

## **Strathblane Community Council Meeting**

11 January 2010 at 7.30pm in Strathblane Primary School

### **Attendees**

Margaret Vass	Chair of the Community Council
Joan Hoggan	Vice Chair
Richard Arnold	Secretary
Fiona Murray	Treasurer
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
Pam Campbell	Rural Development Worker, Stirling Council
Moira Drennan	Minute Taker

### **Apologies**

John Gray	Planning/IT
David McNally	Police Constable, Central Scotland Police

### **Agenda**

- 1 Welcome from the Chair
- 2 Minute of the December 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 Alternative sources of revenue
- 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: 09/00825/FUL replacement holiday huts
- 11 Correspondence
- 12 AOCB
- 13 Date of next meeting

## **1 Welcome from the Chair**

Margaret Vass opened the Council meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## **2 Minute of the December 09 Meeting**

The December minute was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting; proposed by Fiona Murray and seconded by Elspeth Posnett.

### **Matters Arising**

- All Personal Information Forms, issued by Pam Campbell to elected council members at the December meeting had been completed and copies had been sent to Helen Geddes. A copy of the form was issued to Philip Graves, who had been unable to attend the December meeting.
- Willie Oswald raised a point about the inclusion of a particular clause in the constitution regarding the Landfill Trust.
- Parking in Kirkland Avenue: Margaret Vass will email David McNally
- Consideration of the Constitution regarding Ward boundaries: it was decided to postpone further discussion on this matter until after the February elections.
- The Public Toilets have been closed since August, due to vandalism. A Stirling Council Officer will look into the issue.
- A working party of volunteers agreed to meet at 11.00am on Saturday morning, to take down the Christmas tree. Any others wishing to offer assistance on the day was asked contact either Margaret Vass or Fiona Murray.

## **3 Police Report**

Email to Margaret Vass from **P.C. Andrew Faulds** [465]  
Balfron Office:01786 456000  
11 January 2010

'Since 11 December 09, there has been one housebreaking in Southburn Road, Blanefield.

We would encourage residents to be aware of this seasonal trend.

There has also been a number of minor road traffic offences reported. An operation was carried out between Christmas and the New Year with regards to road safety. Time was spent in Blanefield on the given day.

Road conditions continued to be a problem, however there has been a minimal increase in road accidents in the area suggesting that drivers have heeded the advice given.'

## **4 Community Council links**

Patsy Fishbacher will supply Margaret Vass with the email addresses of relevant local groups.

## **5 Issues from the Community**

- Bins not uplifted. Grey bins were to be uplifted before Thursday, brown bins after Thursday, weather permitting. Any complaints could be directed to Kevin Robertson, Head of Waste. Graham Lambie offered assistance in mediation with Stirling Council.
- GP situation: notice in the surgery window, interviews for the post have been scheduled.
- Access to the Edmonstone Halls had been difficult due to weather conditions. The Seniors' Club was forced to alter its venue.

- Empty Grit Bins: the grit bin in Moore Road had been empty for 2 years
- There had been complaints about advertising hoardings below the Devil's Elbow, which were considered to be a distraction to drivers on a dangerous part of the road. Pam Campbell suggested contacting Stirling Roads Department. Councillor Lambie would, if necessary, arrange a site visit.

## 6 Financial Matters

The Community Council agreed to support both applications for funding:

### Community Pride Fund

Total requested: £1000.00

Comb binding machines x2	£75.00
Digital camcorder	£150.00
Digital Camera	£250.00
Dictaphone(s)	£50.00
Display board(s) including table top and full size	£325.00
PA system	£150.00
applied for 11/1/2010	

An additional application will shortly be submitted to the **Community Grants Scheme**:  
total requested: £1000.00, used to purchase:

Lightweight pull-up screen	£800.00
White board(s) - Dry white boards range from	£150.00

Rather than individual groups purchasing expensive equipment and a plethora of equipment bought with public money lying unused, it was considered best practice to share resources within the community. The above equipment would be made available for borrowing by individuals and other community groups. Philip Graves offered to make available in the Library, a Carbon Neutral Group digital energy tester. Currently the Community Council has available £4,800 which includes the village signs money, to be spent before March 2010.

- Richard Arnold agreed to follow up the application for the minute-taker grant
- Richard Arnold informed the meeting of the date of the digital changeover: 2011. There was some discussion on how the community could best be supported in the changeover. Joan Hoggan suggested an article in The Blane

## 7 Elected Members Report: Councillor Lambie

### Forth and Endrick News - Strathblane

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010

- **Winter Maintenance:** During the severe weather council services such as bin collection and pavement winter maintenance have been hampered. I have contacted waste services about the Moor Road bin collection and I am hoping this has been done. Feedback from residents is that Priority 1 and 2 roads have been cleared although pavements have been a major issue. In response to community requests, stockpiles of sand have been left for public uplift – the Strathblane stockpile should be at the primary school.

- **Water Supply Moor Road:** I have contacted a resident in Moor road about this and a temporary facility has been set up. I have also contacted Scottish Water and asked for a date for full reinstatement, and what streets/houses are involved. The problem is a break to a mains pipe and engineers are currently trying to repair this.
- **Policing – Road safety:** The camera safety operation on the A811 is still operating successfully although excessive speed is still being detected, with one driver being caught doing 76 mph.
- **Road Maintenance Programme:** This is a 5 year works programme which is addressing the poor condition of Stirling Council roads. Improvement projects for Strathblane include: A81 (Duntreath – Carriageway realignment – Completed); A81 (Surface Dressing – various locations); Southview Road (Completed); and Cuilt Brae (Completed – with some additional resurfacing and white lining required). A specific enquiry was sent to roads re. OMR (Old Mugdock Road). Improvement work to OMR is timetabled for 2010/2011. Further away, there are a number of planned works on the A811 (Arnprior and Buchlyvie) and A81 at Ballat. I have also 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.
- **Temporary Road Maintenance:** The pothole in Kirkburn Rd. was temporary patched on the 11th December 2009 by the roads standby team.
- **Primary School and Library Road Safety:** I have contacted Darren Ryan (Traffic Management Officer) about this and the missing numbers inside the white circles on Kirkburn Road.
- **High Hedges:** I have contacted the agent at Valhalla re. information about the planting of leylandii, or equivalent next to the A81. I have also contacted the council tree officer about progress with the government high hedge consultation. I submitted a statement to the consultation in November 2009. **Update:** The agent has informed me that the applicant would be prepared to remove the Leylandii on the Old Mugdock Road, side of the site.
- **Planning - Applications:** I was asked if a referral could be made for application 09/00711/FUL. I explained to both the applicant and the agent that a referral would not be possible due to the existing Green Belt Policy. Policy H10 (Housing in the Countryside) - Section 7 states that "There will continue to be a presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt". In the light of this a referral was not possible. (Note: The applicant does have the right to appeal to the planning reporter as has been done with application 09-00394-F (5 house development at Balauchan Lodge) which is due to be determined on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010.
- **Unauthorised Billboards:** Cllr Berrill has contacted Lynne Currie (Enforcement Officer) who I understand it will conduct a site visit. Tony Oteniya (Tree Officer) will also look at the tree works.
- **Ballindalloch Wind Farm:** To date I have not heard if the developer intends to appeal the decision to refuse the application. It may be that the case made by the community against this application was deemed to be so effective that the applicant may feel that an appeal would be counter productive.
- **Beaully 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.

Councillor Graham Lambie  
 Stirling Council  
 Stirling FK8 2ET 0845 277 7000 [lambieg@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:lambieg@stirling.gov.uk)

Some additional issues were raised:

the barking of dogs opposite the Scottish Wildlife Reserve at Loch Ardinning and the impact on wildlife. The intrusive lighting at Valhalla; some evenings the lights were on at 11.30pm

There was a brief discussion on the proposed network of pylons running down the spine of Scotland and its effect on the local landscape.

Philip Graves said the cost of burying the cables underground was huge. Stirling Council was believed to have little weight in the matter, as it was a national programme. Concerns on this issue were best made to an MSP.

## **8 Roads**

- Willie Oswald would extend an invitation to the Roads Department to meet with the Community Council on either the 1 February or 1 March 2010.
- Parking around Brown's. One suggestion made was that parking should be improved before further kerb stones were laid.
- The pathway to the seat in the glen was badly overgrown.
- Vehicles were speeding in Milndavie Crescent. Willie Oswald suggested a residents' petition limiting speed to 20mph. Inconsiderate parking in the Crescent was also an issue.

## **9 Environmental Issues**

- Village Signs

Willie Oswald agreed to take this forward, as a matter of some urgency. Action was required before March or the money would be lost.

- The Allotment Group

In principle, the Community Council supported the aims of the group. Richard Arnold would reply positively to the group's introductory letter. Alan Hutton suggested adding the group to the list of community links.

- The Pavilion

Elspeth Posnett advised that some necessary repair work was needed to maintain the fabric of the building. The pavilion, or hut, is situated beside the library and is used for storage.

## **10 Planning**

09/0009/REF Land adjacent to the east of Balauchan Lodge, Mugdock. The proposal was for the erection of 5 dwelling houses and associated garages. Strathblane Community Council objected on grounds of policy and character. The present status is an appeal against the refusal.

Margaret Vass, on behalf of the Community Council, thanked John Gray for his contribution to the Community Council's response.

09/00825/FUL Land at Drymen Road hut site. The proposal was for the replacement of 5 holiday huts. The Community Council made no comment. An extension until 13 January was requested. The present status was pending consideration.

## **11 Correspondence**

- Information of the digital switchover was received. Richard Arnold will pass on the information to the library for wider distribution. Joan Hoggan suggested raising awareness of the switchover through Primary School posters.
- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance- Interim Locational Policy and Guidance for Renewable Energy Developments [Wind Turbines] A copy of this document may be obtained from Philip Graves.

## **12 AOCB**

Willie Oswald spoke about the additional clause in the constitution. Pam Campbell will make enquiries before the constitution is signed

Pam Campbell alerted the meeting to a proposal to possibly curtail the Bus Pass Issue service to local communities People might now be required to travel further afield.

## **13 Date of the Next Meeting: 1 February 2010**

The meeting ended promptly at 9.30p.m.