of representation from a number of CCs in the area.

The meeting started with two civil servants talking about the Local Governance Review. The discussion was firstly about whether CCs wanted greater control over council decisions. In ML's group people supported more consultation but not necessarily greater participation. She quoted the repair of steps beside the telephone exchange rather than the ones beside the Edmonstone Hall. We could have advised on what was needed if we had been consulted. The groups were then asked about the way decisions are made locally. ML's group believed that we have been consulted on this many times before and nothing has changed.

The second session asked participants to go through all the amendments in the Review document. ML felt this was a waste of time as most of the changes were very minimal.

MV reported on the Local Governance Review that is being run by the Government. The two civil servants emphasised that this is a complete review of the whole system. They suggested that we should be careful what we wish for as we might get it. MV thought it would have been more helpful to ask what involvement CCs would like to have. There are plans to review national decisions also and they may look at whether CCs should have corporate body status.

MV thought that the section on review of CC governance documents was useful, as most CCs had not looked at these prior to the meeting. There was some discussion about the changes to the document eg. Declarations of Interest will be mandatory for CC members and there will be a clear process for handling complaints made about CCs.

RD said that our CC is the largest and most vibrant of those that he attends. He thinks the council needs to be careful about making CCs more professional as this might discourage people from volunteering.

WO noted that none of the documentation was about the relationship between CCs and SC. The Scottish Parliament is discussing a Planning Bill that takes away input from communities on planning issues that affect them

WO also asked if there was any discussion about funding issues at the meeting. MV said that every table discussed this.

There is still uncertainty about the timing of the CC elections. They are now scheduled for October/November.

7. Resilience Plan

RA and MMcN attended this meeting, which was largely a re-run of the meeting a year ago. RA had already circulated a detailed report of this meeting to CC members so only spoke briefly about it.

There was general agreement that best outcomes in an emergency situation are achieved when the CC and SC work together. Our plan mainly conforms to the council guidelines but needs some updating. WO said that he had agreed to do this but could not complete it until the CC approves the installation of a landline and storage in the VC. It was suggested that we should apply for a Community Pride grant to fund the telephone line. This was agreed by the members present.

There is an issue regarding residents who might be vulnerable but who nobody knows about to provide help. SC have a list of people who receive care from the council but may not be able to share this due to privacy concerns.

EM asked about the use of social media if there is a major power outage. We must have a landline and hard copies of the plan available

8. Feedback Snow Emergency

MV and MMcN attended what they expected to be a small local debrief in Balfron but in fact was a full council debrief. MV said it was very interesting to hear how the various council services moved into action as needed. All departments were working together and helping each other with resources as needed, resulting in excellent service from SC. RD said that Stewart Carruth activated the plan ahead of time, enabling early action to be taken.

SC had problems with new snowploughs that skidded and got stuck

The farmers said that it would be helpful in future if the Tayforth Farmers Ring was called in sooner rather than waiting until the snowploughs are unable to cope.

MMcN noted that people need to pay attention when a red alert is issued and stay at home.

MV said that it was a privilege to be part of the debriefing. She and MMcN attended the civic reception to thank local people for their help during the emergency, which was a lovely occasion

9. Feedback from Neighbourhoods of Care meeting

GE attended this meeting. The first section was an update on the Neighbourhoods of Care pilot, based in Balfron. This will be a collaboration between the Enablement Team, the District Nursing Team and the Social Care Team. The Planning Group currently meets fortnightly. They will feed back to a new Team Coach, yet to be appointed, who will in turn pass on information to the Neighbourhood Care Team. The team will eventually manage itself with support from the Team Coach.

There was a lot of discussion around the process of acquiring information from the various stakeholders, particularly the community and service users. A very small percentage of responses to the questionnaire were received. It was acknowledged that the process was not well publicised.

The second section was led by Mary Kilpatrick from Stirling Carer's Centre, talking about the Carer's Act, which came into force on April 1st. There are currently 660,000 unpaid carers in Scotland who save the economy in excess of £3 billion. The new act is intended to provide greater support for these people. It gives local authorities a duty to ensure that unpaid carers are properly involved in decisions about the most appropriate form of respite for them.

10. Road Safety

This item is linked to work being done with the P5 class at SPS.

The report to the Environment and Housing Committee regarding the roads programme made provision for money to be allocated for the Station Road bridge and for traffic calming measures on the A81 and Campsie Road. We await consultation on how this should be spent.

MV and EM talked to the school about the Travel Plan, which is virtually complete. This is essential to enable the village to access funding. MV will suggest that the photographs in the plan are updated.

There are still temporary road signs around the village that are no longer current and need to be removed.

11. Planning and Licensing

There were no new planning applications this month.

There is no information yet on the Gladman appeal.

WO had a reply from Planning regarding the house at Ardunan Lodge. With hindsight they agreed that they should have asked for clearer perspective in the plans.

12. Elected Member's Report – Councillor Rob Davies

RD had the new LDP, which has been approved by the council. He also had the population forecast for SC area over the next 10 years. A 10% rise is forecast overall, but the rise in those over pensionable age is expected to be 27%.

In terms of available housing land, SC has five years' supply, but some people argue that that this figure is based on some land not being used in previous years and that the actual supply should be three years. This is the basis of the Gladman appeal.

RD and GL attended a meeting of the Paths group. There is currently almost no funding for this group, despite the fact that there are two major paths running through our area. RD and GL are trying to find funding for these.

Keith Vass raised the issue of the lack of toilet facilities on the West Highland Way and the John Muir Way.

Road safety issues at Finnich Glen, the Rowardennan Road and the distillery clash with tourism needs. The CC has regularly discussed the lack of investment in parking etc. in the area.

The potholes on the A81 will cause major issues for the European Cycling Championship. MMcN has reported this to SC as the road is now dangerous, but has had no reply yet. MV spoke to Stewart Carruth about the problem and he said he would deal with it. RD will follow this up.

RD reported that another restructure has been agreed for SC.

13. Community Comments

MV reminded CC members that the School Fayre is on June 2nd. We will have our usual stand.

GE attended a training session about the new Data Protection Act. This was interesting and informative. We keep very little data, but will have to ensure that we comply with the new legislation. We are registered with the ICO. We need to have a Data Protection Policy in place and there is a template for doing this on the ICO website. Douglas McAdam said that he has just completed one and will send us his template. GE, RA, ML and SR will meet to formulate a policy.

JH said that some residents want to do a litter pick in the village. She contacted SC and they will deliver picks and orange bags to her this week to facilitate this. She suggested that we put this in the BVB to inform anybody who wants to organise a litter pick.

JH reported damage to the grass verges at the Blane field end of the village. She has spoken to Derek Leitch and somebody will contact her this week.

RA asked about the bench round the tree in the play park. JH will ask land Services about this

14. Finance

Current Account - £1488.61

Instant Saver - £1338.33

SR suggested that we organise a fundraiser for the BVB before the CC elections.

15. Correspondence

MV received an email about the library consultation. There is a Survey monkey survey and also hard copies in the library. MV stressed that all CC members should complete the survey and encourage residents to do so also, as the library is very important to the community.

WO has circulated correspondence from Planning Democracy asking if CCs and individuals are happy to support an open letter regarding this. WO proposed that we should give permission for the CC to be a signatory to the letter. This was agreed by members present. WO will send this on behalf of the CC.

GE received a letter regarding changes to polling places in the SC area. Our polling place remains the Edmonstone Hall.

16. AOB

There was no other business

16. Date of next meeting Monday 11th June 2018 in the Village Club, following the AGM

Copy date for the BVB is May 21st 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

