



# STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 3 November 2008 in the School

### **Present**

Philip Graves (Chair), David Anderson (Secretary), Fiona Murray (Treasurer), Margaret Vass (Planning), John Gray, Robert Flashman, Elspeth Posnett, Marjorie Peddie

Cllr Graham Lambie, PC David McNally, 8-10 public.

### **1. Apologies**

Willie Oswald, Patsy Fischbacher (minutes secretary); Pam Campbell (Stirling Council)

### **2. Minutes of October Meeting**

The Minutes of the October meeting were approved with a minor correction in paragraph 7(i). Proposed EP, JG.

### **3. Police Matters**

The chair welcomed PC David McNally who is the new Blanefield beat officer. David said he was delighted to take this posting, and explained that he has been stationed at Balfron for 7 years so knows the area well. He has been with Central Police 19 years. After introduction and welcome, he delivered the customary update.

There had been a rash of house break-ins in the last month. Similar attacks had been made across the area during daytime in afternoon, and DM warned residents to beware of houses looking unoccupied in the dark afternoons following the change of clocks. On Old Mugdock Road a patio door had been forced without success. On Campsie Rd there was a break in & theft of garden tools from garage; minor thefts from a Carbeth hut; a break-in & theft at Towerwood (PG's house : he assured us there is 'nothing worth nicking').

No Road Traffic Accidents were reported in past month. In Mugdock Country Park cannabis had been recovered, apparently in 'personal use' quantities only.

### **4. Community Council Elections**

It wasn't known yet whether any candidates had put themselves forward. If this was confirmed, the option to co-opt some members would be considered. Several members had names in mind.

### **5. Vice Chair Appointment**

Marjorie Peddie had resigned and Vice Chair. Margaret Vass was proposed by MP, seconded by EP. MV appointed by acclamation.

## **6. Confirm Planning Group Membership**

MV (Planning Correspondent) and members JG PG WO EP – assisted by Patsy Fischbacher & Eric Strachan.

## **7. Planning**

**Valhalla House:** detailed plans received & reviewed. Planning group view was to make general comment that the outline application for a ‘manager’s house’ was opposed by SCC on the basis that a much larger property was surely intended. This has now come to pass. However, the outline application was approved so it was appropriate simply to raise the question whether the proposed development was in keeping with the grounds for approval of the outline. Suggestion to request condition that stone cladding on existing shed be completed, to confirm commitment to enterprise.

On neighbour of the development had noticed from the plans that effluent from the proposed Valhalla house, swimming pool etc. all was to pass under road through Bracken House ground and into Deil’s Craig Loch. Plans describe outflow as flowing into stream, but this is really a ditch. The effluent may be well-treated by modern system, but it seems ironic when Deil’s Craig Proprietors’ themselves are prohibited from making any discharge. Resident concerned about blond sandstone – recommended to write herself.

GL noted that a manager’s house application has been rejected in National Park area – Gartocharn – GL believes was outline application. NP is a different authority.

**The Firs plot** – Detailed plans were reviewed, which sowed a very modern and striking design. The applicant was present and explained that the brief to architects was to respect neighbours Firs & Tamarac privacy and views. There was maximal separation from The Firs and allowing sight lines from Tamarac & ‘Tamarac II’ onto Moor. Cars were separated from foot traffic – garage below. Design is to take advantage of views e.g. Ben Lomond, view across to Craigalain and NE to Dumgoyne. Construction is to be environmentally sensitive. Agreed neither oppose nor support.

**Dineiddwg** – This is an amendment of a previous application. Next door neighbours Dineiddwg House have objected on grounds of obstruction and character around listed building. Development on this plot has been approved and expected. Agreed neither support nor oppose.

**Polytunnel by Old Mugdock Road** – No copy of plans had been received yet. Still pending according to GL, but checking with officers. Was originally billed as ‘delegated’ but should be appearing on Schedule now that CC have requested copies. MV proposes we should link this application with the unresolved caravan/shed situation in the same field. Neighbours present had no objection to animals. Reporter’s decision points to need for planning application for shed – even if council can’t object in principle on agricultural application, can scrutinise to ensure siting is sensitive. JG to prepare comments in opposition, and noting relation to inaction on shed and caravan while clock is ticking.

**Proposed policy revision to housing in the Countryside** – responses required 10 Dec 2008 so prepare to discuss at Dec meeting.

**Balindalloch Moor Wind farm** PG noted re-application by nPower with new Environmental Statement.

**Local Plan status** – PG reviewed East Dunbartonshire process which is under way. GL says Local Development Plan being beefed up in environmental impact – SPP15 & PAN74 being reviewed. Key Policy Directions Report – recent step. e.g. refers to Campsies possibly as Regional Park. EDC wanting to lead.

## 8. Roads

RF reported Southview Road footpath works starting soon

**Station Road junction** – Harry Doy at SC is responsible for this safety improvement project ; consultants surveying junction to lead to recommendations. Initial thoughts are still traffic lights but other options not ruled out. They have spoken to Gillian Waugh too.

PG reported response from PC on **Duntreath bends** improvement – confirmed realignment scheme is in plans for Feb 2009 and into 2009-10. Also awaiting statistics for effect of signs.

**Bus stop damage at Kirkhouse Inn:** Pam Campbell has SC colleagues chasing, GL chasing as well. Researching who is responsible for other bus stops

**Ballewan Speed Sign** seems indiscriminate. Too long range & responds to speeds well below 30mph with “slow down”. RF could ask what is meant to be the setting. GL researching average speed cameras – dear – may need sharing.

GL also chasing surface on Cuilt Brae – not so urgent.

## 9. Environment

Village signs - EP to get ideas from stone contact.

SCC congratulates Carbon Neutral Group for Energy Awareness Fair.

Village tubs. EP still trying to with football club for Criminal Justice workers. Plan – public can remove any plants from old tubs. PG offering to contact Jennifer Elliot. Elspeth says criminal justice not keen to paint without moving. CC members to organise painting of tubs without involving Criminal Justice team. CC will try to do working party 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December.

Community Action day Tuesday 11 Nov 2008 [www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside).

School access new ramp needs handrail. GL will take this up with SC.

FM had been told of vandalism to war memorial. Seems to have been Halloween revellers egg-throwing - cleaned up now; though not known by whom.

GL meeting Scottish Power at 11am on 13<sup>th</sup> to review sub-station site. Neighbouring business had expressed concerns but SCC primarily keen to progress works to improve reliability of supply.

## **10. Community Development Trust Update**

PG met chair George Thom and learned of progress toward survey of community wishes. RF said CDT looking to get outside help & can report to us what will be cost. Possible presentation at Dec meeting. CC keen to help, including financially once proposals are known.

## **11. The Blane**

Deadline for next issue Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. – Roads update going from RF. Any other contributions welcome.

*The Blane* had raised the question whether CC's financial contribution could be increased. In the absence of PF it was not known what level of increase would be material. Agreed to increase donation to £80/issue in the meantime.

## **12. Correspondence**

Nothing urgent. Consider paying minutes secretary (CC clerk) up to £270. This can be discussed with Minutes Secretary.

Councillor Lambie distributed his monthly activity report "Forth and Endrick News"

## **13. Website**

Killlearn website features extracts from Planning Schedule selected to local matters. PG to investigate with Alan Campbell whether this could be feasible here.

JG reported trialling with Alan a 'forum' page for CC private discussions.

## **14. AOCB**

Cllr Lambie said council would like to consult on locations for new social housing including council houses and housing association. If we are interest for our area then put in bid. MV noted we had appealed for this before and will forward previous comments to GL .

## **15. Next meetings**

DA Confirmed 1 Dec 2008; 5 Jan 2009. [**NOW CHANGED to 12 Jan 2009**]

Dates will be proposed for all 2009 for approval at next meeting.