

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2007 IN STRATHYRE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Alan Clarke, Vina Crighton, Mal Dingle, Pamela Hopkins (Chair), Tom McClean, Catriona Oldham.

In Attendance: Owen McKee (National Park), Cllr Tony Ffinch (Stirling Council), Marguerite Kobs (Editor, The Villagers).

Apologies: Angus Cameron, PC Andy Ward, Cllr Fergus Wood, Cllr Paul Owens.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of meeting 16th May 2007 approved: proposed C Oldham, seconded T McClean.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre

The matter has been noted by Bruce Crawford MSP, who has written to the Scottish Executive (SE). It was agreed to wait one month, then follow up with Bruce Crawford if there is no response from the SE.

2.2 Strathyre village gateway signs

The public consultation on the repositioning of the 30mph signs to the south of the village has not started, despite previous assurances from TranServ Scotland. It appears that TranServ and Central Scotland Police have changed their minds (or the rules). It was agreed that the CC will set up another meeting on the matter, under its own auspices, include Bruce Crawford MSP, and ensure that the meeting is fully minuted.

2.3 Caravans by Lochearnhead car park

There is still no action from Stirling Council. Cllr T Ffinch will follow up the matter.

2.4 Delegation of Community Council planning responsibilities

The CC Secretary will set up a meeting with the three “planning correspondents” to ensure that the procedures are understood. After this, the CC Secretary will ask the NP Planning department to send all plans directly to the three planning correspondents.

2.5 Sustrans signs to cycle route 7 in Lochearnhead

A Clarke will contact Sustrans to determine if a sign at the bottom of Craggan Road with “Route 7 - no car parking available” is acceptable. Following this, P Hopkins will discuss the matter with the residents of the road.

2.6 Broadband in Balquhidder Glen

C Oldham reported on progress. The matter is awaiting a decision of the SE on whether to apply funding to provide one central solution (probably wireless) for all Scottish communities unable to receive broadband, or whether to fund each community to provide its own solution. (The Balquhidder delegates to the SE meeting prefer the latter.)

2.7 Review of Local Action Plan

A Clarke reported that about 90 community surveys (out of 370 posted) have been returned. The analysis of these surveys is being done by NP staff.

2.8 Dog litter bins in Craggan Road, Lochearnhead

A site meeting with Stirling Council is scheduled for 28th June. [This has taken place, and dog litter bins are now installed at Craggan Road and at the Lochearnhead car park - hooray!]

2.9 Repair of Community Council notice boards

A Clarke to follow up with Dougie Welch.

2.10 Strathyre paths

(a) T Ffinch reported that there is a suggestion to reroute Cycle Route 7 on the old railway line from the north of Strathyre to Kingshouse. Bridget Jones (NP Access Officer) is working with Sustrans on this.

(b) T Ffinch reminded the CC that the current Local Plan includes a potential path along the east side of Strathyre Main Street, and if local residents wish this to be taken out of the new Plan they should write to the National Park Authority. M Dingle will contact local residents to encourage them to write to the NP about this matter, as part of the NP Local Plan pre-consultation.

2.11 Grass-cutting arrangements.

T McClean stated that the Stirling Council arrangements are acceptable for Strathyre - if in fact they are carried out. O McKee stated that the NP cannot cut the right-of-way from the Kirkton bridge to the Kirkton waterfall. The CC has written to Stirling Council requesting that this be included in the grass-cutting arrangements.

2.12 Transport meeting with Stirling Council

T McClean reported on a meeting in Stirling on transport and roads. It was noted that the Aberfoyle roundabout was implemented by ring-fenced funds of the SE (arranged by the MSP), and a discussion took place on whether the same mechanism could be used to ring-fence funds for the Strathyre village gateways.

2.13 Victoria Gardens, Strathyre

A Clarke will discuss the matter of maintenance of these gardens with D Richards, Chair of Strathyre Village Association (SVA). If the SVA is taking responsibility for this, then the CC will do nothing; if not, then the CC will lobby Stirling Council to maintain the gardens, and if they will not, to enquire whether they are prepared to pass the interest to another appropriately-constituted body (such as the BLS Community Trust). [Note: the SVA is taking responsibility, so no CC involvement is needed.]

2.14 Blocked drains in Balquhidder

This matter has been taken on by Cllr Fergus Wood. T Ffinch will follow this up.

2.15 Meeting with Bruce Crawford MSP and local councillors

P Hopkins and A Clarke met with the new MSP and with two of the three Councillors (apologies from the third, who provided a list of local issues.) All the issues are covered elsewhere in these minutes. The meeting degenerated into party politics, and the MSP and Councillors were reminded that Community Councils are by law not party-political.

2.16 Housing meeting with Stirling Council

M Dingle reported on a meeting to discuss housing needs within the Stirling Council area. A written report by a consultancy group is available from the CC Secretary.

3. ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLORS

3.1 Lochearnhead Scout Station

T Ffinch reported that the Scouts will be returning to the Lochearnhead Scout Station on 21st July after the absence forced on them by the floods in August 2004, and asked if the CC can arranged a welcome event. T Ffinch will liaise with P Hopkins.

3.2 Dirty road signs

P Hopkins enquired who keeps road signs clean. T Ffinch will follow up this matter.

3.3 Ben Sheann Hotel building control issues

This matter was discussed at length.

4. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

4.1 From Scottish Water: the Balquhiddier water treatment plant is being upgraded, but there should be no interruption to water supplies.

4.2 From NHS: newsletter, plus details of a conference on 28th June on the use of technology in medicine. No representative from this CC will attend.

4.3 From STEP: notice of a roadshow event in Tyndrum

5. PLANNING MATTERS

5.1 Application for a detached house and garage within the curtilage of Riverview, Strathyre: the CC has replied to the NP recommending refusal on the basis of design (too large, bad architectural design).

5.2 Application for twelve detached houses at 'Lochearnhead Grove' (the old '45 bar): the CC neither recommends acceptance nor recommends refusal. It was noted that (contrary to previous advice) the request for 'planning gain' for community benefit is not appropriate to this application because outline planning permission for this development has already been given.

5.3 O McKee noted that plans can now be seen at the new NP Callander office by arrangement, and no longer at the NP Rangers office in Lochearnhead.

6. AOB

6.1 Co-opting of Malcolm MacNaughton to the CC (Balquhiddier ward)

This was proposed by C Oldham and unanimously agreed by the CC members present.

6.2 Co-opting of Marguerite Kobs to the CC (Balquhiddier ward)

This was proposed by A Clarke and unanimously agreed by the CC members present.

6.3 Lochearnhead primary School

O McKee stated that the request to close the school has been submitted by Stirling Council to the Minister of Education, and gave some background information. The matter will be retained on the CC agenda.

6.4 Community notice boards

This matter was deferred to another CC meeting due to lack of time.

6.5 Going Carbon Neutral Stirling

A request has been received from this organisation for our communities to be involved in a carbon-footprint survey and subsequent measures to reduce this. The CC felt that this matter should be tackled by a higher authority. It was noted that individuals are already taking 'eco-action' but this is not done on a collective basis. It was also noted that the NP will be carrying out its own 'carbon-footprint' survey within the Park area.

7. NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 8th August 2007 at Balquhiddier Hall at 7.30 pm.

Please note other scheduled BLS CC meetings:

19 September at Lochearnhead

31 October at Strathyre

12 December at Balquhiddier