

MINUTES

Meeting Monday 8th September 2025 in the Village Club.

Draft

Members Present: - Julie Hutchison; Grace Edmonds; John Gray; Kate Ramsden; Andrew Thompson; Rob Davies; Ian Boardley; Pamela Lee

In attendance: Councillor McGarvey; PC McCammon, Police Scotland; Gary Neil SC; M Vass, SCDT + 20 residents

Apologies: Eleanor Balfour; John Gray

(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 first meeting of the 2025/26 session

2. Minutes of June meeting and matters arising.

The minutes had been circulated to all CC members and were accepted. Proposed by AT, Seconded by IB.

Matters arising: JH was tasked with contacting James Aikman from SC regarding the playpark. We agreed to use the money available to improve drainage rather than buy new equipment. James has now contacted a contractor who was meeting him last Thursday to give him an estimate. JH hope to get feedback from James soon. She reported a broken picnic table which has been repaired and will be replaced when they have time.

We asked Rosemary Fraser about the extension to the cemetery. It was on the agenda for the SC meeting on August 24th. The next stage is to liaise with landowners regarding purchase of the necessary land beyond Braidgate.

3. Approval of Accounts 2024/25

The accounts have been circulated to CC members and have been sent to SC. They were approved by the CC members present; Proposed by RD, Seconded by IB

4. Police Report

PC McCammon had the most recent Police Report with him.

Theft

There was an attempted housebreaking into a garage which contained a motorbike. The attempt was unsuccessful, and enquiries are ongoing.

Fraud

Holidaymakers booked a hotel near the village but were taken to a shed. This will be taken up with Booking.com

Vandalism

A report of vandalism was recorded after a padlock was cut from a gate of Vandalism was reported after an object was thrown at a door.

Road Traffic

A driver failed to report a collision after damaging another vehicle

There has been reports of a driver overtaking dangerously on the A809

MV asked about a lorry loaded with scaffolding which parks in various locations in the village causing problems for other drivers. She asked if anything can be done. PC McCammon said that they would only attend if the vehicle is causing an obstruction.

The Police Reports in full are added to the CC website when we receive them.

5. Traffic management in the village

JH gave some background to the issues of speeding in the village, particularly on the A81. The traffic calming outside the Village Club came about by a combination of concerns mentioned by schoolchildren looking at safer routes to school, the CC and SC. Balfron has a similar thing, but it works better there due to the road layout.

The survey carried out and the drop-in sessions for the LPP highlighted that speed is a major concern for residents.

AT mentioned that the new houses at the Killearn Hospital site will make this worse.

A resident said that the current situation is preposterous. The situation has been getting worse for years. The 20mph has had no real effect. Cars still travel at speed through the village all the time.

Gary Neil from SC Roads Department said that they are currently carrying out a speed survey at three locations in the village until 11th September. He said that he is happy to come back to the meeting next month to report on the results of this. Funds from the Government cannot be used for hard engineering measures locally, so these will have to be funded by SC. He said that the calming measures outside the VC are somewhat effective. Money could be released from the budget if the survey shows that this is necessary for crossings etc.

JH mentioned that the Police carried out a speed check along with schoolchildren to see what speeds drivers were doing.

A resident asked if there was money available to pay for Police overtime if necessary, as happens in other areas. Gary said not at the moment, but it might be possible in the future.

Councillor McGarvey said that it is important that residents know that their concerns are being heard. It is important to note that there are options that we may not know about, and we are opening a discussion about what is available. The speed survey will provide data to support necessary measures.

A resident suggested that we could have wrap around speed signs on lampposts as they have in Killearn. He also mentioned a study carried out twenty years ago which recommended a roundabout at Ballewan Crescent.

A resident said that she is terrified walking her children to school. The traffic calming at the VC makes it worse. She believes that it should be removed. Gary said that if a majority of residents want it to be removed then this will happen. She asked what the threshold is for the speed survey. Gary said that it is 24mph.

A resident said that the weight of vehicles is as important as speed. Lorries and vans come through the village at speed and cannot stop quickly.

A resident reminded the meeting that the A81 is a thoroughfare. At the chicane at Netherblane traffic is very fast and often mounts the pavement to get round. She also highlighted the danger on the B821, Station Road, where cars travel very fast and the pavement is very narrow. She is concerned about the dangers to children walking to school, particularly as the traffic speeds past the end of a footpath which is part of the safe route to school.

IB said that the situation in Mugdock is also concerning, with very fast traffic, no street lights and no pavements. He has been forced on to verges on more than one occasion. He is concerned that there will be a fatality one day.

PC McCammon offered to come to the village with his speed camera if residents want this. M V requested that this does not happen until the speed survey is finished. He also suggested that Community Speed Watch might be of interest. Residents volunteer to be part of this and receive training. They then wear hi-viz jackets in the

streets and operate a speed gun. This does not result in prosecutions, but drivers caught speeding are reported to the Police and receive warning letters. The village has to pay for the equipment, but PC McCammon said that other villages are interested and the cost and equipment could be shared. JH said that we should look into this.

Turning left out of Station Road is now a major hazard. The pavement has been widened which affects visibility.

GE will email Gary Neil about the locations in the village where there are issues.

MV pointed out that the issues of speeding are not new. We have been demanding action for years, since the Atkins Report about 20 years ago highlighted these issues. She is glad that SC now seems to be listening.

6. Local Place Plan Approval

JH thanked JG, AT MV and GE for their work on this. The LPP still needs some work but a draft has gone to SC for comment. We also need to send it to all the CCs that border our area. It is on our website and the link is on Facebook and on the notice boards. We will also put the link in the next edition of the BVB.

JG sent the Plan to all members of the CC who have had a chance to read it and we are now looking for approval from the whole CC for it to go ahead.

The Community Action Plan forms part of the LPP and will guide the community for the next 10 years. The LPP is significant in the context of Stirling Council's LDP and the National Planning Framework 4.

The CC members present approved the LPP.

7. Water Supply Issues at Mugdock

Representatives from the Water Board were unable to attend the meeting so this item has been held over until October.

8. Elected member's Report - Councillor Gerry McGarvey

Councillor McGarvey does not produce a formal report. He highlighted that anything that anyone wants to send to SC can be sent directly to him. He is happy to engage with anybody at any time.

RD noted that we currently only have two councillors as Paul Henke is unwell and unable to attend meetings. This means that we do not have a local elected member. He asked for this to be noted.

9. Planning and Licensing

JG was unable to attend but had told JH that there was nothing requiring comment in Planning this month.

10. Finance

We have £4274.00 in account. PL reported that we have received an admin. grant of £430.56 from SC.

11. Correspondence

There has been no correspondence this month

12. AOCB

Stephen Bly sent notification of two surveys from SC that residents might want to take part in. One is about Education and the plan to consolidate the current 5 policies into one. The other is the call for possible sites for protection, building etc. We will put links to both of these into the BVB.

A resident contacted us about dog fouling in the Playpark. JH had told her about a campaign some years ago involving the school children making posters about picking up poo and said that we could consider doing this again. JH intends to ask SB if there is a dog warden we can contact for some ideas about dealing with this problem. A resident noted that other councils fence their playparks. A resident said that families use the playpark and have their dogs with them but that dogs should be on the lead. There are signs to that effect already in place although some people ignore them.

A resident noted that Strathendrick Pipe Band did well in the World Pipe Band Championships.

10. Date of next meeting

October 6th, 2025

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