



MINUTES
Monday 11th June 2018 in the Village Club, following the AGM
Draft

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

In attendance: Councillor Graham Lambie; Ian Denvir; Tracey Gemmell (Mugstock); Alan Harris (Co-op); Stewart Smolarek (Scottish Water); Scott Craigie (Police Scotland)+ 3 residents.
(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council. CDT= Community Development Trust * De-notes an action)

Apologies: Tricia Cunningham – Stirling Walking Network.

1. Welcome from the Chair and any apologies

MV welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Alan Harris from the Co-op, Tracey Gemmell from Mugstock and Stewart Smolarek from Scottish Water.

2. Declaration of interests –

There were no declarations of interest

3. Alan Harris – Co-op

Alan reported that the Pipe Band, the Fun Hut and Mugstock are the current causes in Funding Round 3. He stressed that it is really important that co-op members cast their votes for these causes. The organisations will be invited to attend the co-op to meet the public. There were nine applicants for Funding Round 4, but Mugstock was unsuccessful at the first stage. Three finalists will be chosen from the remaining eight. A short list has been drawn up and the result will be announced in October. Alan Harris intends to visit all the applicants. Co-op fortnight runs from June 23rd to July 7th and Alan hopes to organise an event in the local co-op on July 7th. He is delighted to be able to donate some plants to the CC for the village tubs.

AH queried the repeated failure of the fridges in the local shop. The manager is frustrated by this and is trying to have them repaired properly. Alan will report to the area manager that the CC has also raised the issue. AH also asked if it would be possible to use the trolley park for bike racks as few people use trolleys.

4. Tracey Gemmell - Mugstock

Tracey is newly appointed to the post of Liaison Officer and her role is to promote the festival and encourage people to attend. She is willing to talk to any groups in the area who might be interested to hear about Mugstock. She can be contacted by email at traceyatmugstock.org.

WO asked about the date, which is July 27th - 30th.

Discounted tickets will be available for residents as usual.

AK asked how they identify whom they send the discount fliers to. These will be distributed in the BVB this month.

5. Stewart Smolarek - Scottish Water

There is still a defective valve and leak from one of the turbines and they have been trying to get the contractors to repair these for two summers. The contractors say they cannot resource to repair the problem. Another company has been sourced to carry out the work and it is likely that there will be some action at the site over the summer months.

The mesh on the bridge should be in place before the summer holidays. Potholes have reappeared on the path from the bridge and Stewart has asked for these to be properly repaired before the new contractors start work. RA suggested using top track on the path and SS asked him to email this suggestion to him, which RA will do. The new contractors have been given the original traffic management plan and SS hopes that they will adhere to this. SS can source a key for the post for the contractors. SR asked about repairs to Dumbrock Road, which residents believe have not been carried out. SS believes that none of the damage was caused by their contractors. He took photographs at the start of the work and more last week for comparison. MV said that there is ongoing political input on this issue at present.

6. Stirling Walking Network

Ian Denvir talked about this, as Tricia Cunningham was unable to attend the meeting.

Walkabout Stirling runs a weekly walk in our area from either Killearn or Mugdock. The focus is on those with dementia, but everybody is welcome. Tricia would like us to encourage people to participate in these walks, especially people who may have physical issues also. ID gave special thanks to AH for including this information in the BVB. MV said that we would put the dates of the walks in futures issues.

7. Police Report - Scott Craigie

No anti-social behaviour has been reported recently

There has been a further instance of housebreaking in the area since the last meeting and several cars broken into at Mugdock Country Park. PC Craigie asked everybody to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police. JG asked if people should use 111 or 999 for this and PC Craigie said 999.

There are still major issues with parking at the Devil's Pulpit and recently four drivers were warned about their parking and two fixed penalty notices issued.

The actions of people requiring rescue from the gorge will now be subject to police investigation. If their actions constitute the Common Law Crime of Reckless Conduct they will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Instances of people being charged will be publicised and it is hoped that this will make people think before they enter the gorge.

There have been two reportable road accidents in the area since the last report.

Due to the increase in housebreaking there has been greater police presence in the area this led to one driver being caught driving with no licence or insurance.

PC Gary Martin finally joined PC Craigie last week.

PC Craigie gave us the Smartwater signs that we had asked for.

There were reports of a strange fish van in the area and the occupants were spoken to by the police.

8. Minutes of May meeting and matters Arising.

The minutes were approved, proposed by ML and seconded by RA

Matters arising: RA asked about the bench around the trees in the play park. JH spoke to Colin McKay at SC about this. The bench is currently in Pleau Country Park and will be repaired in August and replaced in the park.

GE attended an information session about the new Data Protection Act and it was decided to set up a sub-group to discuss this. GE, ML, JG, SR and RA agreed to form this group. The work Jo Arnold has done on our website is excellent and covers most of what we need to be compliant with the new regulations. However we agreed that we need to do several things: we need to identify the data we keep as several of us have data stored on our computers and nobody knows exactly who has what. This will no longer be acceptable. We need to identify any lists of data that

we hold and we need a clearly stated process for keeping data and for ensuring that it is destroyed once we no longer have need of it. We agreed that one person needs to be responsible for controlling the data we hold so we will be looking for a volunteer to be Data Manager.

We also agreed that this should be an item for discussion on the September agenda.

JG said that as a small organisation we do not need a data manager but agreed that we need somebody to organise what we hold and record this. We also need written proof that we have thought about our data.

MV asked if SC has produced written guidance for CCs about how to keep data and record the process. ID said that SC is appointing a Data Protection Officer who could be approached for advice once he/she is in post. MV said there should be a template from SC for all CCs to use. ID will take this back to SC.

MV has been having an unproductive dialogue with the Head of Governance at SC regarding the timing of the CC elections. The process of election is likely to start in October and end in November. MV asked when those leaving would stand down – will it be when the process starts in October or in November? She has been unable to get an answer to this. MV emailed Lynne McKinley who has also been unable to get a definitive answer but thinks it is likely that those standing down will do so at the start of the process. MV can get no clear guidance on this but it seems likely that the current CC will be here for the October meeting.

JH has taken delivery of the litter picks and waste bags that she was promised by SC.

9. Road Safety

MMcN met the SC roads representative, Nicci, regarding the road at Loch Ardinging. She was unaware of the European Cycling Championship event on August 8th. She thought the issue was about road widening rather than repair. When she was made aware of what is actually needed she went back to SC to report to senior managers. MV emailed Stuart Carruth, copied to our elected members and also Bruce Crawford, who responded very quickly. She received immediate confirmation that repairs to the road will be carried out by August 8th.

WO had sent a message to info at SC in April regarding this, but the message had not been passed on. He would have thought that the race organisers would have liaised with the Scottish Government and SC regarding road surfaces and that the Government would have contributed. MMcN said that Glasgow Council was supposed to carry out a road survey and report to SC, but this has not been done. ML asked when the road would actually be closed. We were told this would be between 09.00 and 15.00, but this has been revised to between 11.00 and 16.00. Bruce Crawford sent MV an email from the race organisers saying that letters would be sent to all residents and that information sessions would be held in the communities concerned. This does not include Strathblane. MV emailed the liaison officer for the race organisers to point out that there has been virtually no communication with this area and that the two main routes to our nearest hospitals will be closed. Liaison between the race organisers and SC seems to be chaotic.

AK raised the issue of increased numbers of professional cyclists on our roads recently. There needs to be awareness of this.

We are waiting to be consulted about traffic calming measures in the village. WO suggested a priority gate near the Village Club.

GE raised the issue of the yellow lines on Old Mugdock Road, which have still not been done. MV mentioned that the agreed lines in Campsie Dene Road have not been done yet either. MMcN will look into this.

10. Planning and Licensing

MV reported that there is still no decision from the Reporter on the Gladman appeal.

Planning application [18/00372](#) The Retreat. This is a new application after we opposed the previous one. AK said the materials proposed are not in keeping with the local area. WO wondered if

the structure being replaced was ever documented as a dwelling. The new proposal goes right to the boundary of the property. EM said that access is a major issue and AK said that the other issue is the steep drive. She does not think there is enough land to create wide enough access. It was agreed that JG would respond saying we neither oppose nor support the proposal but have reservations about access.

11. Elected Member's Report - Councillor Graham Lambie

GL has requested that SC uses some of the Reserve Budget to repair potholes in the Forth and Endrick area. He is now a member of the Environment Committee and has direct input into the road maintenance budget. SC has increased the capital spend for roads for 2018/19 from a proposed £3.5M to £4.5M. Road safety improvements will include Speed Activated signage, School travel plans and 40mph buffer zones. It is intended that there will be more opportunities for communities to engage with roads officers regarding issues in their areas.

The Ballat Bridge finally reopened at the beginning of June and the Kippen Bridge repair is also complete. GL is still pursuing the A811 Trunk Upgrade request and intends to raise this issue with West Dunbartonshire Council and the National park.

SC is still exploring ways of providing safer parking at Finnich Glen and has passed the first phase of a funding application from the Scottish Government for car park and visitor facilities.

A pilot early evening bus service from Balfron to Stirling on Friday and Saturday evenings at 18.10 has been extended until August 2018. GL stressed that this is a "Use it or lose it" service.

GL commented on the lack of response from the Reporter regarding the Gladman Appeal. There has been a significant change to the referral to planning panel procedure, which now allows a referral to come from a significant local objection.

SC is hoping that the Engine Shed (Stirling) team will take on Craigend castle as a live restoration project. Commercial income from Mugdock Country Park is very positive with £177K from last year. However the feasibility study for a solar farm below the gun emplacement site has given a negative view on financial viability so a smaller project is being considered.

12. Community Comments

WO reported that people are depositing dog bags in the former tool store off the B821 rather than using the nearby bin. He suggested asking Scottish water to remove the building. AH seconded this. WO also raised the issue of unauthorised vehicles on the "superhighway" This was referred to the SCDT. Scottish Water is happy for the gates to be locked with a common padlock. RA will contact Colin McKay at SC to source a padlock, but asked who would pay for it. SR said that we can afford to do this. RA and WO will action this.

AH raised the issue of the post box at the bottom of Kirkhouse Road, which has not been replaced. MV has spoken to the daughter of the householder regarding the wall but she is of the opinion that the wall is the responsibility of SC. SC says that it belongs to the house. This is an issue between SC and the householder. MV explained that we represent the village and that residents want the post box reinstated. SR visited the owner who pointed out that the garden boundary is inside the wall. The house was there before the wall, which was erected when the estate was built. AH is concerned that Royal Mail will not replace the post box. RA will contact them. MV said there is a safety issue with the broken wall and there needs to be a site visit to the area. GL will look into this.

ML reported on the success of the launch of CAB in the library. She encouraged people to use it. Lynne James asked us to remind residents that green recycling bags are available in the library. Each household is entitled to 6 rolls per year.

MV raised the issue of the £28K from Cala. We have been asked to agree that this should be used for the final two pieces of play equipment that there was no funding for last time, but we have no information if residents still want this. MV has asked for clarification about what the money can be used for, as it would be good to use it for the school mile path. JH will talk to Colin McKay about this.



Lorna Young reported that the wooden bridge into the play park is covered in horse droppings. The bridge is not designed for horses and they should not be in the play park. The members agreed that we need a "No horses" sign. JH will raise this with Colin McKay.

13. Finance

Current Account - £1184.61

Instant saver - £1338.33

14. Correspondence

GE has a letter inviting members to the Chairman's Evening at the Smith Gallery on June 15th. If anybody wants to go they can email her for details.

MV has a letter about rural broadband, which she will circulate to the CC.

15. AOB

JH said that the damage to the verges below the War memorial has been passed to Angela McGibbon.

JH suggested that we should do a Community Pride Grant application to replace some of the flower barrels. This was agreed.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 2nd September 2018 in the Village Club

Copy date for the BVB is June 25th 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