

# BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER 2008 IN STRATHYRE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jim Thomson (Stirling Council), Cllr Paul Owens (Stirling Council), Owen McKee (National Park), Suzanne Player (Stirling Council).

**Apologies:** Neil Gregory, PC Andy Ward (Central Scotland Police)

### 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 24th SEPTEMBER 2008

The following corrections were made: (1) Malcolm McNaughton was absent, not present; (2) the sentence in paragraph 6.2 starting "O McKee" should be replaced with "O McKee pointed out that were the community so minded, it should register this concern in the consultation on the Local Plan. The Draft Local Plan is due to publication in November". With these changes, the minutes were approved: proposed by C Oldham, seconded by D Cameron.

### 2 DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC TOILETS PROVIDED BY STIRLING COUNCIL

Cllr Jim Thomson reported on his review of the public toilets operated by Stirling Council (SC). Due to the current financial constraints, he is looking for some financial return: perhaps advertising, or charging for use. He pointed out that SC does not have a statutory duty to provide public toilets, although the public need is recognised. SC needs both capital, to bring the toilets to a reasonable standard (a figure of about £40,000 per toilet block was mentioned, which includes the necessity to build in disability compliance), and revenue, to cover on-going maintenance. The community councillors felt that a modest charge would be acceptable only if the general "experience" was better than at present, which implies considerable facilities upgrading. A query was raised as to why the National Park Authority (NPA) is not pushing more for this, and O McKee replied that the issue is indeed recognised in the Park Plan. Regarding the estimated cost of refurbishment, there was a suggestion by the Community Councillors that just a "spruce-up" could be considered.

Two separate matters connected with Cllr Thompson's portfolio were raised:

(a) The question of provision of allotments was mentioned. This should be covered by SC's "Open Space" policy, and is recognised as a genuine need;

(b) The provision of compost at other places than Polmaise was discussed, such as Balfon and Callander. No specific action was taken on this.

### 3 POLICE MATTERS

PC Ward sent an email report on 27th October as follows:

"We have been reasonably quiet since the last meeting. Since the summer I have been quite active in targeting drugs in the area. Over 30 searches carried out with 14 people reported to the Police Force for various offences - cannabis resin, herbal cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine. Since April over 400 drivers have been reported for speeding, and over 100 reported for other traffic offences, in Lochearnhead and Strathyre.

"Central Scotland Police (CSP) is implementing changes in the working practises with regards to the role of the community constable both in the community and within CSP. Initially this meant that we would stop working at 5pm on weekdays; however, we managed to put forward a business plan which showed the need to continue the hours we work at the present time. In effect this would have meant calls would have been dealt with by Callander or further afield. I hope to have a fuller explanation by the next meeting on how exactly this reorganisation will affect BLS.

"CI Findlater will be sending out a letter shortly to those concerned re Operation Ironworks. Hopefully you should receive it within the next 10 days."

## **4 MATTERS ARISING**

### **4.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre**

An email from TranServ has been received regarding drainage problems on the A85 at Lochearnhead, suggesting that should the footpath be delayed, this would be looked into. The CC is getting increasingly concerned that the footpath will never be built. A copy of the TranServ email will be sent to Bruce Crawford MSP before any media notification is made.

### **4.2 Strathyre village road safety issues**

An email has been received from the Strathyre Primary School Parents Council suggesting a meeting between that body, the CC and the Strathyre Village Association regarding various matters of road safety in Strathyre, including (a) a 20mph limit during school opening and closing times, (b) a pedestrian crossing, (c) a footpath at the north end of the village, and (d) the SC "Safer Routes to School" campaign. It was agreed to pursue this, with D Cameron and A Clarke representing the CC. The CC will contact Mal Dingle about setting up a meeting.

### **4.3 Faulty Water Tap at Balquhidder Cemetery**

There is no indication now of any fault – the matter will be closed.

### **4.4 Overgrown vegetation along the Balquhidder road.**

An article will be submitted to The Villagers pointing out that damage caused to road edges by wide vehicles may be because the vehicles have to avoid overhanging branches and small trees too near the road. The CC will approach Hunter Jamieson of SC, suggesting that he writes the article.

### **4.5 Broadband in Balquhidder**

Some households registered to receive broadband have been contacted by Avanti, and some have not. It was noted that C Oldham has kept Bruce Crawford MSP involved in this issue; the CC will itself write to Avanti and copy in the MSP.

#### **4.6 Raised water levels on Loch Earn due to engineering works at St Fillans**

This matter is still on-going.

### **5 ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR**

None. Cllr Owens said that all would be welcome at the Concil meeting at McLaren High School the next day.

### **6 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

- 6.1 From Bruce Crawford MSP: re abolition of parking charges at the new hospital
- 6.2 From Stirling Council: provision of minuting support for Community Councils
- 6.3 From Stirling Council: open meeting of the Council at McLaren High, 30th October from 6.30pm
- 6.4 From Stirling Council: request for schedule of meetings in 2009. The CC Chair and Secretary will arrange a schedule of roughly 6-weekly meetings.
- 6.5 From Stirling Council: minutes of committee meetings August-October 2008

### **7 PLANNING MATTERS**

- 7.1 It was noted that the refusal of permission for development of 3 additional cottages at Lubnaig Cottages is going to appeal.
- 7.2 It was noted that the application for development at Stronvar has been approved (with conditions) by the NPA Planning Committee.
- 7.3 Application for development of 9 additional holiday lodges at Balquhiddier Braes – CC neither supports nor opposes this application.
- 7.4 Application for additional letting houses at Briar Cottage, Lochearnhead – the CC neither supports nor opposes this application, but wishes to ensure that the new development is clearly tied to the ownership of Briar Cottage.
- 7.5 It is understood that an appeal will be made against the planning decision for development at the back of River View, Main Street, Strathyre.

### **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 8.1 It was noted that the Strathyre Village Association is now operational, with the following Directors: Willie Dalziel, Mal Dingle, Rosanne McWilliams, George

Phillipsz, David Richards, Jim Roberts, and Angela Thomson. Office-bearers will be elected at a Board meeting on 12th November 2008. The SVA projects include: (a) resurfacing the tennis court, (b) the Sustrans part of the Safer Route to School campaign, (c) a new Community Centre, and (d) various schemes to raise money.

The CC meeting was closed at 9.50 pm.

## **9 NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 10th December at Balquhidder Village Hall at 7.30 pm.