



## STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 12th May 2008 in the School

**Members Present:** - David Anderson , Fiona Murray, Willie Oswald, Margaret Vass, Finlay Fountain, Marjorie Peddie, Alastair Smith, Robert Flashman, Philip Graves, John Gray.

**Apologies:** Elspeth Posnett, Cllr O'Brien.

**In attendance:** - PC Barr, Cllr Lambie (in place of Cllr O'Brien) 11 public.

*(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council.)*

**1. Welcome:** - Willie Oswald (WO), chairman, welcomed all present.

**2. Minutes of last meeting:**

Approved with one amendment now incorporated into the final minutes. Proposed: John Gray. Seconded: David Anderson

**3. Matters arising:**

Alastair Smith is still waiting for feedback about the Killearn village sign.

**4. Police matters:**

PC Barr reported on events of the past month and answered questions

**a. Recent industrial action at Grangemouth** – Assurances were given that Central Scotland Police had been involved with partner agencies and had engaged in well rehearsed plans to minimise any potential problems. Fortunately there had been no panic buying in the locality.

**b. Crime report** – 18 crime files had been raised which was higher than usual, probably due to the better weather, longer daylight hours, and increased visitor numbers. Many were opportunistic crimes, committed by folk from outwith the area, and which may have been avoided if better preventable measures had been taken.

Crimes included:

- Theft from house on Cuilt Brae on 8 April
- Break-in to a fishing hut on 12 April
- Theft of a trailer from Auchengillan Scout Camp between 24 – 25 April.
- Theft of parts of an excavator from Muirhouse quarry between 24 - 28 April.
- Break- in to Mugdock Plantaria between 26 and 27 April.
- Theft from the Country House Hotel on 26 April.
- Killing of a lamb in field behind Ballewan Crescent on 27 April. (Thought to have been shot by an air gun). It was noted that the carcass could not be sent for testing because the farmer had disposed of it after putting its fleece on another sheep to encourage the orphaned lamb to suckle.

- Theft of gas cylinder from area of Carbeth huts on 29 April.
- Attempted theft of vehicle, left insecure, in Dumbrock Cresc. between 2 & 7 May.
- Theft of caravan from remote area on Stockiemuir Rd between 4 & 5 May.
- Two acts of vandalism: vehicle damage; a broken window at the school that was not detected by the CCTV.
- Fish poached from Carbeth Loch.
- Two minor driving offences – both detected..

**c. Road traffic accidents** – There were five RTAs: four were vehicle damage only and one was a serious accident at Dumgoyach.

In answer to a question PC Barr said that he not noticed a reduction in vehicle speeds through the village since the road markings were installed although this may change once the traffic islands are added. WO suggested the CC ask SC to check the electronic speed records.

ACTION RF

## 5. Special business A: Report from Scottish Power

David Climie, manager for Glasgow Clyde North, outlined the action taken since February and answered questions. The main points raised were as follows:-

- 350 Blanefield properties have been removed from the overhead system and connected into the underground circuit that feeds the rest of the village. The other 100 homes are in the outlying area where physical restrictions such as burns and hillsides make it impractical to connect them to the underground system.
- The tree cutting programme was accelerated and is 80% complete. There are 13 outstanding areas of which 5 are particularly difficult. Negotiations are taking place with the landowners but these may take up to six months, though if the situation is dangerous SP has the right to cut the trees back to a safety distance of 3 metres.
- The network has been assessed and the problems identified were as expected. The two overhead spur lines should be refurbished by September; this may involve a few outages but those affected will be notified in advance.
- The number of automated controllable points has been increased from 5 to 6; 3 are in place, and the programme will be completed in the next few weeks.
- There have been a couple of faults during the past few months: a building contractor cut the contact with the overhead line; a tree felling incident cut off 200 homes.
- A new substation is planned for the northern end of the village just outside the village boundary. This is scheduled for October and will help to secure the network for the village.

David Climie will report back to the CC meeting on 3 November.

## 6. Planning: - Update from Margaret Vass (MV), planning correspondent

### a. Outline application to erect a house on land north of Corriknowe, Campsie Dene Rd.

As the site is in the greenbelt/countryside the CC agreed to ask for a copy of the justification and for extra time in order to consider the proposal at the June CC meeting. It was noted that trees were already being cleared from the site.

ACTION MV

### b. Proposal for change of use to convert workshop to two residential flats at 7 Blane Avenue – After looking at the plans it was agreed neither to support or oppose.

ACTION MV

**c. Proposal for alterations and extensions to existing building to form two dwelling houses at Brae Cottage, 15 OMRd** – After looking at the plans it was agreed neither to support or oppose. ACTION MV

**d. Proposal for overcladding of existing stables with side extension and vet porch at Valhalla, Old Mugdock Rd.** – This has been approved by SC. MV was pleased to report that SC had responded to the CC's concerns about inappropriate planting of leylandii by making it a condition of approval that landscaping should be done using native species only.

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

**a. Traffic management** - RF has written to SC to ask for a site meeting once the traffic islands have been installed and the other measures completed. WO suggested that the CC also ask that a seven day speed survey be carried out on completion of the scheme.

ACTION RF

**b. General** - RF agreed to ask SC to install access protection markers at a dropped kerb to the entrance to 55 Dumbrock Road to keep the access clear for a motorised wheel chair.

ACTION RF

**c. Maintenance**

- Cllr Lambie circulated a draft report outlining SC's maintenance programme for the next 5 years; this included unclassified roads for which there would be further consultation. The document will be available on the Council website in a few weeks time.
- It was reported that there was a split in the road surface at the hairpin bend on the Cuilt Brae that was particularly dangerous for motor cyclists - Cllr Lambie agreed to follow this up.
- Concerns were raised about the dangerous state of Old Mugdock Road and Cllr Lambie said that issues of safety could be referred to MSP Bruce Crawford. RF reported that £60,000 had been ear marked for OMRd and safety had been taken into consideration, but the work was not scheduled until 2010/11.
- PC Barr emphasised the importance of all road traffic accidents being reported to the police. He was keen to be involved in the prioritising of areas for maintenance. He referred to an area in Drymen where there had been three accidents, but after a speed activated sign and anti-skid road surfaces were installed no further incidents were reported. He thought that the A81 at Dumgoyach would benefit from chevron markings and an anti-skid surface. Philip Graves considered that accidents would normally be reported unless there was no damage.
- Cllr Lambie said that SC do take on the concerns of the police but that driver error is thought to be the main problem.

**8. Special business B: Strathblanefield Community Development Trust survey proposal.**

- Robert Flashman, the CC representative on the Trust, referred to the survey proposal that had been circulated to CC members prior to the meeting. The main aim was to find out local residents' needs and desires for the area in order to inform the Trust's business plan and to provide backing for grant applications. The information would be available to SC and village organisations or any other public voluntary organisations interested in improving the village. A steering group would be set up under the chairmanship of the Trust with a representative each from the CC and SC, and volunteers with appropriate skills would be sought from within the community. The Trust was hoping for the CC's support and for some financial backing.

- The CC unanimously agreed to support the project and to make a financial contribution once there was a clearer idea of overall costs. Proposed: Willie Oswald. Seconded: John Gray.

## **9. Environmental issues**

### **a. Nomination of trustee to Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust**

WO asked if any members were willing to become trustees; this would only involve attending four meetings per year. There were no volunteers.

**b. Flower tubs** – Fiona Murray reported that she had taken delivery of 24 free tubs from Dumgoyne Distillery and that Elspeth Posnett had arranged for SC to deliver the compost. Elspeth will finalise arrangements when she returns from holiday.

### **c. Flooding**

- Alistair Smith (AS) reported that he and others had met with Dougie Flynn (SC) to discuss the problem of flooding on the path beside the KGV football field: the drainage channels were identified and Dougie agreed to arrange for these to be rodded, and if flooding continues after that he will carry out test digging to see if the drains have been damaged.
- AS also noted that new drains had been installed at the bottom of the horses' field beside the riding area, with costs shared between SC and Fiona Aborida (Milndavie Stables).
- Cllr Lambie reported that he had been to look at the poor state of the school field and he would see if there was any help available from SC.

**d. Core paths** – A copy of the final draft plan is now in the library and the consultation is open until 14 July. The CC also has a copy of the document. Philip Graves expressed disappointment that after such a costly consultation exercise there was no legal requirement, and very little money available, for path improvements. It was agreed that the CC would lend its copy of the plan to interested members of the public and that a note would be put into the library to this effect.

**e. Helicopter noise** – A resident of Milndavie Road spoke about the ongoing noise nuisance caused by helicopter tours being run from Muirhouse quarry. John Gray said that he had tried again to get a response from the pilot but had been unsuccessful. He noted that his initial contact had been positive but had not followed through to providing answers to questions. Some residents thought that the frequency of flights was increasing and noted that they took place nearly every Sunday. John offered to meet up with residents to discuss the way forward and he stressed the need to log the times and dates of flights. ACTION JG

## **10. Correspondence.**

A list of correspondence had been circulated by David Anderson, secretary, prior to the meeting and he referred to the following items.

- Invitation from Breadalbane Area Network to a meeting in Balquidder Village Hall on 5 June at 7pm to discuss litter issues. Contact David for further details.
- Consultation on code of conduct for community councils – deferred to next meeting.
- Consultation on the Education Additional Support for Learning, Scotland Act 2004 – speak to the School Parent Council. ACTION DA

## **11 Finance** – nothing of note

## **12. Special business C: Review of boundaries of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. (LLTNP)**

**a.** With reference to papers circulated to members prior to the meeting WO outlined the proposal and background history.

- The Minister for the Environment has agreed to review the boundaries of the Caringorms and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Parks.
- Arguments for the inclusion of Strathendrick and Strathblane areas in the LLTNP were rejected during the original consultation.
- Endrick Valley Action Group, Balfron Community Futures Development Trust and Balfron Community Council are supporting an extension of the boundaries to include the Strathendrick area.
- WO thought that the CC's original case was still relevant and that the Park Authority should be the governing body for all water courses feeding into Loch Lomond.
- WO had forwarded information to George Thom, chair of the local community development trust, and asked for feedback.

**b.** Eric Strachan reminded the meeting that he had prepared the original draft response on behalf of the CC. He had also spoken to Mike Stone from Balfron CC who felt that the outcome had been predetermined by SNH. Balfron CC had asked for the reasons for rejection but had not been given a response.

**c.** Following discussion it was generally agreed that there was need for a public meeting to discuss the pros and cons of inclusion. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged at Balfron High School for all interested parties and WO agreed to speak to other groups about this.

ACTION WO

## **13. Area Community Planning**

Arrangements for attending the June meeting will be made by email. ACTION WO.

## **14. AOCB.**

**a. Planning meeting** - WO reported that all the dates suggested so far for a meeting with Keith Yates (SC Chief Executive) had proved unsuitable.

**b. Multi-member ward system** - JG noted that it had been good to see the schedule of Council meetings attended by Cllr Lambie that he had circulated at the February CC meeting, and JG asked Cllr Lambie how he felt the multi-member ward system was working. Cllr Lambie said it had proved beneficial to communities but that it was important for the three councillors to be in regular communication; it was still early days and there was a need to decide who would lead on particular issues.

**15. Dates of next two meetings:** Mondays, 7.30pm, 16<sup>th</sup> June in the school (also the AGM) and 4<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Club.

