



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 6 October 2008 in the School

Members Present: -, Willie Oswald, Elspeth Posnett, Robert Flashman, Philip Graves, John Gray.

Apologies: David Anderson, Fiona Murray, Margaret Vass, Marjorie Peddie

In attendance: - Cllr Lambie (for Cllr O'Brien), Pam Campbell (SC), PC Barr, 4 public.

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

1. Welcome: - Philip Graves (PG) welcomed all present.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved. Proposed: John Gray. Seconded: Elspeth Posnett

3. Police report - Update from PC Barr.

a. Crime report – It had been a fairly quiet month since the last CC meeting. There were 8 crime files recorded including the following:-

- A patrol officer caught a Glasgow resident in possession of cannabis at Queen's View.
- There were 2 acts of vandalism: vehicle damage; attempted break-in to a premises at Auchineden in the early hours of 29/30 September.
- A car parked near the Country House Hotel was broken into during the early hours of 1 Oct.
- There was a bad incidence of fly tipping at Mugdock Bank during the beginning of September, reported by Philip Graves, that looked to be from a house clearance. Inquiries are ongoing.

b. Road traffic incidents – There were minor traffic accidents discovered by police and 2 collisions, both non injury.

c. Announcement – PC Barr reported that he would shortly be moving to a new post as full time wildlife crime officer, and so this would probably be his last meeting with the CC as the local police officer. He thanked the CC and public for their support during his 7 years in the post. PG then thanked PC Barr for his regular attendance at CC meetings and for keeping them informed.

4. CC elections for Oct/Nov

PG noted that there were 3 vacancies and that the deadline for nominations was 31 Oct. He referred to information received from Helen Geddes (SC), and following discussion it was agreed that John Gray would produce a public notice of election information and that the timetable details would be circulated to all members. Pam Campbell (SC) confirmed that nomination forms should now be in the library.

ACTION JG

5. Appointment of new treasurer – PG reported that Elspeth Posnett had offered to do the job if there was no one else willing, but that Fiona Murray had agreed to do it. This was then proposed by Willie Oswald and seconded by John Gray.

6. Report on Deer Commission meeting. –

Philip Graves reported that he, David Anderson and PC Barr had attended the meeting, the main purpose of which was to report on the numbers of deer, the results of the culling, and traffic related problems.

- PC Barr reported that: the Deer Commission had originally been looking at the problems of roe deer in the peri-urban area, as a result of which the area from Glasgow out along the A81 to the devils elbow, had been designated a priority site; the priority status had recently been withdrawn because the numbers of reported collisions had dropped, probably as a result of the continuing cull; the commission was now conducting a watching brief.
- PG commented on the format of the meeting and stressed the need for members of the public to notify the police of any accidents involving deer.
- PC Barr referred to recent incidents of people setting dogs onto deer, there was even a case of a deer being tied up and savaged by dogs, however such offences were difficult to detect because they happen under cover of darkness and in remote places.

7. Planning matters.

PG referred to a report provided by Margaret Vass (MV), planning correspondent.

a. Edenmill – The application for a play area, farmhouse and two cottages had been withdrawn by the applicant. The CC was disappointed by the way this was reported in the planning schedule as it failed to accurately represent the CC involvement with the application. MV had written to Mick Stewart, head of planning, asking for an explanation, and was still waiting for a reply, but Peter McKechnie had agreed that his summary was poor.

b. Outline proposal for a house at 10-14 Old Mugdock Rd/ Milndavie Crescent.

- Elspeth Posnett referred to concerns raised by members of the public: reduction in street lighting; loss of public parking space; problems caused by untaxed cars on Old Mugdock Rd. In response it was noted that: the police were aware that there were more cars than spaces in Milndavie Crescent but there are no legal restrictions on where anyone can park; the police were checking for untaxed cars; the developer would have to pay costs for moving a lamppost. There were also concerns that reduced parking in the area would be detrimental to the shop.
- Drawings were circulated showing plans to re-align the parking bay in Milndavie Crescent and narrow the adjacent pavement so as to allow for right angle parking in order to compensate for the loss of parking space at the proposed access. PG questioned the accuracy of the drawings, and following discussion, the CC agreed neither to support or oppose the application, but to reflect the concerns raised and also stress the importance of maintaining a pavement wide enough to accommodate buggies and wheelchairs.

ACTION PG

c. Scottish Power (SP) substation – SP had asked for a meeting with the CC to discuss an objection from a local resident, but PG and MV had declined. It was not clear what the objection was. (It was reported that SP representatives were unable to attend the CC Nov meeting as previously arranged, but could come to the Dec meeting or arrange another date before then. The CC agreed to the former.)

d. New house at Valhalla – Discussion was deferred until the application was live.

e. 18 Campsie Dene Rd. – The application for a house had been withdrawn by the applicant in response to objections and the advice of the planning authority. It was noted that there is a section 75 attached to the house.

f. 29 Glasgow Rd – The application had been approved, by SC, on condition that the house is one storey only and that the footway access is extended.

g. Meeting with head of Planning Panel.

John Gray (JG) reported on the meeting and this was followed by general discussion. The main points were as follows:

- JG, PG, MV and Cllr Lambie had met with Cllr McPherson, head of the Panel since May 2007, to address concerns that CC views and those of the elected members, were not being given much weight, the most contentious issues being in regard to Campsie Dene Rd and Ardunan lodge.
- The CC accepted that officers had answered the objections and provided plausible support for the agricultural case regarding Campsie Dene Rd.
- Cllr McPherson had explained the background for not agreeing to the three Cllr's request for a hearing for Ardunan lodge, in particular that there was a risk of legal action if the planning recommendation was changed. Apparently SC's lawyer felt the CC's submissions contained full disclosure of our objections and so a hearing would be redundant. This seemed to miss the point of a hearing but was noted.
- Cllr McPherson admitted that SC had not recognised the sensitivity of the area around Ardunan lodge, and that the CC had not been given all the relevant information before submitting their response. However it was noted that here were stringent conditions attached to the replacement house.
- Changes had now been made to the planning procedure and the Panel will meet once a month and site visits would become routine for contentious issues.
- This had been a learning experience and the CC recognised the need to talk to the planning officer during applications. The CC can also ask for a planning officer to come out to explain circumstances and answer questions.
- As CC members are volunteers, they could consider requesting an evening Panel meeting.

h. Outline application for house in Milndavie Rd – Approved by SC

i. Proposal for house at the Firs, Moor Rd - As plans were not available it was agreed to ask to defer this to the Nov meeting. ACTION PG

j. Application for agricultural polytunnel at land some 100 metres to south east of Deil's Craig, Old Mugdock Rd. Delegated – It was agreed to ask for this to be put onto the planning schedule because of the sensitivity of the site.

k. Helicopter Planning Policy – Cllr Lambie handed out guidance notes.

l. Local Plan – Pam Campbell explained that consultation with community groups currently being arranged by SC for November, relates to community action (business) plans, and not the Local (planning) Plan. The CC will liaise with the Community Development Trust re meeting arrangements.

8. Roads – Update from Robert Flashman (RF), roads correspondent.

a. Traffic islands – The new design would make installation difficult and so SC has ordered a different design.

b. Station Rd junction – Consultation has been put on hold and a new officer, Harry Doy, had been appointed to the project. RF will follow this up. ACTION RF.

c. Accidents at Dumgoyne – RF had made inquiries as to plans for this area and was waiting for feedback. During discussion it was confirmed that all road traffic collisions with injury are reported to the police and that Cllr Lambie was liaising with them. It was suggested that a 40mph speed restriction was the obvious answer, but PC Barr noted that there are various reasons for collisions and that all these needed to be collated to get the full picture. He also said that the police were not happy to operate a radar gun at Dumgoyach bend because of

the danger to officers. Cllr Lambie said that he was in a position to influence the works schedule and he would continue to keep up the pressure for measures at Dumgoyach (he had already asked for an average speed camera to be installed) and at Ballat junction.

d. Street lights – Elspeth Posnett reported that she had informed SC about mistiming on the lights around the Kirkhouse estate, and that this had been rectified promptly.

e. 30mph speed activated signs – It was agreed to ask for feedback on recorded speeds.

ACTION RF

9. Environmental issues

a. Village signs – Alastair Smith has reminded Mr MacArthur that he is waiting for a quote for replacement boards. A member of the public passed over contact details of someone from Croftamie who makes stone signs at a very reasonable price.

b. Notice boards – JG had written to the Royal Bank of Scotland and was waiting for a reply. He had also spoken informally to the shop owners. Details of boards to be discussed at next meeting. JG to bring relevant information. ACTION JG

Pam Campbell offered to inquire about planning permission.

c. Update from Elspeth Posnett (EP), environment correspondent.

- A member of the public had complained about weeds growing in the gutters and had asked SC to re-spray these. The CC agreed that it was too late in the season for spraying and that there was a need for the street sweeper to clear away the accumulated debris that was feeding the weeds. ACTION EP

- EP had not heard back from the football club and it was now too late to arrange for the Criminal Justice Service to paint the football pavilion this year.

d. Bus shelters – Concerns were raised about the dangerous state of the shelter at the Kirkhouse Inn and Pam Campbell (PC) offered to make inquiries with SC. It was also reported that the roofs of the shelters at the south entrance to the village and at Carbeth were in need of repair, and PC agreed to follow these up as well.

e. Post box - Questions were raised about the removal of the post box at the junction of the Cuilt Brae and Drymen Rds. It was noted that David Anderson had contacted the GPO some time ago but had got no response. PC offered to find out who to contact, and to copy in the local Councillors.

f. Carbon Neutral Group (CNG) – PG congratulated the group on a very good and informative debate and recommended that CC members try to attend the energy awareness day in the school on Sat 25 Oct.

g. Village officer – PG reported that consultation as to whether or not to replace this position was ongoing within SC and that meanwhile the mobile unit is undertaking the main tasks.

10. South West Area Forum meeting 22 Sept.

EP read a brief report. The main point of note was that there does not appear to be any intent to greatly enlarge the park but only to tweak anomalies. Pam Campbell said that SC will facilitate a meeting with representatives of the Park to discuss these issues.

11. The Blane – PG congratulated the editorial team on the recent issue.

12. Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated to members by David Anderson, secretary, prior to the meeting, and Willie Oswald (WO) referred to the following items:

East Dunbartonshire Council's (EDC) Local Plan – WO asked if anyone wanted this.

EDC: Milngavie Reservoirs Revised Listing – WO noted that this was information about buildings around the reservoir. PG agreed to take it.

Digital switchover meetings. – WO referred to an email received regarding a series of meetings about the digital switchover. It was suggested that this be forwarded to Alastair Smith.

13. Finance

The CC was reminded that a cheque for £60 was due to the Blane for the September issue, and that the signatories for the CC cheque book required to be updated

14. Promotion of community website. - PG suggested that information about planning should be added to the CC page. He will liaise with MV. Pam Campbell noted that Killlearn website has a link to the planning schedule.

ACTION PG & MV

15. AOCB

a. JG reported that the notice of councillors' surgeries, currently displayed on the CC notice board, was out of date and that the CC did not appear to have received an update. It was agreed that it would be simpler to advertise permanently that councillors' surgeries are generally 30 minutes before CC meetings at the same venue, and JG will modify posters to this effect.

ACTION JG.

b. WO and Pam Campbell gave their apologies for the next meeting.

16. Dates of next two meetings: Mondays, 7.30pm, 3 November & 1 December in the school