



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 2nd April 2007 in the Village Club

1. Members Present: - David Anderson, Margaret Vass, Fiona Murray, Elspeth Posnett, Alastair Smith, Marjorie Peddie, Robert Flashman, John Gray, Philip Graves.

In attendance: - 7 public

Apologies: - Willie Oswald, (chairman), Finlay Fountain.

(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council)

2. Welcome – Philip Graves, vice chairman, welcomed members of the public.

3. Minutes of last meeting - Agreed. Proposed - John Gray. Seconded - Marjorie Peddie.

4. Matters arising – John Gray (JG) reported that the turn out for the action day on the old railway was low with only one person, (JG) at the morning session. This may have been partly because of the change of date and the fact that it was the beginning of the school Easter holidays. It was suggested that in future cc members use their friends and contacts in local organisations to notify as many residents as possible directly. JG had told the ranger that the school could be given flyers to send home in schoolbags, with great effect.

5. Police matters

In the absence of PC Barr there was no official report. Two CC members had received complaints about the traffic lights at the road works by the zebra crossing. It had been reported that a 15 minute delay had been caused by school children crossing with the patrol officer to go the church for the end of term service on Friday 30th March. The portaloos for the workmen had also been overturned one night. It was also noted that there had been some noise nuisance at weekend nights recently.

6. Planning – (Update from Margaret Vass (MV), planning correspondent.)

a) Section 75 – MV had received a copy of the section 75 relating to Edenmill farm shop. This restricts the sale of goods to Christmas trees, meat and meat products or produce from Edenmill Farm or Edenmill Farm Holdings only and for all time.

b) Landscape conditions – SC has confirmed that the CC may request details of landscaping conditions provided this service is not abused.

c) Planning Schedule – The weekly schedule has a new section which covers matters of enforcement.

d) Proposal for an agricultural shed at Edenmill Farm – The plans do not show the specific location of the shed. MV will ask for clarification and request an extension of time for the CC to make a response. (ACTION MV)

e) Detailed proposal for a new house at 8 Station Road – The CC had no particular comments other than to express the hope that off-street parking will be provided for.

(ACTION MV)

f) Outline proposal for new house in grounds of The Firs, Moor Road. – The CC will request that the decision be deferred until SC has agreed the policy to restrict any new development requiring direct access onto Old Mugdock Road. The CC will also refer to the Road Department's current policy which is to refuse any new residential development on a rural road of this nature. (ACTION MV)

g) Structure Plan Consultation – Philip Graves (PG) explained that the third alteration of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan would extend the time-frame from 2017 to 2025, and address the changes in the new Planning Act. Based on sustainable development and new household projections, half of all new houses would have to be 'affordable'. The questions being asked relate to the location and type of new houses. The 3 options for growth are - within Stirling, in a new settlement outside Stirling, or in the rural areas. The CC had responded to earlier consultation by welcoming the preservation of the greenbelt; supporting growth where there is the necessary infrastructure; and focusing on affordable and special needs housing for the rural areas. MV had attended the drop in session in Killearn and had noted that there were landowners present who were keen to identify possible sites for new housing! She reported that it was difficult to get affordable housing without subsidy through private developers or Housing Association. MV will draft further comments and circulate to members. (ACTION MV)

h) Green Belt – PG asked Eric Strachan, chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of the Green Belt, to give a brief history of the organisation. Eric explained that it was started in the 1960s to try to protect the moor from a huge development of several 1000 houses. Following a study by Professor Abercrombie, the Council had accepted that the Campsie area should be preserved as an area of great landscape value. Since then the committee had worked to prevent other development on the moor and along the Lennoxton Road, as well 16 attempts to build houses on Old Mugdock Road before 1990, all of which were defeated, though many went to appeal. In recent years the committee had worked more indirectly by supporting the community council in preserving the greenbelt. PG acknowledged the detailed work that Eric, as Green Belt chairman, had done on behalf of the CC. Following a request from PG, Eric listed a number of the current Green Belt members.

i) SC Planning newsletter – Can be viewed on the Council website.

j) Other planning considerations – Following general discussion on the green belt, it was noted that development in other areas, such as Killearn, Balfroon and Lennoxton, impacts on the amount of traffic going through the village and this should be taken into consideration during any strategic planning for the area.

k) CC conduct - PG read out a draft position paper on openness and accountability written by the chairman, Willie Oswald. This led to comments about the request, at the previous CC meeting, for a minute to be made of the CC's visit to the moor in January. Questions were then raised about whether or not Mr Pickard would need more than one agricultural shed, and whether or not he still held to his publicly declared position not to build any houses on the moor. Mr Pickard replied that he might need more than one shed but that he had no thought of breaking the green belt and no plans to build any houses on the moor in the foreseeable future, although he could not say what might happen in 20 to 30 years time. He also agreed that the visit by the CC was not a 'site' visit as it was not related to a planning application, and he offered to show any other interested parties around his estate. Formal consideration of the policy paper was deferred to a future meeting; meanwhile the CC may have some informal discussion and ask SC for advice.

(One CC member expressed concern about the large number of emails being circulated around the CC.)

7. Roads – (Up-date from Robert Flashman (RF) roads correspondent.)

a) Roads maintenance – RF had learned that SC had appointed a Market Research company to find out the public view as to how the condition of the roads should be improved. This included writing to a number of households and offering them £15 each to attend a meeting in Balfron High School. RF has written to complain about this seemingly unnecessary and wasteful procedure which appears to disregard the recent series of consultation meetings between SC and local community councils which were called specifically to address roads issues. The response from SC does not satisfactorily address the concerns raised.

b) Street lighting – In response to CC concerns about substandard lighting on the main road, and the Council priorities for replacement, SC has written to say that 65% of the street lights in the Stirling area are below standard, and concrete posts have to be replaced first because there is a danger that they may fall down.

c) Traffic management steering group – A representative group of the public and interested parties, had met to discuss priorities for the remaining areas of the traffic management scheme. The conclusion was for i) road markings at the north entrance to the village, ii) traffic islands, as proposed, along with road markings, between the war memorial and Station Road. iii) road markings between Edmonstone Hall and the zebra crossing. CC members endorsed the conclusions of the steering group and thanked RF and the group for their efforts. RF will send response to SC. (ACTION RF)

d) Parking at Mugdock - Philip Graves (PG) is waiting for a reply about the problems at the Country Park.

e) Parking at War Memorial - PG suggested that the permission for the public to use the Catholic Church car park from Mon. to Sat. should be extended to include Sunday afternoons. A member of the public offered to follow this up.

f) Steps at Campsie View Drive – SC has agreed to install a handrail and to cut back the tree branches that are obscuring the street light, as requested by the CC.

8. Environmental issues: - (Update from Elspeth Posnett (EP), environment correspondent.

a) Flower tubs – EP and Marjorie Peddie (MP) will inspect and tidy the tubs.

(ACTION EP & MP)

b) Walkabout – the visit with SC StreetScape officer had been postponed by SC due to illness.

c) Litter - A member of the public asked about the SC's policy for clearing litter on Old Mugdock Road as it was so bad recently that local residents had cleared it themselves. It was suggested that this road, and other problem areas, might be included in the spring clean up, by using adult volunteers. EP will find out about arrangements. It was noted that there was also a litter problem at Loch Ardingning car park and members of the public were encouraged to report this directly to SC. These issues will also be raised with the StreetScape officer.

(ACTION EP)

d) Mugdock Reservoir – PG reported that it is now proposed to replace the lost parking on the A81 by making Drumclog car park, permanent, and extending it by 11 parking spaces. PG will complain about the poor state of Mugdock Road.

(ACTION PG)

9. Correspondence: -

A list of correspondence was circulated to members prior to the meeting. David Anderson (DA), secretary, referred to the following items.

a) Postwatch Scotland – Request for email contact for CC. DA was appointed.
(ACTION DA)

MV mentioned that Browns was up for sale and that the CC needed to be vigilant about the future of the post office and sorting office.

b) SC/NHS Forth Valley – request for 2 volunteers for public partnership forum.

c) Asist (To reduce number of suicides) – Offer of training courses.

d) ASSC (Association of Scottish Community Councils) – Agreed to renew membership.
(ACTION Treasurer)

10. Finance – Nothing new to report.

11. Area Community Planning: - John Gray will ask for notes of the last meeting and date of next meeting.
(ACTION JG)

12. A.O.B. – Fiona Murray, Marjorie Peddie, Margaret Vass and Elspeth Posnett gave their apologies for the next meeting.

13. Dates of next meetings:- 14th May and 11th June, also AGM, in the school.