



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 2 May 2006 in Strathblane Primary School.
(Minutes taken by John Gray)

This Meeting was chaired by Willie Oswald.

1. Welcome and remarks by Chair

2. Members Present:

Willie Oswald (WO), David Anderson (DA), Alastair Smith (AS), Elspeth Posnett (EP), Bob Flashman (RF), Margaret Vass (MV), John Cushley (JC) and John Gray (JG).

Others Present:

PC Paul Barr; 4-5 members of the public including Eric Strachan (SCC Planning Group)

2. Apologies.

Philip Graves (PG), John Cushley (JC); Cllr Alistair Berrill; Pam Campbell (SC),

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Approved with thanks to AS for covering JG's absence.

4. Police Matters.

PC Barr apologised for missing the last meeting. His sergeants now have Community Council meetings marked on their shift planner & intend that we have either PC Barr or a deputy at every meeting.

Over the past 2 months the police had opened 29 'crime files' in total in the local area. Most of these were raised by police themselves for e.g. speeding, driving while on the phone, lack of seatbelts. There were 2 drink driving incidents in the period.

There had been a couple of drug offences detected. Users tend to be found in car parks & lay-bys in the outlying areas, not the village itself.

There were 4 burglaries in the period. There was no real pattern to these, but some good forensic evidence was gathered in one case.

There had been one spree of thefts of items from unsecured vehicles in the Kirkhouse estate, & one vehicle stolen from Mugdock Country Park after being left with keys in. These highlight the value of simple security awareness. PC Barr will repeat advice in the next Blane: don't make it easy for thieves.

On the roads, the hand-held radar was used 25 times in the Village (16 hours total). 4 tickets and 20 verbal warnings had resulted. This is thought not to reflect the true level of offending, because drivers warn each other when the gun is in use.

Concerning parking/waiting near school, yellow lines are still to be painted. PC Barr will be on hand & firstly undertake a programme of publicity/education through school letters, Blane, personal attendance etc. Enforcement will be for later; police need to be sure signs, lines etc. are all in place & correct for legal enforceability.

It was confirmed that past problems with disorderly youth gangs were less of a problem, with the key individuals either growing up or moving away. There had been one or two occasions when he had spoken to gangs in the school playground. No drugs had been found on any individuals; none was caught in actual breach of the alcohol ban at the time; they had been instructed to pick up the bottles and other litter around.

WO asked about the new Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership. It had been suggested there were not enough accidents here to justify speed cameras. PC Barr confirmed this and said further information on policy is available on the Police websites.

WO recalled that when the 20mph zone had first been put in, the road surface was not good enough for painted roundels. With the new surface at Kirkburn Road, would this be reconsidered. PB will raise this e.g. to see if it can be included in the job with the new markings mentioned above. It was suggested RF contact Stirling Roads as well.

5. **Planning.**

MV reported that this was definitely NOT another quiet month on the planning front, with many matters arising, at least some of them quite contentious, including a flurry of activity at the far end of Moor Road.

Norbreck Moor Rd - (comments required by 10 May 2006 (extended))

ES had earlier provided members with a copy of a letter he had sent to SC Planning Dept. objecting to this application. A main concern was the increased size of the proposed house. ES considers that the increase in height will impact view from moor and certain lower lying neighbours. He argues that the proposal seems contrary to Development Advice Note 'House Extensions', & previous policy decisions. Fences which have been removed mark the boundary of green belt land which ES feels is unacceptable.

DA asked is fencing really a problem, when the land both sides is in common ownership? WO recalled that the CC had discussed the same question in the case of 18/18a Campsie Dene Road. WO believed precedent suggests that attempts to absorbing countryside (or green belt) into garden grounds by such changes will fail. There is clearly a risk of confusion for walkers, which is to be regretted.

Agreed to oppose. MV suggested cherry-picking parts of ES letter to form the basis of objections by SCC. ES advised that he would be meeting with planning officers later in the week to discuss these issues, not on behalf of SCC but in his role as chair of Green Belt Committee.

Extension at the Wildings, Moor Road. (Comments by 18 May 2006): This was not clearly marked as a retrospective application, when neighbours had known nothing until works began. The double storey, double garage extension reaches right to the boundary and looms large over the neighbouring property. Agreed to oppose.

Planning Contravention Notice - earthworks on moor: Understood the planners were awaiting a reply from the proprietors.

Concern had been expressed about **removal of boundaries of the gardens of The Firs, and Norbreck** and works encroaching on Moor. Maybe related to the Notice mentioned above. Agreed CC to monitor developments on the ground and progress in planning.

Outline application: South Lodge, Auchineden (comments by 9 May 2006): This application was for a house 'for estate manager'. A local resident questioned whether there is such a person as estate manager for Auchineden. Agreed to oppose.

Edenmill Farm residential caravan: Mr Gibson had sent MV a letter and drawing showing a possible alternative location for the contentious residential caravan, currently located at the entrance to the contentious 'farm shop' site. According to Mr Gibson's letter this proposal followed consultations with neighbours, but neighbours denied any such discussion had taken place. WO concerned caravan is a step toward house permission. Since this was not yet a planning application, CC would refrain from comment, although MV would ask Mr Gibson to clarify the discussions he says he had with neighbours. The CC was reminded by ES that all parts of site are in Green Belt.

18a Campsie Dene Road (in Schedule). The owners had asked SC to rescind the Section 75 agreement which had been put in place at the time of a previous application, and restricted development on this site to one new house only. WO had spoken to AB to alert him that CC were likely to be very strongly against this. WO & DA were members at the time of the agreement both agreed it is absurd to suggest that the restriction should be relaxed after so little time. SC's planning officer (PMcK) had said that in a case such as this he had no statutory obligation to consult the CC, but we can certainly comment. Agreed strongly to oppose & copy AB.

11 Campsie Road: house in garden ground

MV had not yet requested plans for this. Although the Outline application had not been opposed, this was a large site so it was agreed MV should ask for a copy of the plans.

On some of these items urgent response may be required (i.e. before the June meeting). If need be, MV would convene a meeting of the Planning Group & email all members.

6. Roads.

(a) A81 Speed and Traffic Management

RF reported that Andrew Fergus had been away so he had not been able to get news of progress on this topic.

(b) Roads General

Nothing particular to report.

7. Correspondence

DA had circulated a list of communications received. Among these the following were discussed:

Stirling Assembly Community Waste & Litter Forum: Members were invited to visit the composting site at Lower Polmaise

A Minor correction to the 40mph Speed Limit Order (putting the 30 and 40 the right way round.)

Area Community Planning meeting 8 May 2006 agenda. This would include follow-up on the Roads safety and maintenance issues, begin work on Policing and Crime, and finally consider the various suggestions for spending the one-off windfall among the 12 CC's. WO and AS would attend, others would let WO know if they could attend.

There was a letter from Anne MacGuire MP announcing her surgery in Dunblane 6 May 2006.

WO had received a consultation document from Scottish Natural Heritage, which he would pass to EP for review.

8. Environmental Issues

EP reported on various issues. The Tree Officer was investigating the **felling of several trees at 'Minister's Brae'** (some people's name for the hill on Old Mugdock Road below Milndavie Road).

EP has **leaflets & posters on rights & obligations of horse riders**, which she will put to appropriate locations. Dougie Flynn (SC ranger) has given copies of the **Access Code**. One of these will be designated Library Copy so as to be available for consultation. Anyone can get copies. It was noted in discussion that there are now many parties against horses using unsuitable footpaths. DA referred to an important court case Tully v Highland Council. Tully wants no horses: only walkers. WO contacted Richard Barron, Senior Access Officer, Stirling Council, who has agreed to give a short presentation and answer questions at the June Meeting. It had been established that the new horse gates at Station road/Cuilt Brae had not been put up at Council expense. It was understood that the cost of the horse rider road signs on the B821 had been about £750.00 and they had been put in place about 11 months after the request.

Flaky brickwork at new school railings: AB had reportedly found out that repair of the problem would be too expensive for school own budget. AS questioned why it should come out of school or any budget except that of the incompetent contractor responsible for using unsuitable brick in the first place.

There was continuing obstruction of the **Village Club car park** by certain vans unconnected with usage of the Club. WO offered to try and deal with the matter privately.

Leddriegreen Lane: EP to check who is responsible, e.g. through info@stirling.gov.uk.

A clean-up had been enforced in the field where muck had been spread with plastic bags shredded in it. The clean up was not perfect, but it was good that action had been taken.

WO had been emailed by a contractor consulting on a possible route of a **cycle path link** between the Strathkelvin Way cycle route and the West Highland Way. The source of the proposal was Sustrans. A map was shown with a route passing along the library path and on to the old railway. Two options were indicated for the route between the roundabout and the Library: one along the main road and an alternative down the banking (with a hairpin path) and through Kirkburn Drive. Preference was expressed for the Main Road option. The material for the new sections would likely be recycled road mettle, which it was suggested would withstand use by horses.

Project management of paths: Project Management of paths: AS heard from Greehheart concerning the shortfall of £6423 in funding to date. Application will be made to Scottish Natural Heritage to make up this shortfall and there is a realistic hope that this application will be successful. As agents for SCC, Greenheart has appointed Neil Davidson of Davidson Environmental Consultants to manage the project.

9. Finance.

AS reported that there was nothing to report.

10. Community Planning, Consideration of Cluster Community Projects

Members had received paperwork in preparation for the Area Community Planning meeting mentioned above under Correspondence. Proposals in the papers were to split the funding between two or three actions, each costed roughly at least in the papers. The idea of additional heads and possibly posts for speed-activated signs featured in all the packages, with other ideas being funding to community halls, expansion of Endrick Trail feasibility study to cover the whole area, and equipment for Fire Cadets (based at Balfroun High School). Another alternative was simply to split the money equally between the 12 communities.

11. AOCB.

JG had made investigation of options and costs for a discussion-based website. There were two different needs: a public face and a forum for discussion privately among the members. JG would try and convene a separate meeting of members before the June meeting.

15. Dates of future meetings

Next meetings are 5 June, 31 July*, 4 September 2006, (*in Village Club)

The 5 June 2006 meeting will include the AGM

These draft minutes have not yet been approved by the council.
