



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, 30 October 2006 in Strathblane Primary School.
(Willie Oswald in the chair, Minutes taken by John Gray)**

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

PC Paul Barr, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council)
and 5 members of the public.

1. Welcome and remarks by Chair

This 'November' meeting had been brought forward in view of the impending elections for a new CC.

WO invited the meeting to observe a minute's silence in memory of Marine Gary Wright. Minute silence for local man Marine Gary Wright, who had been killed in Afghanistan. A condolences book had been placed in the Library, and WO had written on behalf of SCC to Marine Wright's parents. He had also written to thank the company who donated condolence book. Proposal for CC to lay a wreath – agreed.

2. Apologies.

John Cushley (JC), Cllr Alistair Berrill,

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes had been circulated and were approved, subject to minor corrections (MV, EP).

It was noted that a final version of the September minutes had not been circulated, and JG apologised for this oversight. Worse, the final version which had been produced had accidentally been overwritten, so it was not easy to reproduce at this stage. If members could remind JG of changes made during the last meeting, he would try and recreate the final minutes.

WO was concerned that draft minutes should not be circulated outside CC members. JG explained that he had done this for draft minutes where the date of the next meeting was very close; also non-members who had contributed to the meeting in question had been included in draft circulation. In future JG would endeavour to circulate draft minutes in time for CC review and amendment before wider circulation.

4. Matters arising

Dealt with under headings below.

5. Police Matters.

PC Barr regretted it had been a busy month for local police. Early on there had been 5 more housebreakings with different *modi*. A suspect for the September housebreakings implicated in other crimes in Strathclyde area & will hopefully be apprehended soon & restore 'normal' level. Isolated dwellings targeted again. 4 vandalism incidents – active inquiries on-going. 2 thefts.

In Nov-Dec there would be a joint operation with Strathclyde Police to road check for fly tipping, travelling criminals etc.

A fire at Wildings, Moor Road had been discovered by PB at 3am this very morning. House completely destroyed. Enquiries continuing – Fire investigation results awaited. Vehicle reported leaving road. Luckily no trees or neighbouring house caught.

Wildlife crime forum mentioned at last meeting had taken place and successfully identified various areas for co-operation with other agencies.

Dumping garden refuse – PB's colleagues had no record of any call on original incident. PB will try and follow up.

WO asked about fireworks 12:30-13:30. PB was on duty but could only hear them – not see where they came from. Assumes that coming from far away, not seen – only heard. Confirmed cut-off time for fireworks should be 11pm.

6. Environmental Issues

a) Paths Project

Now complete. AS has note from Greenheart detailing costing.

WO asked has anyone seen actual damage from horses? AS says can see hoof-prints, but not necessarily what you could call 'damage'.

Although GH has applied for & been promised extra grants, money has not actually been received yet. Invoice now received for works, so AS hopes that funds come in quickly. PC may have contacts who can speed things along.

b) General

EP reports from Library assistant that neighbour's garden badly flooded from manholes. River running from Scout hall toward library. WO said he knew that SW were already on the case & will check up for satisfaction.

Concerning A81 culvert mentioned at last meeting, PC provided detailed report. In general, council will advise landowners, whose duty it is to keep waterway clear of debris. Council denies putting grille in front of culvert, and recommends removal. Members with long memories are surprised at the suggestion council were not the ones who put the grille there in the first place; who else would do that? Possibly it was a predecessor authority.

PC would also pass report from JG's that parts of the old fence had been abandoned in the burn below Southview Rd.

Re trees in Kirkburn Drive, JG was to trying to organise meeting with Billy Connelly of SC Streetscape dept.. EP away for two weeks. There seemed to be some confusion at SC about the 'consultation' they had performed and representations received from different neighbours. PC confirmed all emails and phone calls are logged at SC, so it should be possible to verify receipt.

DA asked re Moor House – suddenly more trees removed along road, making buildings much more visible from A81. SCC haven't seen landscape plans – some members were confident end result will be responsibly done.

PG received letter confirming rescinding of deer accident black spot. PB says police still monitoring deer collisions, although not always 100%.

Re Katrine Water Project, PG reports EDC complaining at high level – frustrated by wait to see SW report on conservation plan. Update on by-laws for water works area: no boating, fishing, skating etc.. PG Believe this overrides normal rules, wonders whether access rights from LRA 2004 might override. EP noted that the mythical house, meant to be visible in the bed of the drained reservoir, could not be seen.

Dog waste bins: One has been requested for East end of Village on A81 - Eleanor Forrest volunteered to liaise with SC about new location. PC believes other bin moved to better location (Park Place).

c) Core Paths Consultation

WO had not received the requested feedback from members, but there is no deadline imminent, and members can comment individually anyway.

Public consultation meetings will take place in Edmonstone Hall 22 Nov 2006.

RF noted car park opposite church also used by walkers (Map 20 SB101) – Church will be asking is there a way in which council could contribute to upkeep. PC recommended they write to Community Service might be an alternative to funding. Collection box is another idea.

7. Planning.

MV reported on various applications pending:

New house at 16 Dunglass View. CC didn't oppose outline permission for plot, but noted doesn't comply with policy on frontage. Solution seems to have been found for driveway continuing to Dunglass View. WO notes 2 or 3 houses on one drive – MV believes current guidelines are up to 4 houses off one driveway. New house is pretty big, but probably in keeping with neighbouring properties. Degrades views for Craigenlay Ave, but that's not ground for objection. Agreed neither oppose nor support.

Problems with access to hills not addressed.

Temporary siting of residential caravan at Edenmill Farm. MV had questions for Mark Gibson who was present.

- Do we have correct drawings – applicant doesn't seem to have moved caravan as previously proposed. MG said he had been advised by planners that application did not stand any different chances wherever the caravan is. Prefers current location for connection to septic tank – challenging to provide services to it at any of the alternative locations.
- 'Temporary' means what? Indefinite – planners will set a time limits.
- Purpose? To house 'workers for Auchineden Estate'.
- Have there been discussions about whole site plans, as requested by Panel? (Farm shop, etc..) Planning consultant has advised to sort outstanding matters before making any application for café etc.. MG unaware of any impetus for this, and planners have not said anything back to MG, despite them having had it for months (LM believes information was missing until October). What consultation took place with neighbours? None.
- How many people would be occupying? 4. Over the whole site, Christmas tree occupies work up to 20, at other times down to 2.

WO notes previous application of 2004 was refused and there doesn't seem to be any material difference or new justification. MG seemed unaware that an actual application for caravan had been filed and refused. MG clarified security justification exists for existing business, not just for future for farm shop. MG confirmed caravan is for agricultural and forestry workers – year round need. But why does need to be there?

Dr Malkin as neighbour commented to SC – four different objections lodged. Confirmed there had been no consultation, counter to Panel recommendations. No news on farm shop or s75 application. Therefore building not approved. (MV advised 'in final stages'.)

MG says Screening of wash bay not done because of boundary dispute. Hearing for boundary dispute 13 Dec 2006.

Why is caravan not screened? MG waiting to be told what to do. JG pointed out as landscape contractor MG should be ideally placed to design and implement any kind of screening he wished.

AS: was it not suggested that caravan be removed in short term? Yes but not by panel.

PG - Why is caravan where it is if justification is for accommodation of estate workers?

MV recommends opposing for reasons: bigger plans as wished by Panel have not been forthcoming; neighbour consultations not done; greenbelt guidance not met. Agreed unanimously. WO believes Cllr O'Brien referred this to Panel.

Election period: MV asked what do we do in transition period? PC recommends writing to SC asking for automatic extension of ALL issues during transition period.

8. Roads.

(a) A81 Speed and Traffic Management

RF had response from Roads on Safer Routes to School project. Going ahead with ramp – taken note of concern about pathway which they will widen. Will put refuge island in spite of reservations. In any case, refuge islands are part of larger plan for whole length of village.

General A81 traffic management to press on. JG said Station Road junction seems to be a priority for residents, even if difficult to know what to do.

(b) General

RF chasing **road markings up around Devil's Elbow** where surface recently repaired.

Electric speed signs: PC confirmed that windfall finance in place for Vehicle Activated Signs but allocation subject to individual application from community councils. RF confirmed he had made a case for 3 additional permanent sites and one temporary site. The decision will be taken after 'robust survey' by Roads and a meeting in January of the Area 5 Cluster Group

Street Names: DA has letter from SC re Old Mugdock Road – They have a List of Roads in which the first part of it is also known as “Edenkiln Road”. Post Office and others know it only as Old Mugdock Road. Peter Spinney recalls Edenkiln Road was name for that short section 20 years ago. Agreed to tell them Old Mugdock Road is the customary name so should be adopted.

EP mentioned worsening **subsidence on Stockiemuir Rd** (Carbeth end) by ‘Doll’s House’. EP to email SC ‘info@stirling.gov.uk’ PC said inspect all roads once a month.

9. Correspondence

Specific items discussed were:

- See above re “Edenkiln Road”
- “D for Democracy – Have your say on Europe” – Speeches and reception Peter Mandelson, Sir Stephen Wall, Rt Hon Brian Wilson 3-6pm. None can attend from CC.
- Draft Review Clackmannanshire & Stirlingshire Structure Plan. Not detailed about what we want. WO, MV attended meeting previously. Letter from Mick Stewart asking CC if interested in a presentation on Structure Plan issues. PC unsure if proposal is to come to CC or wider meeting: MV to write back showing interest in presentation to CC.
- ACP Forum 5 Policing Crime Community Wardens Sub-group. PC explained peripatetic warden team passing around. ASBIT team
- Sylvia Jackson MSP surgeries.
- Village Club had written with thanks for £500 donation. Fundraising night with line dancing and circle dancing.

10. Finance.

a) Contribution to “Strathblanefield.org.uk” running costs

Agreed £50 for half year, suggestion to next CC £100 annually.

b) General

AS disappointed Scottish Landfill Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage had not sent funds yet. PC to send reminder.

Contribution from Cluster group (£680) expected but no information on timetable for this being delivered, allocated or spent. PC believed separate letter coming to CCs but we haven't seen it. EP still researching noticeboards.

11. Land Reform Act, Part 2, Community Right to Register Interest in Land.

WO had re-circulated his discussion paper from June: discussion deferred in view of time.

12. Consideration of the CC Elections

JC had indicated he would not be standing, after many years sterling service this was understandable. Members willing to continue (all others) must urgently submit their nominations, and encourage others. One interested candidate was present, which was encouraging. Nominations must be in by 4pm 3 Nov and withdrawals by 5pm 3 Nov. Notice of poll (if needed) will be given, ballots to be returned by 8 Nov. Legally we remain CC members up to midnight 2 Nov 2006, or midnight 7 Nov if ballot required. Papers will be sent direct to member.

13. AOCB.

14. Confirmation of Date of next meeting.

4 December 2006 provisionally booked, for new Community Council.

Minutes approved by the council 4 December 2006
