



MINUTES
Monday 7th January 2019 in the Village Club
Draft

Members Present: - Marian Lever; Evelyn Macdougall; Mike McNulty; Grace Edmonds; Julie Hutchison; Mandy Watson; John Gray; Philip Graves

In attendance: Councillor Alistair Berrill; Pam Campbell, SC; Alan Harris, Co-op; PCs Graham and Martin + 6 residents.

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

Apologies: No apologies

1. Welcome from the Chair and declarations of interest

MMcN welcomed everybody to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Police Report

PC Graham said that there was little to report this month. There has been one incident of domestic violence and one male found in possession of cannabis at Queens View car park.

High visibility road checks have continued in the village in an effort to disrupt travelling criminals. These have been successful, as no thefts have been reported since the last meeting. There have been several reports of suspicious vehicles and these are always taken seriously and investigated. PC Graham asked that residents continue to report anything they think is suspicious.

Hand-held radar was carried out in the village to detect speeding drivers. One male was charged with drink driving. MMcN asked if there were many incidents of speeding and PC Graham said their presence was a good deterrent.

PC Graham mentioned reports of animals loose on our roads and reminded the community to be vigilant, especially when driving in the dark.

PG asked about a burnt out van at the Khyber Pass. PC Graham said he was unaware of this, but it may have been outside their jurisdiction as the boundary is on the bridge. These vehicles are usually stolen.

EM asked if drivers have to avoid touching mini-roundabouts. PC Graham said that they do, as it is an offence to drive over a roundabout, regardless of its size.

3. Minutes of December meeting and matters arising

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by MMcN, Seconded by ML

There were no matters arising.

4. Alan Harris – Co-op

The Co-op paid for the children's gifts at the Fun Hut party and also for the mince pies and sweets at the Christmas lights switch on. We are very grateful for all the support the Co-op provides to village activities.

This years groups to benefit from the Community Fund are the Out of Schools Club, the Parent Council at the primary school and Cuppa Time. AH asked us to continue to encourage residents to join the Co-op to support these causes. He still plans to hold a showcase event for local organisations. He also plans to work with Blanefield Thistle and will donate a new football and half-time refreshments.

The Co-op agreed to pay £50 for two new flower barrels in the village and AH will also help to provide plants for these. MMcN thanked AH for all the Co-op do.

5. Feedback from the Participation meeting on Road Safety

MMcN reported that there are plans for road safety measures on the A81 and on Campsie Road, which will be presented to the Participation Group on January 16th. He had outline plans for these proposals and these will be put on the website. In essence they should make it safer to cross the road to the Village Club. One of the proposals is to put a bolt-down pedestrian island outside the VC, with hatching on the road to the entrance of Leddriegreen Road. There will be Give Way lines on the Blanefield side of the VC to warn drivers about the narrow road. We hope that this will slow traffic. A member of the public was concerned that this will cause slow/stationary traffic during summer peak times. MMcN said that the group had considered this but that there always has to be a trade off regardless of which measures we decide on. He said that speed cameras are not a viable option as they are too expensive. Sheila Hall, on behalf of the VC committee, said that she thinks the plans are good, but has concerns that the Give Way is near the brow of the hill. We will query this at the meeting on January 16th. ML said that she thinks this is the best possible solution at present as the A81 is too narrow to accommodate a traffic island. The plan should make exit from the VC safer and will also benefit those using the Tennis Club and Bowling Club. It should also allow safer exit from Leddriegreen Road.

JH said that speed on Station Road has decreased following the narrowing work at the bridge.

It is proposed that a traffic island and bollards will be put on Campsie Road at the church. A member of the public said that cars park on the road on Sundays when the church car park is full and that bollards may cause problems with this. MMcN said that this would also be discussed at the meeting on the 16th. He asked if the CC agreed to these proposals in principle and this was agreed, proposed by JG and seconded by PG.

6. Change of Office Bearers

MMcN explained that he wants to step down from the position of Chair with immediate effect, but is happy to be Vice-chair with ML taking over as Chair. PC clarified that MMcN will resign as Chair and ML will take over. This was agreed. ML as Chair was proposed by JG and seconded by EM. MMcN as Vice-chair was proposed by JH and seconded by MW. ML took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

7. Elected Member's Report - Councillor Alistair Berrill

There was a meeting of SC on December 6th 2018. AB continued to push the issue of white lining on the region's roads. He received a commitment that the rest of the A811 will be completed in this financial year. He will continue to push this issue.

Planning has been streamlined. If 5 people request that an application be referred to the Planning Panel this can go ahead without reference to an elected member. JG asked if the CC would count as five individuals. AB said that he thought that five names would have to be submitted. ML noted that in the past we have asked to refer something to the Planning Panel as a CC, supported by our elected members. This will continue.

There will be new basic funeral service available through the Council at a cost of £1800. ML said that this would be a valuable service.

Sc received notification of next year's financial support from the Scottish Government. SC will receive £800,000 less than expected. The Council budget will be set in February.

A proposal to introduce new parking charges in the SC area might affect us, but AB does not yet have any details. PG said that parking charges should be introduced at Mugdock Country Park. JH said that this has been discussed by the Management Committee. The new car park will be open in March and this should ease parking problems. MMcN said that SC must generate revenue but parking charges should be introduced in a sensitive manner to avoid complaints from the public.

A member of the public said that SC intends to consult on parking strategies, including our area. PC said we would be consulted on what this should look like.

MMcN asked AB about replacing cats' eyes on the road as well as white lining. AB will raise this with SC.

JH commented that the reflective arrows on the bend approaching the village from Milngavie are damaged and do not give a good line of sight going round the bend. AB will pass this on.

8. Planning and Licensing

JG reported that there are no substantial applications this month.

MW looked at supplementary guidance notes issued by SC. These relate to historic items, giving advice on how to seek planning permission for listed buildings etc. They will be a useful tool. JG said that other guidance would be issued in due course.

JG has posted links to the LDP on the web page.

MW emailed the Supreme Court in December regarding the Gladman appeal. She has not yet had a reply and will follow this up. Gladman has appealed but no date has been set. PC will clarify whether SC has been informed of the appeal and why the CC has not been.

MW investigated who owns the grass area opposite the Co-op. It is held by SC under the Housing Revenue Account. JH said that Angela McGibbon said last year that face-in parking could be allowed here. ML asked PC how we can take this forward. PC will investigate this and we can raise it at the parking meetings in the spring.

9. Community Comments

A member of the public said that the pole at the entrance to the park being left out again. It is likely to be the horse riders who are at fault, as the contractors appear to be replacing it properly. A member of the public reported that the beech hedge on the way to the care home has not been cut back this year, making the pavement unsafe. MW has reported this and contacted the local farmer but nothing has been done. POC Martin offered to speak to the farmer about this.

The hawthorn hedge outside the former police houses. There is some uncertainty about who owns this.

ML said that we should put something in the BVB to remind residents that they are responsible for keeping their vegetation under control. JG will put this on the website also.

Sheila Hall asked about the plastic sheeting on the fence at the Ash Track. It is breaking and looks untidy. ML will contact Scottish Water about this.

MMcN has been approached about the possibility of putting Christmas lights on lampposts throughout the village. He thinks the cost of this is likely to be very high and that the only way to fund it might be Community crowd funding. PC said we could apply for a Community Pride grant, but only as a one off payment. MMcN will look into costs. ML asked for views from the room about lights. And Sheila Hall said that what we have is lovely and many people have commented on this. ML does not think that there is a huge groundswell in favour of more lights, but that we will look at a possible site for a Christmas tree at the Blanefield end of the village. JH also suggested that some lights could be put on the Edmonstone Hall.

There are notice boards at the Edmonstone hall and at the library that are no longer used. JG asked if there was any objection to removing these and the CC agreed that this could be done.

MW has been approached about the cost of bus fares. It is very expensive to travel to Milngavie. MMcN spoke to Balfron bus station about this and was told that we would not have a bus service at all if they had not won the school contract. ML said that we could talk to the bus company again, but that nothing is likely to happen.

The Chair of the SCDT had emailed the CC about the consultation on Local Housing Strategies. She asked if the CC would be interested in seeing the SCDT responses for discussion at our February meeting. We agreed that we would and that the Housing Strategy would be on our next agenda. JG will put a notice on the website and on Facebook to encourage residents to complete the on-line survey.

A member of the public still has issues with land-wash in his garden at Edenkilm Place. ML said that he should contact SEPA and PG provided contact details for this.

MMcN asked PC who he should contact regarding a dead tree at Ballewan Crescent. PC said that the Tree Preservation Officer, Adrian Walters, would be the best person to contact.

10. Finance

Current Account : £1977.84
Instant Saver: £1388.33

The Co-op has donated £50 for 2 new flower barrels and a Community Pride grant has paid for a further 22, so all the barrels can be replaced this year.

The Christmas tree switch on raised donations of £195.25. As agreed at the December CC meeting £50 was donated to the EDWE .

11. AOB

JH gave a brief update from the Mugdock Management Committee meeting in December. They are happy with their financial position at present. They have installed a new covered barbeque area. The next meeting will be in March.

ML said that the Health and Social Care Partnership will be talking about its three-year plan in the McLIntock Hall in Balfron on January 14th between 2.00 and 4.00pm. ML and MMcN will go to this.

JG said that the data projector needs to be replaced. It was agreed that he will look into costs for this and we will do a Community Pride Grant application.

MMcN said that he had been received a report from the Broadband group saying that the whole of our area is now Connected to fibre. We should now all have access to high speed broadband.

16. Date of next meeting: February 4th 2019 in the Village Club

Copy date for the BVB is January 18th 2019

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