

BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH AUGUST 2008 IN BALQUHIDDER VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Pamela Hopkins (Chair), Alan Clarke, Harriet Methven , Marguerite Kobs, Malcolm McNaughton, Catriona Oldham.

In Attendance: Cllr Fergus Wood (Stirling Council), Owen McKee (National Park).

Apologies: Angus Cameron, Duncan Cameron, Mal Dingle, Moira Simmons, Suzanne Player (Stirling Council), PC Andy Ward (Central Scotland Police).

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 2nd JULY 2008

Approved as correct: proposed by C Oldham, seconded by M Kobs.

2 POLICE MATTERS

2.1 Safety of Glen Ogle road: Transport Scotland's Chief Executive Malcolm Reed has confirmed that a road safety study has been commissioned and is due for submission by October 2008.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre

Verbal communication with Scotland TranServ indicates that there is now funding available and one owner has still to be contacted. It is understood that the original TranServ project manager has returned to the project. The CC did not pursue a media approach, but will write to Bruce Crawford MSP requesting a timetable for the project.

3.2 Strathyre village gateway signs

The new roads signs are in place at the south end of the village but not yet commissioned. In view of this progress, the CC did not consider any approach to the media.

3.3 Community Noticeboards

P Hopkins reported that there are now two reasonable quotes. S Player is looking into funding.

3.4 Public toilets

Information is now to hand on the state of the public toilets in the area. The CC will prepare a briefing paper for Cllr Jim Thomson, who is scheduled to visit the CC at its meeting on 29th October.

3.5 Graffiti on old railway bridge, Lochearnhead

The owner has been contacted and is investigating the matter.

4 ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR

4.1 Road squads: Cllr Wood reported that two Quick Reaction Squads (QRSs) have very recently been set up, one urban and one rural. This was welcomed by the CC.

4.2 Attendance of Councillors at CC meetings: the following councillors are scheduled to attend the CC meetings: Cllr Ffinch on 24th September; Cllr Owens on 29th October; Cllr Wood on 10th December (it is hoped to provide mince pies on this occasion).

4.3 Security light at Strathyre school: Cllr Wood agreed to investigate with the school the complaints from residents that this light is a nuisance to nearby residents.

4.4 Water tap at Balquhidder cemetery: it was reported that this tap has been malfunctioning for some time, and the Council 'has done nothing about it'. Cllr Wood will follow this up.

4.5 Right of way in Strathyre: Cllr Wood reported a request from the owners of the Munro Hotel that the owners would like to tidy up the Council-owned plot of land immediately to the south (leading to the recreation ground and war memorial). The CC has no objection, provided that the Munro Hotel does not claim exclusive use, and that public access will be retained.

5 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(Copies of all correspondence are available from the CC secretary if required.)

- 5.1 From Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS): FCS wishes to demolish the log cabin situated on a site suggested by Strathyre Village Association (SVA) for a 'Strathyre Centre'. FCS has asked for support from the CC for the demolition. Although the CC supports the provision of a new village hall facility in Strathyre, it does not have a view on the demolition of the FCS log cabin, and leaves that to the ongoing discussions between FCS and the SVA. The CC will respond to FCS accordingly.
- 5.2 From Stirling Council (SC): consultation on 'Pressured Area Status' by 14th August 2008. The CC strongly agrees with the proposal to designate the whole of the rural area a "pressured area", as this would help to provide affordable rented housing.
- 5.3 From NHS Forth Valley: 'Community News' newsletter
- 5.4 From Central Scotland Police: Chief Constable's Annual Report 2007/2008. It was noted that this would be Chief Constable Andrew Cameron's last report, and that he supported the retention of rural police stations. Hope was expressed that his successor would do the same.
- 5.5 From Central Scotland Fire & Rescue Service: consultation by 30th September 2008. This was circulated, but no-one could understand it, so no action was taken.

5.6 From SC Communities Team: consultation by 29th August 2008. This was replied to, highlighting the CC's satisfaction with the work of the local Rural Development Officer.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

- 6.1 O McKee gave a review of the planning conditions for the holiday chalets at Lubnaig Cottages.
- 6.2 There is a planning application for a bunkhouse and car park behind Tomrannoch, Lochearnhead. The CC notes there is no bunkhouse accommodation in the area currently, but is concerned about access to the trunk road, and so has replied neither supporting nor opposing the application.
- 6.3 An application has been recently received for an extension and other development work at Edinample Cottage, Lochearnhead. The matter has been delegated to the Lochearnhead Community Councillors.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 Future of upholstery classes in Balquhidder. This is ongoing with S Player.
- 7.2 Litter: The National Park has indicated that John McQueen is available to help resolve any litter problems within the Park area (telephone: 01389 722 026). But it was noted that the first point of call for litter problems is Stirling Council (telephone: 0845 277 7000); John McQueen can be called if the problem has not been resolved. Following the recent local surgeries, Bruce Crawford MSP has written to the NP and to the Police requesting further information on the actions, roles and responsibilities of the various bodies.
- 7.3 Proposed micro-hydro power scheme at Ardvorlich. Considerable interest was expressed in having a presentation, although this particular scheme is outwith the CC area. M Kobs will request Sandy Stewart of Ardvorlich to submit an article to The Villagers.
- 7.4 C Oldham gave an update on 'progress' on the provision of broadband services to Balquhidder Glen. It is likely that a poor service may be provided, based on a satellite and/or Wifi system. It is not needed that the CC takes any further action at this time, but the CC will keep the matter under review.
- 7.5 C Oldham reported on a 'Community Pride' fund. This will be discussed with S Player, possibly for use for community noticeboards (item 3.3)
- 7.6 O McKee reported that a security fence topped with spikes at Vorlich Road, Lochearnhead, had caused considerable injury to a child attempting to climb it. Stirling Council Health and Safety department has been contacted by the parents of the child, and SC is contacting the builder. Parents and children are warned of the current danger of this fence.

The meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.

8 NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 24th September at Lochearnhead Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

further meetings, all at 7.30pm:

29th October at Strathyre

10th December at Balquhidder