



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 6 April 2009 at 7.30pm, Strathblane Village Club

Present

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

Patsy Fischbacher (*The Blane*), 6 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chair & any apologies.

Apologies Margaret Vass (Vice Chair/Planning); Councillors Berrill, O'Brien, Lambie; Pam Campbell (Stirling Council); PC David McNally

2. Minutes of March meeting.

First and second drafts had been circulated in advance. Edited & approved (Proposed DA, Seconded EP)

3. Police Report

Andrew Faulds, Balfron Community Officer, attended in place of PC McNally and reported as follows.

In the latest period, more thefts had been detected & culprits apprehended – latest team admitted 7 crimes.

There were several thefts of cement mixers and sheet metal being stolen from construction sites and farms – public urged to report suspicious movements.

JG mentioned parking chaos on the road around Mugdock Country Park on 29 March 2009. There appeared to be a major orienteering event combining with a widely advertised CD & record fair and general good weather. Last year we had been promised that park and the police would liaise to put controls in place on busy days, but this had not been in evidence. AF did not know if this had been done on this occasion, but believed the park are usually good at liaison.

4. Planning Matters.

a) Edenmill Caravan Appeal – Reporter gives permission for 4 years.

Caravan has been moved, and reporter persuaded that accommodation is required and approved caravan for . Neighbour concerned at waste of resources in officers, CC, neighbours et al working for years, only to have decisions reversed on appeal. DA and PG reported from a recent meeting on Auchineden Estate & Forestry Commission plans that they may be reviving the alternative access that is key to relieving the bulk of issues surrounding Edenmill. It is to be hope that applicant Mark Gibson can get together with them?

Action JG to access Reporter's reasons via council or reporter website & circulate to those attending (Done).

Resident Michael O'Neill spoke to contrast CC's actions in relation to access matters at Edenmill with CC support for recent application by Country House Hotel application when he had raised access concerns with CC members in 2007. Disappointed that CC had not raised access. PF & WO recall CC raised concerns on previous occasion.

MO explained since 1985 planners have failed to enforce poorly worded conditions in previous (1985) approval. Because 1985 extension never built, condition was never triggered. CC opposed previous application on chalets. No neighbour notification didn't help.

CC members explained that Edenmill neighbours had been very vocal and attending CC meetings more or less continuously since 2006: members would assume if MO did not continue to press the issue, we would really have to assume it was resolved, while noting today that this is apparently not the case. Anyhow, council officers were putting strict rules on access as part of the approval in the recent application, and so there is hope that the new development will lead finally to closure of lodge road. CC explained again that policy is not to take part in disputes between neighbours as such.

b) 29 Glasgow Road acceptance for detailed planning.

PG had provided comments to planners concerning adequacy of sewerage for the increased accommodation, and noted that verification/upgrading of sewerage had been added as condition.

c) Mediation in the Planning System Conference – Feedback

PG attended an interesting conference. System potentially powerful, but needs to be funded and initiated by a committed and creative council. WO sceptical what can be done if parties are generally unwilling to engage in mediation.

d) Permitted Developments. (Extensions etc to be exempted?)

This has been passed by the council. PG is receiving some comments from our planner helper RC. JG had reviewed the changes and felt they were not of major concern: mostly CC policy is not to object to household extensions anyway. New rules merely extend the number of these that do not require planning permission.

e) Valhalla House: Granted on Appeal

PF notes comments from the Reporter about absence of guidance as to the size & character of houses in the Local Plan. Something to watch about the plan in future. Main lesson is that any conditions as to size and character would have to be in the Outline decision, otherwise they cannot be raised at detailed stage.

On the subject of Valhalla, DA noted that the gate onto the A81, whose use is supposedly forbidden, has been used recently. Contravention can be raised. DA to action.

JG to ask landscape architect/planning whether something can be done about the Leylandii hedges, as part of the fulfilment of landscaping conditions in the Reporter's approval decision. Action JG.

4. Roads.

a) A81 and Speed/Traffic Management

Crash barriers on A81 south limit. RF spoke to officer who says barriers would not go on 30mph zone. RF gets impression that their minds are settled on this.

Design for Station Rd imminent for consultation. Expect that traffic lights will be solution, but still concerned that traffic will speed toward junction. Maybe traffic lights will be tried and slowing measures looked at subsequently.

Traffic islands – bollards now in stock & to be installed shortly.

Ballewan Speed activated sign: RF reported that the council have the repaired parts back – fingers crossed for reinstallation soon.

b) Railings on Station Rd

Complaint from resident – DA thinks whole section needs replacing not repairing. Not safe height.

c) General

White lines at Milndavie road – RF made phone calls to follow up resident's note. Finally RF was told that the work had been completed, but in reality it has been instructed to a contractor, but not yet completed.

Zebra repainting – instructed with same contractor.

Southview Road. Road to be surfaced completely next week, pavement to follow.

PF asked, on behalf of another, whether the road to Mugdock Country Park is being improved – RF noted. Suggestion was that MCP should contribute to the cost with funds from itself and maybe from East Dunbartonshire which part-owns the park. **Action PG** to discuss with MCP.

6. Environmental issues.

a) Village signs – Article in The Blane (Willie Oswald)

Grant funding has been approved. WO has asked CC liaison staff at SC to help with land ownership issues. PG have they been out to see where present structures are? Doubtful. Too soon to get feedback from Blane article.

Michael O'Neill reporting comment from someone concerned at the loss of the word "Parish" – recommend them to fill in suggestion card or submit view via website. So far residents' views seem divided between those wishing to retain 'Parish' wording and others finding the term too religious.

b) Village tubs - latest work-party

Rained off. Trying again Saturday 18 April 2009 - 10 til 12. Some members unable to attend.

c) General.

Cutbacks mean there are no fresh supplies of **dog mess bags** for the time being. A Resident reported problems with the emptying of the bin outside the takeaway, which is used for material other than its intended dog mess. Noted that residents are free to request bins be placed in any location: resident recommended to request bin outside takeaway via website..

EP to request new litter bin.

JG asked EP to congratulate council on **tidy cutting of grass and clearing clippings**, which has not been so well done for years. EP will mention to Jenny at SC.

PG & DA attended consultation on **forestry tree planting plans at Auchineden**. No adverse concerns.

7. Report on Single Outcome Agreement meeting in Stirling (WO)

WO reported he now had a better understanding of what the SOA is. It came from 2008 concordat between local authorities (COSLA) and Scottish Government, little publicised at the time. There is a 3-year sequence of annual SOAs. First one (2008-9) was produced quickly by SC itself based on existing strategy documents. Now 2009-10 is being consulted more widely, but will have some changes. A wide range of institutions, services and bodies are included as partners. Some of the slides presented at the meeting are very much first drafts submitted by individual bodies. SOA to be submitted by May but actually able to develop.

WO sees SOA as attaching accountability of the council to the community's priorities, in a way able to be monitored. It remains to be seen which of the partners and council departments will cotton on.

8. Housing Needs/Local Development Plan

PG confirmed CC Meeting on May 11th will have special topic Housing Priorities in Strathblane

Invitation accepted by director of RSHA. Tony Cain (SC) not confirmed yet but hoped for. PG will prepare posters.

9. Correspondence.

List circulated in advance. A couple of items were highlighted.

Confirm dates of **Fintry renewable energy show**. Friday 8 May & possibly Saturday 9 May 2009

Community Pride Fund 2009-10 – good news re village signs funding, mentioned above.

Anne McGuire MP surgery 9 April 2009

10. Finance.

Nothing to report.

11. Community Development Trust – update on Village Survey project

RF had no further information. Believed CDT waiting for response to funding application.

12. AOCB

Correspondence from Police about Village Fayre 23 May 2009 which is to include a beer tent. Confirmed this is just the usual School parent fundraising – but slightly larger than before. Agreed CC has no objection.

Suggested CC might have a table at the event, consulting about Local Development Plan. Agreed.

Multi-use games area (MUGA). Linda Barclay had contacted PG renewing request for CC support. Survey went out with The Blane. PG will send support in similar terms to last one. Noted that SC Childrens Services are now renegeing on maintenance services which they previously offered. Some money has been raised, while other money is missing. Pressure to spend existing money by July 2009 means group may allocate all of this to the drainage element, as a first stage of works. Would CC support this idea? Yes. Action PG to write in support of current plans. PG authorised also to approve drainage-only option if asked.

Roundabout removed. JG to ask council why & what is planned to replace it.

Prospective minutes secretary – 2 candidates. PG to progress selection with advice from Stirling officials.

EP got in touch with Pam Campbell about poor ambulance attendance time 2 hours. Maybe weather problem. Mother of victim following up with suggested contacts. EP waiting for answer. EP to get feedback for next meeting.

13. Confirmation of next two meeting dates.

DA confirmed the next two dates and proposed dates for all 2009: 11 May, 8 June (AGM), 3 August*, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2009,

All 7.30pm in Strathblane Primary School except * in **Village Club**.

This version approved at 11 May 2009 meeting