



## STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, 2 October 2006 in Strathblane Primary School.  
(Willie Oswald in the chair, Minutes taken by John Gray)**

#### **Members Present:**

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

#### **Others Present:**

Cllr Alistair Berrill, PC Paul Barr, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council)  
and 3 members of the public.

#### **1. Welcome and remarks by Chair**

#### **2. Apologies.**

David Anderson

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Draft minutes circulated by email shortly before the meeting were read, amended and approved with minor changes (EP, PG).

#### **4. Matters arising**

EP asked PB for an update about dumping of garden waste on ash track. PB was not aware of any police contact with the culprit, but would investigate.

Spraying incident – AB had spoken to Occupational Health. They were unsure if it was their responsibility, but can investigate if given dates, names etc. EP to forward details.

WO asked how much is deficit on paths project? AS answered a supplementary grant £9k was agreed & work was almost completed. Additional drainage works needed but this had run out of money & more needed to deal with water at foot of Danny's Brae.

#### **5. Police Matters.**

PC Barr was sorry to report there had been several incidents by travelling criminals targeting Blanefield beat in the last period. Five house breakings had been reported, These did not all have the same *modus operandi*: some daytime some at night, some at remote locations like Moor Road & Auchineden, another in the centre of the village on Glasgow Road. Different

gangs may therefore be involved. There had also been a smash & grab incident at Brown's shop, in which neighbours bravely gave chase. This public-spirited intervention was reassuring, but Police advice is always to take care. Darker evenings usually bring increasing trend in burglaries, and Police patrols are being increased where resources allow. Police are also considering deployment of camera vehicles to capture culprits en route to/from their crimes. Prevention is always a better bet, however, as forensic evidence is not great in these cases.

There had also been 5 road traffic accidents in the area, 3 with slight injuries and none with seriously. The only one in the village itself had been a stolen vehicle crashing through the end of Dumbrock Road and into the burn. The rest were out on A81 and Stockiemuir Road.

School parking restrictions are being monitored on an *ad hoc* basis. From what PB has seen it seems to be going quite well, although one person had been seen parking across the emergency access gate.

Police will be warning parents not restraining children in cars, as well as watching the new booster seat situation. It was suggested that schools could be used targeted as a channel for explaining such a subtle change in legislation.

PB's Wildlife Crime beat stretches across whole Central Police area. A wildlife crime forum was being organised for 24 October 2006, inviting local authorities, SSPCA, SNH, and landowners. There were no recent reports of deer incidents. Collision figures declined to such an extent that priority status previously discussed has been recinded.

## **6. Environmental Issues**

### **a) Paths Project**

See also Matter Arising, above. WO sees a great improvement from the recent works, and SCC applauds Greenheart & others involved.

EP showed a letter received from Netherblane resident. The gist of this was: Congratulations on the improved paths ...but as there is no longer a gate at the foot of the ash track, horses have already begun to churn the soft path. This would be a shame after such satisfactory operation. Need also to press with Scottish Water about parallel path other side of fence. Greenheart waiting for answer from Gordon Bell of SW.

EP, AS drafting letter to forward the resident's comment to Penny Stoddart & horse establishments.

PC says Thornhill fenced off football field, with unlocked gate, which has helped. EP recalls from debate at Scottish Parliament that it is recognised that not all paths are suitable for all users. Nevertheless, advice from SC was that actual restriction is not supported by the Act, only advice for users to act responsibly.

### **b) General**

Gabions in burn by play park/library path: EP had that the overflow channel has been withdrawn from proposal. Not known where information came from.

Patsy Fischbacher has discerned that Childrens' Services vans are the culprits at the Library Path. Two separate teams have now been spoken to. Agreed a physical barrier would still be welcome.

A question was raised about maintenance of the culvert at corner of Southburn Road/ N side of A81. Is this being cleared? JG recalls flood works report had mentioned this recently, but PC will follow up.

AS reported on a recent Greenheart meeting. Re Multi-court, LCDF have deferred decision until School Board can show where rest of money will come from. Re Playpark, a meeting to look at new design in school Scheme well received by all. Copies will be sent out to GH after a few adjustments. Cost will be £60k. How much is given by SC? PC says no contribution of capital but in Killearn example, about 1/3 of the total cost had been given in kind by SC (design, project management etc).

PG reported on Mugdock larger reservoir being drained. Very bottom should be reached mid-October. KWP Community Forum met last week: projects seems to be making good process. Mountain of soil at Bankell has been moved back on site & used for landscaping around various plant buildings. Good news is that no casualties throughout works.

#### **c) Core Paths Consultation**

A hard copy of the consultation document was circulating among members. EP recommended members see website & comment, as well as hard copy. [www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside). Consultation meetings happening here 22 Nov 2006. WO happy to compile response if members give comments 1 week before next meeting.

Specific items noted: Westerleddriegreen path is shown in red, but still not known who owns it. PC to check again. (Needs more hardcore.); Paths up onto Strathblane Hills welcome, but routes indicated are not realistic; JC finds Mildavie Glen path is in such a poor state it is being little used, when should have good working surface and used to be well used for walking.

## 7. Planning.

**18 Campsie Dene Road:** MV reported S75 waiver refused. 18 CDR. SC found ways to support our position, even noting that local plan shows no need for additional houses in Strathblane.

Approval for **Mugdock Nursery House**. MV had emailed complaining that CC was misquoted in the official report. Apologies were received from Peter Morgan (Mick Stewart's) deputy and Peter McKechnie. Promised retraction long time in coming. Corrected version is in Schedule, but no announcement about reason for re-issue. Mugdock residents are still up in arms, but MV believes CC should not ask AB to stand up against this application in council, when other cases require more forceful action.

WO concerned about lack of opportunity to comment about suitability of changes made to address objections. Future policy should be not to respond until accurate drawings are provided. PG found some of the answers to concerns were clear, some not. Actually confirms that sub-division would require planning consent at future time. Agreed that this shows that aspects of principle must be attended to in great detail when local plan is being formulated under new planning regime.

MV has impression that letters of objection from neighbours receive more detailed attention than CC submissions. Recommendation should be for people to write in before. PC recommends writing to Planning to raise this. WO noted the suggestion, but explained that we have written in past. WO proposes to reiterate outstanding issues such as Old Mugdock Road policy, before we resign for the elections. PC also says Balfron have used Planning Aid in past.

Application for **extension of garden ground at The Firs, Moor Road** to countryside boundary. Agreed neither to approve or oppose.

**Troughstone Cottage on Lennoxton Rd:** proposal is to add storey onto stable block and create small house. This is modern structure close to road in beauty area. It was not long since stable went up with large conservatory also. Agreed to oppose.

MV still to draft response to consultation on Planning with People.

**Valhalla** no news since last meeting.

Noted Station Road new building in process.

## 8. Roads.

### (a) A81 Speed and Traffic Management

Response needed tomorrow on modified **Safer Routes to School** proposal for ramp from Kirkhouse Inn car park to main road. This had been subject to much scrutiny & comment prior to the meeting. WO dismayed at short notice – RF sympathetic to SC. Background policy is to eliminate parking on safety grounds and encourage walking on health grounds. Police accident unit were in favour, and scheme had been published *The Blane*. School Board hadn't met. Head & school board reluctantly supported scheme, but prefer not to have new refuge island but to use zebra. Should CC feel scheme is not worth proceeding with,

unlikely to proceed. JG saw issues which are not ideal with this scheme, undermining the logic of the original proposal. RF preference is to support SC and school position. RF says original scheme not an option.

AS proposed alternative to turn scheme down on the basis that, while the original scheme was reasonable scheme, present scheme is compromise & is waste of money, and could indeed be better spent elsewhere. Problem with that is that some solution is needed, now that the parking restrictions are in place at the school gates. By a majority, it was agreed to support scheme. RF to respond noting reservations of School Board and HT, and also SCC's our own reservations about back-up of traffic behind school buses in morning due to inability of west-bound traffic to pass stopped buses due to hatching, possibly backing up even to roundabout.

## **9. Correspondence**

Specific items discussed were:

- MP surgeries;
- ASCC AGM 14 Oct 2006.
- **CC elections** – notice to be published 13, 18 October 2006.
- Correspondence complaining about roads – copies of letters to Provost.
- Invite from Colin O'Brien to attend Provost's Civic Award ceremony. Friday 27 October 2006 at Great Hall in Stirling.

## **10. Finance.**

Nothing of note.

## **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**

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.**

30 Oct 2006 (November meeting brought forward prior to elections).

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**These minutes were approved by the council at its meeting on 30 October 2006**