

STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Strathblane Community Council meeting on Monday, April 2nd 2006 in "The Village Club", Strathblane. (Minutes taken by Alastair Smith)

The Meeting was chaired by Willie Oswald.

1. Members Present.

David Anderson (DA), Philip Graves (PG), Elspeth Posnett (EP), Margaret Vass(MV), Robert Flashman(RF), John Cushley(JC), and Alastair Smith(AS), Willie Oswald (WO)

Others Present

7 members of the public and Pam Campbell, Rural Development Worker from Stirling Council

2. Apologies.

Alastair Berrill, John Gray (JG) and PC Paul Barr

3. Minutes.

Item 3 minutes of March meeting under item 5a page 2 para 5 before the sentence beginning WO thought MV asked that the following be inserted " MV indicated that following the first planning panel and the visit she would have recommended to SCC that our stance on the application should change as there is no point in objecting to something that does not require planning permission and the conditions that we were requesting therefore could not be imposed."

The amended minutes were agreed. Proposed by EP, seconded by DA.

EP had passed on our disappointment that nothing could be done about the very visible extension to 19 Edenkiln Place.

4. Police Matters.

PC Barr advised that there had been a break-in in Campsie dean Road

5. Planning.

MV reported that it had been a quiet month for planning. There were 2 current applications for household extensions at 22 Campsie Dene Rd and at the Firs, Moor Rd. She had requested plans for the latter application and recommended that SCC neither supports nor opposes that application. She also reported that a number of applications had been determined recently. These were: the caretakers house at Punchbowl House which was recommended for approval but with the conditions that we had requested that the house is not sold separately from the main house and that it is used for staff, the final application for the boundary wall at Auchincraig with the requested condition that the right of way is protected and that any gate that is installed must be openable and the up fill site at land west of 43 Milngavie Rd was refused

Members of the public raised concerns about house extensions being built without proper authorisation.

Members of the public expressed concerns about a local Estate Agent erecting a “false” sign in Milndavie Road in an attempt to generate business.

A letter had been received from Stirling Community Council. It has been proposed that a new cattle market be built and Thornhill and Blairdrummond Community Council are looking for our support in their objections to the proposal.

6 Roads.

1. SRTS

RF reported on his recent site meeting with Andrew Fergus, Roads Stirling Council, and in particular that SC is taking a negative stance re our preferred route of a path direct from the Kirkhouse Inn car park to the pedestrian crossing through the wooded area. The 5 metre drop, length of run and costs are apparently the key factors for SC. They prefer a shorter route in the opposite direction exiting from the car park at the bus stop with perhaps another crossing at that point. They will produce plans which after passing Safety Audit will be sent to SCC, the school and the PTA for consultation. RF advised that he has already contacted AF stressing our preference and probability that the alternative would be rejected by the school and parents and would therefore not be used.

2. 40 MPH Buffer Zone. (South of Strathblane A81)

The police and haulage representatives have already given their approval and subject to RF’s minor corrections IT WAS AGREED by the meeting that RF should confirm SCC support. DA requested that we should not overdo the 40 MPH buffer zone approach by applying to all main entrances to the village as suggested. WO advised that from his personal experience a buffer zone was also needed at the north entrance. RF also pointed out that the south buffer zone was only initiated after vehicle survey carried out by Roads Dept. The same principle would apply to any future proposal.

3. AREA PLANNING - CLUSTER 5 - ROADS SUB GROUP

RF referred to previously circulated results of working group meeting he had attended. RF and WO felt that in some sections excessive administrative demands were made on SC. Pam Campbell SC Rural Development Worker, provided assurance that most of the information was available anyway and simply needed to be circulated. On that basis IT WAS AGREED that SCC would ratify the sub group recommended actions.

7 Correspondence

DA distributed the correspondence list.

Full details of the changes in local constituencies are in a report by the Boundaries commission held in (the public library?) Balfron.

A “Core Paths” consultation is to be carried out by November

A copy of the Scottish Executive’s questionnaire on “Age and Experience” has been received

Stirling Executive Assembly committee is looking for nominations from local community councils prior to the Community Council Cluster meetings.

There followed debate on a Community Council web-site. Following a pilot project, it is hoped that the Scottish Executive will provide the finance for local Community Council web-sites. Following discussion on the quality and content of a local web-site., it was suggested that we contact the other local CCs, who have a web-site, for details of theirs.

It was pointed out the “The Blane” has a web-site, but it was felt that the CC should have control of its own, and a member of the CC should be the web-master.

It was suggested that JG be SCC's web-master. As no objection was heard, this was passed by acclaim

It was suggested that a working party involving all members of the CC be formed to discuss this topic further. Pam Campbell will look into the CC gaining access to the library and its computers for the use of the working party. Pam also advised that Stirling may provide training for the web-illiterate.

MV opined that the group should meet timeously.

8 Environmental Issues.

Katrine Water Project (KWP)

PG has been attending some of the steering group meetings set up to produce the Milngavie Reservoir Conservation & Recreation Plan. He commented on the first draft of the Plan on behalf of SCC and has received the Final Draft (which is available for public scrutiny in the library in CD form). This was launched by EDC and Scottish Water at a press conference on the morning of Tuesday March 7th. No-one from SCC was able to attend but PG received reports from an attendee that it was little more than a PR exercise and there had been no opportunity to ask questions of SW or EDC.

PG has yet to read through the Final Draft in detail. His extensive comments on the first draft are likely to be still relevant as the key issue of car parking has yet to be resolved. Until the location and size of the new car park is decided, it is difficult to know the feasibility of any commercial or visitor attractions around the reservoirs. Our preference will still be to maintain the status quo. SCC was reassured that the possibility of the contractor's site at the Mugdock/Barrachan end of the reservoirs would not be converted into a public car park. The preferred option now seems to be at Bankell, next to the site of the new reserve storage reservoir, next to Esporta. This is not ideal as is on the wrong side of the road and might require a long walk along the road to the entrance of the reservoirs, but at least is out of the way and is already in use.

SW also seem to have made a large part of the Plan no longer relevant as very late in the day they revealed their intention to sell off redundant buildings, presumably at commercial prices rather than return them to the community.

PG informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Peter Spinney, claiming to represent the views of The Mugdock Association, seeking support from SCC in complaining about the flawed consultation process surrounding the Draft Plans. Unfortunately members of SCC had yet had a chance to read the letters which had only been circulated earlier that day. PG's view on first reading of Peter's letter was that whilst he had strong grounds to complain about lack of consultation over the Final Draft, it was probably a battle unlikely to be won. (SCC, represented by PG, had invested much time and effort in taking SW and EDC to the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee during the original planning process for the KWP over the issue of consultation). PG said he would speak to others on the steering group such as Friends of Milngavie Reservoir to seek their views and then send a response to Peter.

PG intends to make some brief comments on the Final Draft and welcomes any comments from members of SCC. Deadline is about the end of the first week in May

EP reported she had phoned Dougie Flynn to ask for Outdoor Access leaflets and reference books. He arranged to bring them to the library and at the same time have a look at the Skitter Street access issue and the gabion problem at the Blane Water. He had e-mailed with apologies as he hadn't managed to date and promised to visit Strathblane by the end of the week.

Pam will look into a means of assisting those looking after the flower tubs etc to dispose of the waste and cuttings generated in the maintenance of the flower tubs.

PG will look into “Consultation on a Review of Forestry Strategy” to check if there are matters that might concern the CC

There was interest in the tree felling being carried out on the Minister’s Brae. It was conceded that these trees needed to be trimmed, but not necessarily felled. EP will enquire of Stirling Council what their plans are.

WO asked what progress has been made in spending the grants received to improve footpaths within the village. EP and AS will enquire of Greenheart.

A member of the public raised concerns about shredded plastic being (accidentally) spread along with slurry in nearby fields. WO will investigate what can be done.

MV expressed concerns about Leylandii Branches and broken slabs beside the A81 at the east end of Edenkiln Place. WO to investigate.

There was concern about inappropriate unloading of horses, from horse boxes in KG playing fields. This led to a discussion about horse owners insisting on riding on unsuitable paths within the village. Recent changes in legislation has led some horse owners to believe that they have unlimited access to public ways. Guidance is that they do not have unlimited rights of access. They have “Rights of Responsible Access” and it has been established that they do not have rights of access to all public footpaths and areas. It was felt that some signage was needed to direct horse owners to where they could ride their horses. Pam Campbell advised the meeting that other Community Councils were having similar problems with horse owner’s un-realistic understandings of their rights of access to public footpaths.

On being asked, Edward Pickard advised that spoil piled to the SW side of the Deil’s Craig dam will be used to re-install old roads across his fields prior to repairs being carried out on the dam. He conceded that some areas were a bit unsightly, but that he reasonably expected them to “green up” and be invisible in a couple of years.

9 Finance

AS advised that there had been no changes in the SCC finances since the last meeting.

10 Community Planning, Consideration of Cluster Community Projects

Pam Campbell has sent out a list of suggestion as to what the £1,000 **might** be spent on. A list of dates for cluster meetings will be sent out.

11 AOCB

12 Confirmation of Dates of Future Meetings, Taking Into Account Cluster Meetings

The date of the next meeting will be the 2nd May, (DA to confirm that the school has been booked).

AGM will be held on the 5th June.

Future meetings: 31st July, 4th September, 2nd October, 30th October, and 4th December

These minutes have still to be accepted by the Council Members

