

Strathblane Community Council Meeting

1 February 2010 at 7.30pm in Strathblane Primary School

Attendees

Margaret Vass	Chair of the Community Council
John Gray	Planning/IT
Richard Arnold	Secretary
Philip Graves	Community Council member
Willie Oswald	Community Council member
Elsbeth Posnett	Community Council member
Alan Hutton	Community Council member
Graham Lambie	Councillor, Forth and Endrick Ward 2
David McNally	Police Constable, Central Scotland Police
Pam Campbell	Rural Development Worker, Stirling Council
Moira Drennan	Minute Taker

Apologies

Joan Hoggan	Vice Chair
Fiona Murray	Treasurer

Agenda

- 1 Welcome from the Chair
- 2 Minute of the January meeting and Matters Arising
- 3 Police Report: David McNally, Police Constable, Central Scotland Police
- 4 Community Council links with other village groups
- 5 Issues from the Community
- 6 Financial Matters
 - a Budget
 - b Funding applications
- 7 Elected Member's Report: Councillor Graham Lambie
- 8 Roads
 - a A81 and Speed/Traffic Management
 - b Other roads issues
- 9 Environmental issues.
 - a Village signs
 - b Other issues
- 10 Planning
 - a Submission for Appeal for 5 houses at Balauchan Lodge, Mugdock
 - b Current applications: no new applications at present
- 11 Correspondence
- 12 AOCB
- 13 Date of next meeting: 1 March 2010

1 Welcome from the Chair

Margaret Vass welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Minute of the December 09 Meeting

The January minute was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and was proposed by Elspeth Posnett and seconded by Philip Graves.

Matters Arising

- Pam Campbell informed that the current constitution meets the funding criteria.
- Water supply to Moor Road [See newsletter below]
- Due to staff shortages, the February Bus Pass registration slot allocated to the village was cancelled. Notification of future registration dates would be printed in the Milngavie & Bearsden Herald, The Blane and the information posted in the local library. The service to Strathblane will be continued.
- Richard Arnold will write to Bob Gil regarding the School Crossing Patrol Officer and also regarding the Public Toilets.

3 Police Report

1 January	Vandalism
16 January	Two break-ins; one at Easterton House and on the same night, the theft of power tools from a gazebo in Campsie Dene Road. Both break-ins occurred overnight and were thought to be linked.
30 January	Kissing Gates were stolen from property 300 yards from the East Car Park at Mugdock. Costly pedigree cattle were then free to stray onto the road. This was considered to be reckless theft.
31 January	Cash was stolen from Carbeth Inn
31 January	A car was stolen from Khyber Cottage. The 2 thieves were caught in Clydebank and apprehended. Stolen goods were recovered from the overnight break-in.

The Police response has been to patrol the area at night and stop and check all cars. PC McNally advised setting alarms for the night and leaving on exterior lights. An illuminated exterior was considered an effective deterrent. Please alert PC McNally to any suspiciously parked vehicles.

Traffic management issues

The zig-zag lines outside the primary school will be correctly repositioned. A Traffic Regulation Order must first be printed in the newspapers, but the matter is underway and being remedied.

PC McNally warned against any Nigerian Bank scams. Disregard emails which are 'too good to be true'. Any 'fishing' should be reported to the bank.

Kirkland Avenue

The Council gritters were unable to access Kirkland Avenue, blocked by a chicane of cars.

PC McNally will speak to the car owners, and suggest better parking strategies.

4 Community Council links

Margaret Vass produced a draft introductory letter to Community groups. Philip Graves suggested adding, if the groups would mind being approached for their views on issues.

Allan Hutton suggested that the letter be on behalf of the new Community Council, rather than from the Chairperson.

Willie Oswald suggested convening a group meeting.

5 Issues from the Community

Difficulty had been experienced by some, accessing the Community Council meeting agenda from the website. John Gray will speak to Alan. Details of the problem should be sent to John Gray and if possible, the version of Internet Explorer or other software in use.

6 Financial Matters

Apologies from Fiona Murray, Treasurer.

The grant application had been sent off. Richard Arnold had submitted the application for the secretarial grant.

The compost for the village tubs may require payment.

Richard Arnold will look at the Christmas tree lights to assess if they are repairable

7 Elected Member's Report

Forth and Endrick Newsleter

Strathblane, Monday 1 February 2010

Arnprior Balfron Buchanan Buchlyvie Croftamie Drymen Fintry Gargunnoch Killearn Kippen

- **Winter Maintenance:** Across the council area residents and visitors have been generally satisfied with the winter maintenance of the Priority 1 and 2 routes. I have been contacted by some residents about the pavement clearing, grit bins and level of grit. This is an area we are working to improve. The council are also assessing the amount of frost damaged roads/and pavements. The piles of sand appear to have been well used. After the last Strathblane CC meeting on 11th January, I drove over the Crow Road and there was clear evidence that the new cross boundary policy for this route was working effectively.
- **Bin Uplift:** I contacted Kevin Robertson (Head of Performance, Resources & Waste) who confirmed that the bin collection was getting back to normal. (Note: I will need this to be confirmed by the CC). Also, a resident from Campsie Dene contacted the council praising the collection crew for negotiating an icy road.
- **Water Supply Moor Road:** I currently do not have an update on this situation
- **Policing – Road safety:** The camera safety operation on the A811 has produced a new public leaflet with a number of new locations. The intention of this operation is principally to educate and not to entrap drivers.
- **Road Maintenance Programme:** I drove over the Blane Bridge, last week and the works and new signage appears to have improved the safety of this route. On the same trip I witnessed the council road team, power washing road signs on the A81, which will be a welcome boost for road safety. I have asked for a list of all completed works and planned works from the start of the 5 year programme in 2008 and whether this list is available online. **Update:** £1,172,000 has been spent in 2008/2009 on road maintenance projects in Ward 2 with projected spend of £1,171,000 for 2009/2010.
- **Primary School and Library Road Safety:** Darren Ryan (Traffic Management Officer) has contacted me about this issue. Also, his email indicated that the missing mph numbers would be added this year.
- **High Hedges:** I am still negotiating for a site visit at Valhalla to discuss the Leylandii planting. (Note: This would visit would have to be agreed to by the owner of the site).
- **Planning - Applications:** I have been following the Edenmill applications closely. I understand that 2 of the applications will be on the agenda of the March planning panel meeting. I have not had official confirmation of the house or the parking area, but it is my understanding that they have been approved.
- **Unauthorised Billboards:** I received an email from Tony Oteniya (Tree Officer) who along with looking at the tree works has also submitted a report to the Scottish Government High Hedge consultation

- **Mud on A81:** I was contacted by a resident who has expressed concern about earth and mud being deposited on the main road. I understand that SEPA have visited the site although I would be looking for the police view on this as it may constitute a road hazard.
- **Ballindalloch Wind Farm:** The applicants have now stated in public that they do not intend to pursue an appeal. This notification appeared on a recent Stirling Observer front page.
- **Earlsburn Windfarm Extension:** To date I have received messages of support for this scheme from: Gargunnoch; Kippen; and Fintry Community Councils. Also, I have received no expressions of objection. (Note: I would like to ask other communities what their position on this is).
- **Bus Shelter:** My understanding is that the council has contacted the community with respect to maintenance.
- **Traffic Crossing Warden:** PC McNally contacted about the position of a School Crossing Patrol Officer and that there was an applicant for the job. I have passed this onto Alan Ivatt (School Crossing Patrol Supervisor) as there was concern that there were delays in the appointment.
- **Beauldy Denny Powerline:** The council's position is to request that under-grounding is part of the developer's compliance with mitigation requirements in the Stirling area. There will be 4 additional pylons, from 74 to 78. These additional pylons in the Stirling area are due to the line being re-directed to avoid population areas. The highest pylons in the area will be used to span the M9 motorway

Councillor Graham Lambie

Stirling Council

Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 lambieg@stirling.gov.uk

8 Roads

Willie Oswald sourced a map of the area, detailing the condition and state of the local roads. Mr Pickard advised that the map supplied by Stirling Council was out of date. Willie Oswald will approach the Council for a current, more accurate map.

Willie Oswald will also request a Stirling Council map detailing adopted and non-adopted pavements.

Margaret Vass suggested copies of both maps be lodged in the local library.

Milndavie Crescent

Inconsiderate parking in Milndavie Crescent would prevent access by emergency service vehicles.

Cars are regularly parked with both tail and nose of the car on the pavement, dangerously restricting visibility onto Old Mugdock Road. Pavement parking is illegal, dangerous for road users and hazardous for parents with push chairs.

Margaret Vass will raise the issue with PC McNally and suggested the residents in Mindavie Crescent do likewise. One suggestion was a name and shame photograph in The Blane.

Zebra Crossing

There had been no response by Stirling Council, to the lights obscured by trees at the zebra crossing. Pam Campbell suggested the tree might be on private ground and therefore the landowner's responsibility, which could be the reason for delay. Pam Campbell will follow up the Council's response.

9 Environmental Issues

Village Signs

It was agreed that there would be a sign welcoming people to the village, at each end of the village,

Welcome to Strathblane and Blanefield [in smaller font]

Welcome to Blanefield and Strathblane [in smaller font]

The cost of a digitally printed laminated sign was less than £400.00. John Gray offered to contact a local graphic artist to see if the work could be produced at a reasonable cost. Willie Oswald costed the construction of a pair of new frames in hardwood. This was between £700.00 and £800.00.

Four new posts were also recommended, preferably set in concrete. The triangular shape was to be retained and the signs would be guaranteed for 7 to 10 years.

The Community Council voted to proceed as Willie Oswald had outlined. Pam Campbell suggested spending the whole of the grant. There was a vote of thanks to that.

A banking on the River Blane had started to collapse, near to where willow saplings had been planted to reinforce the bank.

Pam Campbell suggested contacting the Housing Department.

Elsbeth Posnett would be responsible for a fact-finding mission, to discover the ownership of the land on which the Post Box, at the foot of Kirkhouse Road, was situated. Was the Post box on private land?

The Carbon Neutral Group planned to alter their strategy from door to door to calls from the group. Clients would then cascade recommendations to friends.

Reports should be available within the next few weeks.

10 Planning

- **PPA-390-2001 Appeal on Mugdock 5 houses:**

"[Reporter] Mr Robert Loughridge LLB LARTPI, will be carrying out an inspection of the appeal site.

The reporter does not consider it necessary to be accompanied on this visit.

After the visit the reporter may have enough information to make a decision, and will go on to do so and inform you of the outcome in due course. On the other hand, the reporter may decide that additional information is required to help reach a decision."

- **09/00789/PPP replacement house at Arduan Lodge**

Conditions on approval look identical to the conditions imposed in 09-00342, which was the Community Council's only request.

- **Edenmill**

Applicant campaigning actively for support for tearoom 08/00825/DET. Many supporting letters filed.

The Community Council supported the growth and development of local businesses, but safe public access was a vital consideration. There was a possibility of a new access road, if land were bought from a neighbour.

Willie Oswald reminded the meeting of the history of retrospective planning permission and cited the construction of the huge car park and the desecration of the landscape.

Graham Lambie pointed out that as an elected member, his position was neutral. The fairest way of resolving the matter was referral to a neutral Planning Panel

Concerning the House application 09/00584/FUL, the Community Council was concerned that a decision might then be made on false information. The submitted drawings had been inaccurate. Pam Campbell will contact the planners to ensure they have the full information.

- **Enforcements** against certain signage around Milndavie Road.

Consultations:

Domestic Microwind turbine generators:

Consultation on proposal to remove requirement for planning permission.

Full information here <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/14153239/>

Public Information Notices

This order will enable electronic publication as an alternative to the duty to advertise in printed media. The result of this will be that local authorities will be released to make informed decisions about providing the most efficient and effective service for their locality whether that be digital or printed media. Details at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/PINconsultation>

Community Council's position was that advertising should be in both media. The Community Council was in effect, opposed to government policy. John Gray was invited to draft a response.

11 Correspondence

Correspondence received:

- Notification of and Timetable for Community Council elections in March/April 2010: further discussion at next meeting.
- Letter dated 25th November 2009 from the Stirling Council Ranger, Douglas Flynn, regarding forthcoming Action Days. The deadline had passed. Richard Arnold had nevertheless e-mailed Douglas Flynn: further discussion at next meeting.
- Letter from Stirling Council regarding the Community Pride grant application. Margaret Vass believed Fiona Murray was already dealing with this. Discuss at next meeting.
- Sales letter from Fun Time Carnivals regarding fairground rides for gala days and the like: Andrew Masterton 07860 158009.

12 AOCB

None

13 Date of the Next Meeting: 1 March 2010

The meeting ended at 10.00p.m.



