

BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd JULY 2008 IN STRATHYRE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Pamela Hopkins (Chair), Duncan Cameron, Alan Clarke, Mal Dingle, Marguerite Kobs, Malcolm McNaughton, Catriona Oldham, Moira Simmons.

In Attendance: Tony Ffinch (Stirling Council), Owen McKee (National Park), Suzanne Player (Stirling Council), PC Andy Ward (Central Scotland Police), plus one Strathyre resident.

Apologies: Angus Cameron, Neil Gregory, Harriet Methven.

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 21st MAY 2008

Approved as correct: proposed by C Oldham, seconded by D Cameron.

2 POLICE MATTERS

2.1 Safety of Glen Ogle road: The CC has written to the Road Safety Officer in Central Scotland Police but has not yet had a reply. A letter will be submitted to The Villagers and to Killin News requesting that details of all incidents on this road be reported to the CC Secretary with as much detail as possible. These details will be submitted on a regular basis to the Road Safety Officer in Central Scotland Police in order to impress on them how seriously the local community takes this problem. PC Ward was asked by the CC to follow up on the letter already written to the Police, and to make his own recommendations to the necessary authority. PC Ward emphasised yet again that all incidents MUST be reported. It was stated that an occasion had arisen when the Police call-centre would not take a report because there was only one witness. PC Ward undertook to investigate this, as the same incident may have been reported separately by another witness, so any report is valuable – a prosecution needs two witnesses.

2.2 Concern over the use of the C33 Kingshouse to Balquhidder road for Sustrans cycle route 7: the CC has written to Sustrans but so far no reply has been received. There are hopeful signs that landowners on the west side of the A84 between Strathyre and Kingshouse may be amenable to a cycle track. The CC will follow up with Sustrans.

2.3 Roadside shrines: PC Ward reported that the families connected with shrines on the trunk roads have been contacted and agreement reached that the shrines can be removed, and that Transerv has been notified of this. The ball is in Transerv's court and the CC will follow up with Transerv. Regarding a shrine at Inverlochlarig, the CC will follow up with the Park Ranger service.

2.4 PC Ward warned the communities about recent activities of Romanian visitors "ringing the changes" by asking for change for money notes and confusing the

person asked, thereby stealing money. These incidents take up a lot of police time because of the need for interpreters.

2.4 A long discussion took place about litter. O McKee reported that Stirling Council has agreed that if rubbish is put into black bags and left beside the road from Kingshouse to Inverlochlarig, then on Mondays they will be uplifted as part of the refuse collection service. This was confirmed by Cllr Ffinch and welcomed by the CC. The CC asked for similar agreements to be made for the Stirling Council part of the north Loch Earn road, and the road along Loch Lubnaig. Cllr Ffinch also reported that the raising of the price of fishing permits (to help offset the costs of clean-up) was being considered for the Forth/Teith river system before the next season.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre

A letter has been received from Bruce Crawford MSP enclosing a letter from the Minister for Transport stating that funding is still needed for this project. Bruce Crawford has replied to the Minister expressing concern. The CC decided that in view of the 7 years of very little progress despite repeated requests for help to the previous and current MSPs, the CC has no further option but to go to the press and TV. It was decided that unless substantive progress was made by 2nd September 2008, this plan would be put into operation. The MSP will be informed of this decision.

3.2 Strathyre village gateway signs

Transerv has confirmed verbally that there are now no objections to the plan to extend the speed limits at the south of the village, but that funding is now an issue. Again, the CC decided that in view of the lack of progress over several years despite calls on the MSPs, that the CC will go to the press and TV on 2nd September unless circumstances change. The MSP will be informed.

3.3 Nomination from the Community Council to the Board of the BLS Community Trust

M McNaughton agreed to be nominated from the CC for co-option to the Board of the Community Trust, as a Co-opted Director.

3.4 Community Noticeboards

P Hopkins reported that there have been two quotes, widely different. The Woodwork section of McLaren High School may be interested in carrying out the work. The matter is on-going.

3.5 Road signs at the A84/A85 junction in Lochearnhead

Transerv has replied indicating that they see no need to upgrade these signs. This was accepted by the CC, and the matter was closed.

3.6 Graffiti on old railway bridge, Lochearnhead

A long discussion took place over whose responsibility it is to clean up this graffiti. The CC will contact the owner.

4 ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR

4.1 Road squads: Cllr Ffinch stated that the roads squads "are being set up" but could give no schedule. The CC requested Cllr Ffinch to push for setting these up by the end of September as the latest date – that is, by the time the bad weather arrives making clearing of cundies etc a priority.

4.2 Cllr Ffinch agreed to provide an up-to-date schedule of which Councillors will attend the CC meetings.

5 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

- 5.1 From Stirling Council: nominations are requested for the Provost's Civic Awards 2008. The CC agreed to nominate Jean Watt under the "Community" section, because of her long-standing fund-raising work for charity especially the cystic fibrosis charity.
- 5.2 From Stirling Council: minutes of committee meetings Feb-Mar 2008.
- 5.3 From Stirling Councillor Jim Thomson regarding a review of public conveniences. It was agreed to invite Cllr Thomson to the next CC meeting to discuss (a) public toilets and (b) road squads. Regarding (a), research will be undertaken and presented to Cllr Thomson by the following subcommittees: M Kobs and C Oldham for Balquhidder; P Hopkins and M Simmons for Lochearnhead; and D Cameron and M Dingle for Strathyre.
- 5.4 From Stirling Council: roads maintenance 5-year works programme.
- 5.5 From Bruce Crawford MSP: drawing attention to the importance of participating in consultation for the Scottish Government Community Council Working Group. P Hopkins and A Clarke will review the relevant papers.
- 5.6 From Stirling Council: Housing Needs Survey.
- 5.7 From the War Memorials Trust: a note on funding available. It was decided that this is a matter for the BLS Community Trust.
- 5.8 From Forestry Commission Scotland: Framework Strategy Plan and National Forest Land scheme consultations. No-one is available to make any formal response.
- 5.9 From Stirling Council: a note about possible by-elections at the end of 2008 for CC vacancies in the Stirling Council area. It was agreed by this CC that an election is not necessary, but the one vacancy (in the Strathyre ward) can be filled by co-option or left vacant.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no new planning matters to discuss at this meeting. O McKee confirmed that he had investigated the conditions of the planning permission given for holiday cottage development at Lubnaig Cottages.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 C Oldham gave a verbal summary of a meeting of the Public Health Forum where plans for the new hospital in Larbert were reviewed. There are several matters of concern. A Clarke stated that Stirling Council has agreed – as part of the Area Community Planning (ACP) process – to host a meeting later this year of representatives from Breadalbane, Trossachs, and the South-West Villages ACP forums to put all matters of concern to NHS Forth Valley and the Scottish Ambulance Service.
- 7.2 C Oldham reported that the Scottish Parliament has entered an agreement with one company to provide broadband services to selected areas, including Balquhitter Glen, and that some progress should be expected this year. This was welcomed by the CC.

The meeting was closed at 10.40 pm.

8 NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th August at Balquhitter Village Hall at 7.30 pm.