

MINUTES

Meeting Monday 7th September 2026 in the Village Club.

Draft

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

In attendance: Brian Roberts SC; Charlie Haggerty SC; Councillor Rosemary Fraser; PC Darren Gibson; M Vass, SCDT; + 7 residents

Apologies: There were no apologies

*(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 new session. She acknowledged the recent sad death of Councillor Paul Henke and said that there will be a bi-election on October 1st. She welcomed Brian Roberts, CEO of Stirling Council and Charlie Haggerty, Interim Chief Governance Officer at SC.

There were no declarations of interest.

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: Any matters arising will be discussed later in the agenda.

3. Election of Treasurer

Pam could not be elected as Treasurer in June as she was not present at the meeting. She has agreed to continue in her role and was duly elected, proposed by JG and seconded by GE

4. Police Report

PC Darren Gibson was able to attend our meeting. We have had a request from Fillin CC regarding Police attendance at our meetings but are unclear why they want this information. RF said that there are some areas where the police never attend. JH told Darren that we appreciate them attending when they can. JG asked Darren if we should publicise the Youth Volunteer programme in Police Scotland. He said that we could because it is always open. RD asked about data regarding speeding in the area and whether there had been any reduction in accidents since the 20mph limit was introduced. Darren said that the police think that drivers speed more in the 20mph zones than they did in 30 zones. The 20mph speed limit is supposed to be self-policing, not covered by police unless there is a school on the main road. The councils are going to put speed measures in villages which are tailored to the individual village.

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H said that we are waiting for Gary Neill to tell us about proposed traffic calming here. RF said that villages have been given priority where there have been accidents etc. and there is only funding for the top 10 to have calming measures. We are number 5 so should have calming measures put in place this year. A resident asked if we could at least have the existing chicane repaired. BR said that he would get an answer from Gary Neill.

A resident asked about villages getting together to buy a speed gun. Darren said most of the villages in our area thought that it was too expensive, but that it has been successful in other areas. BR said that SC might be able to help with the cost. AT emphasised that speeding is a major concern for residents. People are afraid to walk along the main road. He said that a CC partnership with Roads and the police to address speeding seems like a good idea.

JG said that we don't want the existing chicane removed, and nothing better in its place.

5. Brian Roberts – CEO of Stirling Council

BR introduced himself and said that he is going round all the CCs to reconnect with the communities. He said that SC doesn't always get things right but he believes that the council officers are doing their best. A common theme is that officers don't always respond. He wants SC to work in partnership with communities and for it to really be a partnership. Communities need to know who the service managers are.

JH mentioned the lack of communication regarding road works. There appears to be no communication between SC and EDC. BR agreed that SC needs to be better about how they communicate with communities. From next year Gary Neill will send CCs details about future roadworks as soon as the budget is agreed.

BR noted that there is a variance in how SC deals with urban and Rural areas. He wants to try to address that over the next year.

JH said that the area forums were excellent and ours was based in Balfron. Now they are all in Stirling and are focussed on urban issues. BR agreed that the new system is not as useful. MV said that the area forums brought the development trusts and ccs together.

RF said it might be a good idea for Gary's team to tell the CC what they plan to do and ask the community if that seems the best use of resources.

MV said that we had a Participation Request with roads some years ago, but it did not work.

JH asked about the closure of the recycling centre in Balfron in January. She asked if it would be possible for us to use EDC centres on a temporary basis. BR will look into this and let us know.

JH asked about the boundary issues with public transport. The cost of public transport from the EDC border is now capped at £2, but it will still cost about £12 for us to get to Milngavie.

RD asked why we can't have Ubers in this area. CH said that nobody has applied for a licence for private hire.

AT thanked BR for his contribution and said that he thinks the council is moving in the right direction.

A resident said that he heard that the A81 at the Devil's Elbow will be closed this month and asked if this is true. BR said that he didn't know but would ask

Gary to let us know. A resident told the meeting that the workmen on the A81 said that the section on the road that has just been replaced will need to be redone. She asked if this is the case. BR will find out.

JG said that the diversion signs are confusing and not adequate.

RD said that he has been trying for years to get the 40mph limit on the A809 extended to Auchengillan. BR will ask Gary Neill to come out again to discuss this issue. MV asked if the 40mph could be extended to beyond Ballagan.

MV said that thanks to the legal team the purchase of the land for the library is moving faster than expected.

JH thanked BR for coming to the meeting.

6. Elected Members' Report - Councillor Rosemary Fraser

There will be a bi-election on October 1st. We will put a notice in the BVB to remind residents to vote.

RF said that the new little buses from Callander, Balfron, Fintry are proving successful.

JH asked about the cemetery extension. RF said that she will chase this up.

JG said that the church had applied for planning permission to build houses on the site of the Kirk Rooms. We had suggested that this could be a possible site for the cemetery. We suggested that no permission for housing on that site should be granted until a site for the cemetery has been decided. However, permission has been granted. The issue of the cemetery has been discussed for over 10 years with no resolution. JG pointed out that when permission for Braidgate was granted it was agreed that the cemetery would be in the next field forming a hard boundary with the Green Belt, but nothing has been done to confirm this.

JH thanked RF.

7. Co-option of new members

We currently have three vacancies on the CC and JH said that we should try to co-opt new members. We have one person who is interested.

The CC members agreed to co-opt, proposed by KR, seconded by JG

We will advertise the vacancies on the notice boards with a closing date of September 28th.

8. Planning and Licensing

JG had emailed planning information to all CC members.

[Discharge of the Planning Obligation on 06/00680/OUT Valhalla Old Mugdock Road Strathblane G63 9ET](#)

Valhalla was an issue some years ago, when it eventually became a large house. This was initially refused but passed on appeal as the outline permission had not limited the size of the property. It was granted with a section 75 agreement tying the house to the stud farm. The Chief Planner of Scotland has indicated that in general such obligations are no longer appropriate. This proposal asks to remove the section 75 agreement. JG suggested that we should comment saying that this is a special case as we are concerned about

what will happen to the stud farm lane and amenities if the house is sold separately. The CC members present agreed to this.

9. Finance

The inspected accounts had been circulated to CC members and were accepted, Proposed by RD, Seconded by IB

Pam reported that our banking is now on-line. This should make banking easier.

We have £4252.19 in our account. The current total of £5042.19 includes the grant of £790 awarded to the Litter Picking group.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence this month

9. AOCB

JH and GE spoke to Matt Tinley from SC about new equipment for the play-park. SCDT had applied for a grant to purchase a table tennis table for the park but were unsuccessful. Matt has found one for us and will meet with us again soon to decide where to put it.

SC is running a Local; Place Plan showcase on September 23rd. JH and MV will attend this.

Sam Neary has asked for somebody to attend a meeting on September 30th about fund raising for local halls. JH will attend this.

The research and Engagement Team are running a survey about childcare provision. The local nursery will complete this.

There have been complaints about vehicles on the path beside the Wildlife Sanctuary. We had a metal post blocking the path and groups using the path regularly had keys. The post was taken down when Scottish Water started work and has not been replaced. We will have to meet with all the regular users before we replace the post. BR said that SC could help with contacting users.

MV reported that car parking in the library is still a problem. The headteacher has told parents that they can use the disabled spaces if they need to.

10. Date of next meeting

October 5th, 2026

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

