



**MINUTES**  
**Virtual meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**  
**Draft**

**Members Present:** - Grace Edmonds; Julie Hutchison; Kate Ramsden; Evelyn Macdougall; Philip Graves; Andy Thompson, John Gray, Eleanor Balfour

**Apologies:** There were no apologies

**In attendance:** Cllr Graham Lambie; Cllr Rob Davies; Cllr Alistair Berrill; M Vass, SCDT. + 5 residents

*(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 December meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were adopted, proposed by AT, seconded by PG

Matters arising: JH reported that we had asked the elected members to find out about insurance requirements for a local farmer who has offered to help with snow clearing if necessary. GL said that the farmer needs to contact SC to join the ring of volunteers. He will then be covered by insurance. GL pointed out that this group is only called out in very severe weather. We had also asked GL and RD if they could find out who should replace the broken sign at the traffic calming on the A81.

### **3. Police Report**

PC Steven Graham sent the police report for January.

Anti-social behaviour

There was a report of loud music from a residential property. Police attended and the matter was resolved.

There was a report of drunk males causing a disturbance on Campsie Road. The males were traced and issued with fixed penalty tickets for breaking Covid restrictions.

A further two males were issued with similar tickets in different circumstances.

Reports of people breaking the restrictions in private houses were also investigated but no breaches were apparent.

Road Traffic

There were three road traffic accidents on the A81. There were no injuries.

There were reports of inconsiderate parking on the A81 at the Distillery. This has been monitored and Police have been moving people who reside more than five miles from the Council boundary due to Covid restrictions. They will continue to do this.

It was agreed that future Police Reports can be uploaded to SCC website for public information.

### **4. Co-option of New member**

Eleanor Balfour had completed the necessary paperwork to become a co-opted member of the Community Council. JH proposed that she should join us and asked for a vote from the other members present. EB was accepted unanimously and joined the rest of the Community Council for the remainder of the meeting.

Another resident has expressed interest in joining us and GE will send him the relevant paperwork.

### **5. Volunteer Group – Kate Ramsden**

A resident who is interested in volunteering in the village approached JH. She mentioned that Killearn has an individual on every street who is a point of contact for anybody who needs help. KR thinks that the volunteer facebook page in Strathblane is a closed group, which makes it more difficult to volunteer. They plan to replace the page and ask for more volunteers. We will advertise this in the next edition of the BVB. AT said that Killearn Community Futures Group acts as an umbrella body to connect various volunteer activities in the village. He suggested that we might have something similar here. A resident set up her volunteer group via Whatsapp. This is a way of passing on information but JH pointed out that not everybody has access to Whatsapp. AT suggested making a few banners to put up round the village giving residents information about joining the volunteer group.

## **6. Elected Member's Report – Councillors Rob Davies, Graham Lambie and Alistair Berrill**

RD drew the attention of the meeting to the new bench on the bike path to Lennox-town, which has finally been installed. JH thanked RD for his work in getting this done. RD mentioned a near miss at the traffic chicane, which he has reported to Caroline Fraser at SC. JH, had contacted Angela McGibbon who had promised to monitor the traffic calming. She has been doing this and thinks it is working well, although there has been less traffic than usual due to Covid restrictions. She thinks have also dropped. She will continue to monitor the area and will report her findings. AT asked to see the data she has sent to JH, as his own observations do not support Angela's conclusions. JH will forward Angela's email to the members.

RD and GL are trying to elicit action on the water on the Cuilt Brae, which has frozen during the current cold weather and caused dangerous ice. RD has raised an action on this with SC. JH and a resident dug out some of the ditch to see if that would help. EM raised concern about the speed of cars on the A809 at the St Mocha café. There is an electronic speed sign, but this is not effective. The road surface at the junction of the A809 and the B821 is very poor. RD will chase this up with Roads. A resident reported that the stop sign at the junction has been obscured by vegetation. She cut this back herself as the Council did not respond to reports about the issue.

EB said that she had reported cars obstructing the road at Loch Ardinging to the Police.

GL reported that he looked at the Cuilt Brae last week and suggested a site visit with a council officer to discuss what needs to be done. He reported that Covid numbers in the SC area are not good, but are low in our area. G

A resident asked GL about speeds on Station Road. The bollard at the bridge has been knocked down and the wall also appears to be damaged and this has been reported to SC. GL will also report this incident to council officers. PG asked to what extent maintenance is being carried out at the moment due to Covid. GL said that staff numbers are being affected by the need to isolate.

AB directed the meeting to the Engage Stirling portal on the SC website, where consultation documents can be found. He drew attention to the Community Engagement consultation, which has 6 days remaining for comments. There is a discretionary business support fund for small businesses. JG asked AB if he could send a link to these and he will do so. AB also alerted the meeting to a scam email regarding business grants that is currently circulating.

RD reported that the recent meeting of Killearn CC was told that Strathendrick Care Home is closing.

JH thanked all three councillors for their contribution

## **7. Planning and Licensing**

[20/00745/FUL](#): Auchenloch Lodge Blanefield. This is a new application for a replacement house at Carbeth. The existing house is old and in poor repair. JG said he has not seen any objections from neighbours. We will neither support nor oppose.

[20/00590/FUL](#): Land South East of Aros House Strathblane. JG said that this appears to be a reincarnation of a previous application. JG recommended that we oppose the application on the grounds that Old Mugdock Road is not suitable for increased traffic. JG reported that there are large number of objections and GL believes that this application will go to the Planning Panel as a result. The members agreed to oppose this application.

Gladman appeal (PPA-390-2060-1): The Government has issued a new policy regarding housing land supply and “tilted balance” considerations. Gladman and SC are currently putting in their submissions reflecting this. Under the new policy SC says that it currently has 6 years of housing allocation, which we hope will close the door on the Gladman application. JG proposed to send a submission in support of SC and this was agreed.

[20/00850/FUL](#) and [20/00849/LBC](#): Restoration of C-listed Craigend Folly and erection of dwelling house at Tower Near South Lodge, Mugdock. This application has been withdrawn. The site is in the green belt area so there is no justification for a building. JG noticed that the pre-planning discussion with a planning officer did not mention the green belt. He wanted to draw the councillors’ attention to the fact that planning officers do not seem to be aware of the boundaries of the green belt. PG agreed that the planners appear to be misleading applicants during the pre-planning process.

[20/00719/FUL](#): Erection of detached dwelling house on the site of The Wildings, Moor Road, Strathblane. The neighbours have some concerns about this, but the CC agreed to make no comment.

[20/00564/FUL](#): Erection of 11 dwelling houses on land to the rear of 2,4, Eaglesfield and Firleary Milndavie Road Strathblane. This has been approved without the footpath. AT expressed concern about the safety of residents having to access the village by the main road. JG will write to the planners saying that we believe that a footpath is necessary for safety. A resident asked if the speed limit on the A81 adjacent to the entrance to the new site would be amended when the houses are built. JG said that the roads officers had some concerns, but these were addressed in the procedure. He does not know if the speed limit will be changed. The Roads Dept comment that actual speeds are low for vehicles exiting the hairpin bend, regardless of the speed limit.

RD asked if a proposal to build four houses on the Stockiemuir Road fell into our area. JG confirmed that this is covered by Killearn Community Council, although SCC can take a view in relevant cases.

## 8. Finance

Current Account - £2950.68 (this includes £500 Covid relief grant)  
Instant Saver account - £1342.98

## 9. Correspondence

JH said that we have received an email from Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust regarding a project application that they are making to carry out work on the Blane Water. They plan to do some restoration of the water course and to continue tackling invasive species in the area. They would like volunteers to join them and are offering training in a variety of aspects. We will publicise this in the BVB if their application is successful. GE will send a letter of support for this application.

JH also mentioned an email regarding supply of rock salt for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector. Rent-a – bike and Trossachs SAR will store this and can be contacted if we need it. The Health and Social care consultation phase two is now available on-line. We will put

links to this in the BVB and GE will put posters in the notice boards. JH suggested that we should form a sub-committee to respond to the consultation. JH said that a resident had been in contact regarding dog fouling near Dunglass View. JH will use fluorescent spray on these to draw attention to the problem.

## 10. AOCB

MV thanked local residents for donating to the new library. £64,384 has been raised from the community campaign, with a further £50,000 from other community activities, making a total of £114,784. This becomes £133,175 with Gift Aid. This is an amazing effort from the community. She reported that they hope to submit the planning application in the next few weeks. MV and AT will make sure that the elected members are well briefed regarding the input of money from SC. AT said that the library cannot go ahead without revenue agreement from SC.

JH said that she and GE had been discussing whether we should produce an edition of the BVB this month. We are concerned that we will not have enough material for our usual format and also about delivering during Covid restrictions. JH will email the delivery group to gauge their opinion. A resident said that she intends to write an article about the Wee Spuds group at the allotments. MV said that she will also send an article about the library if we decide to produce the BVB and JG said that we should draw attention to the work being done in the village to support the Drumchapel Food Bank.

A resident who organises a volunteer group to clean up the village reported that she now has about 22 volunteers who litter pick around the village. We are now part of Keep Scotland Beautiful. RD said that the issue of litter was raised at the annual meeting of the National Park board. RD suggested to them that a couple of prosecutions at the beginning of the season might make it clear to the public that dropping litter is not acceptable.

A resident asked about access to the hills to the north of the village. In the past there was access but this has disappeared over the years. JH asked MV if the Paths group could help with this. MV said that Alan Hutton would like to do something about access but all access in that direction is currently through private land. The SCDT would be interested in this and JH suggested that the resident should contact the Paths group. AT said that there should be a right of way somewhere. JG said that the CC considered this access years ago but that attitudes might have changed and it could be explored again. A resident said that the Planning Department have old maps, which show rights of way.

PG commented on the large numbers of people visiting Mugdock and asked if there had been a meeting of the Country Park Management team recently. GL said that they have not met during the pandemic and that it is difficult to police access to the park as the Covid rules are vague.

A resident said that she was unable to send a message via the CC website. JG and KR will look into this.

JH thanked everybody for attending.

## 11. Date of next meeting March 1st 2021, 7.30 on Zoom.

**Copy date for BVB 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Contact us at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk) Also on our website [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk). Telephone numbers for Community Councillors are on the notice boards, in the library and in the Blane Valley Bulletin

