

BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2008 IN STRATHYRE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Pamela Hopkins (Chair), Angus Cameron, Alan Clarke (Secretary), Mal Dingle, Neil Gregory, Malcolm McNaughton, Catriona Oldham.

In Attendance: Suzanne Player (Stirling Council), Andy Ward (Central Scotland Police).

Apologies: Marguerite Kobs, Moira Simmons, Tom McClean, Owen McKee (National Park), Tony Ffinch (Stirling Council).

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 16th JANUARY 2007

Approved as correct: proposed by A Clarke, seconded by P Hopkins.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Andy Ward presented his report giving statistics for crimes and offences in this area. From 15th January to date there have been two crime reports, both concerning the theft of fuel. No arrests have been made so far, but the community is encouraged to look out for people interested in the possible theft of trailers. The statistical report is available from the CC Secretary.

PC Andy Ward mentioned an initiative between the Police, the National Park, and the Forestry Commission which should result in increased policing of loch shores, especially over the Easter weekend and the weekends either side of the Glasgow Fair fortnight. High-profile policing is expected at these times, which was welcomed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre

Allan Monaghan (Project Manager, TranServ) has told the CC that, following discussions with local residents, TranServ will be recommending to Transport Scotland that Phase 1 (from the Watersports Centre to the west boundary of the Clachan Hotel gateway) should go ahead. There are too many objectors for Phase 2 for TranServ to recommend implementation at this time. TranServ has plans for road widening as part of the project, and also possibly some visual traffic calming measures such as hedges. The timescale is probably "months". The CC will write to Bruce Crawford MSP recommending that the work is carried out without delay.

3.2 Strathyre village gateway signs

There has been one local objection to the Order to extend the road speed restriction area at the south of the village. This objection effectively stops the Order is activated. M Dingle will speak to the objector to explain the situation and ask for the objection to be lifted.

It was reported that there are also requests from the Strathyre community to implement a part-time flashing "20" sign at school times, and a pedestrian crossing. Unfortunately, neither of these requests have come through the Community Council, so no further details are available here.

3.3 Review of Community Action Plan

A Clarke reported that the draft new Community Action Plan is now available from the National Park. The text has been approved by the local Steering Committee, and the final version with pictures should be available for distribution by the end of March. Around this time there will also be some kind of celebratory event (to be decided by the Steering Committee).

3.4 Community Noticeboards

P Hopkins reported that an estimate is awaited from Glenochil Prison. S Player will determine whether any spare funds, already with the CC from the National Park for the Community Action Plan work, can be used to fund this project. The project involves new noticeboards for general community use in front of the Lochearnhead Post office, on the wall above the post box at Balquhiddel Station, and at Kingshouse Hotel, and renovation of the noticeboard at Auchtubh.

3.5 Ratification of Constitution

Awaiting a response from Stirling Council to the request for an official name change to the CC. A Clarke to follow up with Helen Geddes.

3.6 Road signs at the A84/A85 junction in Lochearnhead

TranServ reported verbally to the CC Secretary that they will inspect the signage at this junction during the week commencing 2nd March.

3.7 Policy on Roadside Shrines

PC Andy Ward informed the meeting that in both cases of "roadside shrines" in the area, the Police Family Liaison Officer would be contacting the families as part of the procedure to remove the items deposited by the roadsides. Each case is handled sympathetically with the families concerned, but a policy does exist to remove dead flowers, etc. within a specified timescale.

3.8 Speeding in the Villages

It was agreed to follow up the procurement of flashing signs for the Breadalbane area with the other communities and with the Police at the next Area Network Meeting, to be held on 28th February. [This was done: Inspector Kevin Findlater reported that the Police were in favour of these signs, and he took an action to investigate the procurement of a number of the signs powered by solar and wind power, possibly with removable heads so that they could be moved around the Breadalbane area as required.]

3.9 Actions of TranServ within Strathyre

PC Andy Ward stated that a number of complaints had been received by TranServ regarding damage caused by their snowploughs, and TranServ was investigating the matter.

3.10 Delegation of Community responsibilities

It was agreed that the following Community Councillors will represent the communities on the following matters: Roads, A Clarke; Health, C Oldham; "Destination Breadalbane", M Dingle. Other matters will be delegated as required. The CC Secretary will inform the various bodies of the delegation, for correspondence and invitations to meetings, etc.

3.11 Drain problems at Vorlich Road, Lochearnhead

A Cameron will contact Stirling Council via their access number, 0845 277 7000. It has been found in the past that this method of contacting the Council has proved more effective than writing letters or telephoning direct.

4. ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR

These matters are on-going, in the absence of any Stirling Councillor at this meeting. Matters include (a) the status of the proposed street clearance squads, and (b) the repair of Keip Rad, Strathyre.

5. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

- 5.1 From Stirling Council: Scheme for Establishment of CCs, and Code of Conduct. Copies of this were provided to all Community Councillors.
- 5.2 From LL&TNP: Access Forum Membership. No-one at the meeting wished to apply.
- 5.3 From ASCC: request to attend conference on 18th March. A Clarke agreed to attend.
- 5.4 From Rural Stirling Housing Assoc.: Annual Report 2006/7.

- 5.5 From Anne McGuire MP: letter re speeding.
- 5.6 From CS Police: reply to letter on speeding.
- 5.7 From Stirling Council: Flooding Biennial Report (available on website).
- 5.8 From Stirling Council: Talkback Annual Report.
- 5.9 From Stirling Council: Cllr Paul Owens is unwell, and his duties will be shared with the other Councillors.
- 5.10 From Stirling Council: re notifications of traffic regulation orders.
- 5.11 From Stirling Carers: Newsletter.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

- 6.1 Conversion of a barn, plus new development, at Runacraig, south of Strathyre. Although there were some concerns raised about the road access being too near “Doctor’s Corner”, it was agreed that there were no community issues, so the CC response would be neutral, merely noting on the reply to the Planners that the access is close to Doctor’s Corner.
- 6.2 It was noted that approval (with conditions) has been given by the Planners to renovate the barn in Glen Ogle, and also to build a timber house for the site manager at Dhanakosa, Balquhidder.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Area Network meeting

A Clarke encouraged Community Councillors to attend the Area Network meeting to be held the next day.

7.2 MP’s Surgery

It was noted that Anne McGuire MP will be holding a surgery at 12 noon on Saturday 1st March in Lochearnhead Village hall.

7.3 Co-opting Community Councillors for Strathyre

A Clarke will check with Helen Geddes if this is allowed. M Dingle will approach her contact, and N Gregory will approach his contact in Strathyre, so see if either is willing to be co-opted.

7.4 Community Council Youth Members

This matter is on-going. Three youth members will be sought, one from each ward. The CC Secretary will contact MacLaren High School.

8. NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 9th April 2008 at Balquhidder Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

(the hall will be open for the Stirling Councillors’ surgery at 7 pm)

Future meetings are as follows, all on Wednesdays at 7.30pm:

- 21 May (Lochearnhead: AGM 7.30, normal meeting 7.45)
- 2 July (Strathyre)
- 13 August (Balquhidder)
- 24 September (Lochearnhead)
- 29 October (Strathyre)
- 10 December (Balquhidder)