



MINUTES
Virtual meeting Monday 8th June 2020
Draft

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

Apologies: There were no apologies

In attendance: Cllr Graham Lambie; Cllr Rob Davies; M Vass, SCDT.

*(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 March meeting and matters arising

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

There were no matters arising.

3. Update on Village Volunteer Group

KR reported that this group formed naturally at the beginning of lockdown when residents asked how they could help in the village. Margaret Vass suggested that a more formal group should be created and Isobel Gray took on the task of organising everyone. The village has been divided into areas with each area having a designated volunteer as point of contact. KR said that Pam Campbell has been a great help, especially in accessing a grant of £500 for expenses. This was awarded via the CC and the treasurer will release funds as required by the volunteers. AT said that he thought that he had joined the Volunteer Group but has not heard from them. KR said that there is a Facebook page listing volunteers and she will ensure that AT is on the list. PG said that there is a similar group covering Mugdock, which has been successful. KR said that it has been difficult to access residents who do not use social media, but there are fliers in the chemist with contact details. EM asked if the group covered the Carbeth area also. KR does not think that this area is officially included, although prescriptions have been delivered to residents there.

4. Update on Resilience Plan

MW said that she had put an article in the BVB immediately before the lockdown, asking for volunteers to help in case of need, but the response was very low. She thinks this was probably just bad timing. She will repeat the exercise once the lockdown is over. AT said that the Resilience Plan is mainly about adverse weather and that it should be expanded to cover any emergency. MW said that it is focussed on weather as that has been what has affected us most in recent years. Going forward there are lessons to be learned from the current situation to broaden the Plan. PG suggested that flooding issues should also be included.

5. Update on the Library project

MV reported that the team has been exceptionally busy during lockdown. The first part of the consultation exercise is now complete. AT said that there were 251 re-

sponses to the questionnaire, which was reasonably large, but disappointing given that there are about 2000 eligible residents in the village, but possibly this was due to people being distracted by Covid. The age range of respondents was 8 to 76, with an average age of 54. This gave the team a good feel for local views. There were a lot of supportive comments about the existing library and the proposed library and many people cautioned the group to take care that they concentrate on the library before thinking of other things that might be included in the building. There was support for quiet space and also noisy space and for some kind of café service. Priorities were SOSC, a café, a shop, a recycling/upcycling point, possibly a business hub and outdoor space. At has weighted the responses and thinks he has a good grasp of what people want. 85% of respondents were in favour of the current site. There was divided opinion about the number of parking spaces needed. The full report is available on the website - Strathblane.online.

MV said the team now has outline plans that have been shared with SC. The response from SC at a meeting last week was positive in terms of the proposals. Unfortunately the Head of Assets, Tracey Mills, could not attend the meeting to give the views of the assets team. A meeting with her is being rescheduled as soon as possible. The survey showed huge support for SOSC going ahead with their part of the project.

The next stage is looking more closely at costing and then moving to stage 3 of the consultation process when the community will be consulted about the layout of the building. MV acknowledged that this would be difficult to do in the current climate. MV will circulate some of the plans to members of the CC. RD asked MV if there is a role for our elected members in the process. MV said that there will certainly be a role for them and she will email the three elected members by the end of June. Currently the team is working with Crawford Bell at SC.

AT said that they are now trying to gauge support for a business hub in the library building via a questionnaire aimed at residents who are self employed or working from home, or who might in the future. This might be a later stage of the development but the team hopes to build space for this in the initial build. PG said that a business hub would be a good income stream, which will be important. He asked if the team had considered widening the questionnaire to other villages. AT said they had considered this but are not doing it at present as the focus is on establishing if there is local need. MV said that the SCDT is extremely conscious of the importance of getting revenue streams. JG enquired about access to the questionnaire. It is on Facebook with a link to the electronic version, a link is available on Strathblane.online and there is also a QR code.

JH thanked MV and AT for their update.

6. Feedback on Mugdock Community Network

PG said there has been a lot of discussion about Broadband and asked if there was any update on it reaching Strathblane and the surrounding area. RD said that he thinks the infrastructure is ready but workers cannot enter houses at present to do the final connections. PG asked about the SC fund for rural areas to help with Broadband. GL said there is a fund and he will check how much money is still available. Colin Clark at SC suggested that a lease line could be useful for the business hub in the future in terms of Broadband connection. This might be a draw for potential users.

PG also raised the issue of a huge influx of people recently at the Country Park car park, managed by EDC. The car park is open but the toilets are closed which causes problems. Meanwhile SC car parks remain closed. GL said that people should not be there as they are travelling too far according to official guidance. RD said that as the guidelines are not preventing people from travelling the car parks should be open to prevent dangerous parking, but the view at the council meeting last week was that nobody should be travelling more than five miles. Car parks are likely to remain closed for the next 21 days.

7. Elected Member's Report.

GL said that Council work has continued during the lockdown. Finnich Glen was discussed today. GL has asked for it to be closed. If this is not possible due to "Right to Roam" access, yellow lines may be installed on the road. The application for a car park at the site has reached the final stage which will help, but not for at least a year. The budget will have to be re-done in October as the council is losing money during lockdown.

The recycling centre in Balfron is currently still closed, but SC hopes to open it soon. Waste can be taken to Polmaise from 9.00 – 2.30 Monday to Friday, but it is not operating at full capacity and there are long queues. JG has shared a link on Facebook to SC pages to answer questions regarding waste disposal.

The council meeting was recorded for the first time and is available on YouTube.

GL reported that the Balfron bank would not close during the pandemic. SC is still working to keep a bank facility in our area.

The Government has said that the 11/40 hours nursery provision will not be mandatory this year and it will not necessarily be implemented in full in the SC area.

8. Planning

[20/00252/FUL](#)- Blane Valley Inn change of use. There have been a number of individual submissions and JG has spoken to the planning officer who is keen to keep control of the design. There are some views that we should try to keep the pub, others that we should let it go. There is no specific policy in terms of keeping local pubs open and RD asked if we would like him to raise this in the council. JG said that this would be a good idea although it will not influence this application. RD will raise the issue of policy at an SC meeting. JG said that he has tried to stir up debate on the issue of losing the pub as there are very few facilities at the Blanefield end of the village but there has been surprisingly little interest from residents. Our mission is to represent the views of the community but it is hard to see what these are in this case. PG suggested that it might have been different if the BV had been doing well before the lockdown, but as this is not the case people are not interested. He suggested that we send in a comment saying we would like it to remain a pub. This was agreed and JG will circulate a comment to the CC.

[20/00226/FUL](#) – Extension to play barn and outside seating at Edenmill. JG has circulated some comments to CC members. He suggested that we repeat what we have said on previous occasions about road safety. GL asked that we include the moving of the 40mph signs. RD said that he agrees with GL that the signs should be moved, but that the junction at Edenmill is not the most dangerous part of the road. JH and EM visited the site and do not think that the extension will make a substantial impact on the area. It was suggested that the outdoor area should only be open when the café is. JH said that we should put in a condition that a member of staff is on site overnight to oversee the bunkhouse. JG will repeat our concerns about the junction and ask for conditions on opening hours for the outside area and for a member of staff to be present overnight. He will also protest that the applicant has yet again put in a retrospective application, without even admitting as such on the form. He will circulate his comments to CC members. JH thanked JG for his work on these applications.

9. Finance

Current Account - £2394.15
Instant Saver account - £1342.90

EM said that the Current Account includes the £500 grant made to the Volunteer Group. KR said that she would remind the group that this money is available. She will circulate the information regarding the grant to CC members. EM wondered if we could use this money to pay our Zoom subscription. It was agreed that we would do this if it is allowed.

EM asked for agreement that KR should be added as a signatory to the accounts. This was agreed by the members present.

10. AOB

JH has received an email from a resident who is interested in joining the CC. JH will email Pam Campbell to ask what the procedure is at present.

JH said that she would clear the tubs and suggested leaving them empty for the summer and replanting in the autumn.

AT asked if there are plans for the BVB. JH said that there are not at present due to issues with delivery. We do not usually produce the BVB during the summer months.

PG mentioned work going on which is encroaching on the Blane and might impact the flow of the river. KR said that she is trying to set up a meeting with Maria Lucey. She will ask Maria for dates and circulate the CC members.

JG reported that the strathblanec.org.uk is functional again and he is keen to receive materials. A request has been made to include some links to the Strathblane.online website.

JH asked if we should meet in July and it was agreed that we would meet if we needed to.

11. Date of next meeting July 6th 2020, 7.30 on Zoom.

Contact us at contact@strathblanec.org.uk Also on our website www.strathblanec.org.uk. Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin