



MINUTES
Virtual meeting Monday 5th October 2020
Draft

Members Present: - Grace Edmonds; Julie Hutchison; Kate Ramsden; Evelyn Macdougall; Philip Graves; Andy Thompson

Apologies: John Gray

In attendance: Cllr Graham Lambie; Cllr Rob Davies; M Vass, SCDT; Shaun Marley, SC

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

1. Welcome from the Chair and declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes of September meeting and matters arising

The minutes were accepted; Proposed by KR, seconded by AT

Matters arising: MV gave a brief update on the library project. A further £100,000 has been donated from an organisation in Lichtenstein. There will be some fundraising during October and then a request from the community to “buy a brick” for Christmas. The SCDT board has agreed to set up a subsidiary company, Thomas Graham Library Ltd., to deliver the project. MV assured RD that the company in Lichtenstein is a genuine family trust.

JH spoke to Stephen Robinson regarding the hedge opposite the Village Club. This has now been cut back. The hedge towards the Care Home has also been trimmed back along the pavement.

GL apologised for the delay in sending out his waste report. He clarified that residents will not be charged for food waste.

3. Broadband – Shaun Marley SC

SM explained that his role is to look at rural broadband issues on behalf of the council. He gave a very clear presentation, explaining traditional broadband delivery via copper cables to residences. Cabinets now host fibre optic cables, but the final distance to residences is still via copper cable so homes further away from cabinets have slower speeds. Fibre to the Home takes fibre optic cables directly into homes, giving faster speeds.

Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband which was launched by the Scottish Government in 2012, aimed to have 85% of homes with Superfast broadband. Currently 95% of homes have access to a Superfast service. The Government has now set a target of 100%. The R100 project has £600million gap funding to facilitate this. The aim was to ensure that contractors would get as much coverage into an area as they could. In our area BT Openreach has the contract. The Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme was set up to assist those premises that are not covered by the main contracts.

SC set up a Rural Broadband Project to prioritise the delivery of superfast broadband to rural communities. They have looked at providing a community based solution to those communities where national programmes have no immediate plans to deliver a service via alternative suppliers. These include Community partnerships to install their own fibre; fixed wireless point to point solutions; Mobile (4G) and satellite. There are some premises within the village, which will not get superfast broadband at present. A £5000 grant will be available for those households who want to pursue their own solutions. SH suggested that anybody in this position should contact him as he can liaise with various households and contractors to get the best deals.

Scotlandsuperfast.com allows residents to check their eligibility for a voucher.

AT said that 24 Mbps is not very fast and it is likely to be slower in homes that are further from the cabinet. SM agreed that this is the case. Future proof will be speeds of 30Mbps. AT asked if individuals have to apply for the vouchers, then find a supplier. SM thinks that residents should use SC to pull information together and look at suitable suppliers so that residents in the same area use the same one. AT asked if there is any guarantee to provide Fibre to Home in the near future. SM said no. PG asked if there is extra funding available for commercial premises, which need to link into the system. SM said that there is an extra £3000 available from Westminster for businesses. Again they could work with him to find the best company in any area. MV said that we have lots of presentations about broadband over the years and that this was the clearest one. JH thanked SM for his presentation. He suggested that we could look at particular areas of concern and meet with him again in a smaller group.

4. Road layout on A81

JH, GE and MV met 4 council officers on October 5th to discuss the traffic calming measures on the A81. There have been around 30 complaints from local residents, but also some positive comments. The council will erect some additional signs warning of the new layout and will speak to the owner of the property adjacent to the Village Club regarding the hedge that obscures the priority sign. The council will monitor the situation at various points on the road over a period of at least three months and will report back after that. MV, JH and GE agreed that it was a productive meeting. We have another meeting arranged with the council officers regarding the Participation Request.

5. Police report - PC Gary Martin

This report from PC Martin covered the month of September.

There was a report of an alleged minor assault and one male was cautioned and charged in relation to this. The windscreen of a vehicle parked at Queens View was smashed and another vehicle had windows and lights smashed, bodywork damaged and interior ripped.

A parked vehicle was struck on Glasgow Road on October 1st, sustaining damage to the wing mirror and side panels. The driver of the offending vehicle failed to stop and enquiries are ongoing.

There have been several reports of theft in the area. A hanging basket was stolen from a property on Mugdock Road. There was an attempted break in to a garden shed, some damage caused but nothing stolen, again on Mugdock Road.

A section of wire was cut on a fence on the B821 on the outskirts of the village. Damage was caused but fortunately no animals escaped.

A car window was smashed on a car parked in a lay-by south of Strathblane. A handbag was stolen and a credit card subsequently used. There were two similar incidents at Mugdock Country Park where vehicle windows were smashed and handbags stolen.

6. Emergency assistance during the pandemic

GE had circulated an email from a resident regarding providing assistance for local people during the pandemic. The general feeling of the meeting was that the voluntary side of helping earlier in the year worked well and will continue as it is needed.

7. Elected Member's Report – Councillors Rob Davies and Graham Lambie

RD reported that a contractor has been appointed to install the bench on the Lennox-town path.

There is a planning meeting tomorrow to consider the Killearn Hospital site. The proposals for the whole site are likely to pass.

The application for Finnich Glen is also being considered tomorrow. The planning officer's recommendation is to reject this, as it does not fit with the LDP. RD and GL are both concerned with parking issues at the current site. GL said that he doesn't know how the council will vote on this.

Later in the week there will be a meeting regarding the financial situation for the council.

GL reported that all pupils are now back at BHS

The Environment Committee approved a three year road plan. This includes work on the Stockiemuir Road and on the A81

There was a good site visit to Station Road and GL has passed on the residents' request for 20 mph signs. He is monitoring an initiative by Borders Council for a 20mph limit in all villages. The council plans to install a vehicle-activated sign at Ballewan.

GL had a meeting at Mugdock, although the proposed Management meeting did not take place. There is a plan to charge for the car park, but the ED councillors are not in favour.

National Park has a new page on the website to allow visitors to see how busy the car parks are.

JH thanked both councillors for their contributions.1

8. Planning and Licensing

JH reported that the planning application for change of use for the Blane Valley Inn has been passed.

9. Finance

Current Account - £2977.07

Instant Saver account - £1342.95

EM said that the Current Account includes the £500 grant made to the Volunteer Group.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

11. AOB

JH said that we should still have a Christmas tree, although we cannot have an event. This was agreed by everybody present.

She asked GL about Remembrance Day. He said that the council has ordered the usual wreaths but he does not know about the parades etc. We will contact the church about plans. EM will order a wreath for us as usual.

This month's BVB covered September and October. JH suggested that the next one should cover November and December. This was agreed.

EM asked if we planned to write to Cami to thank her for her work on the BVB over the last two years. GE has already done this.

JH asked everybody to complete a survey from Clackmannan and Stirling Healthcare partnership. www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClacksandStirlingcommunities

11. Date of next meeting November 2nd 2020, 7.30 on Zoom.

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

