

BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD AND STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Secretary: Alan Clarke, Tulloch Lodge, Balquhidder FK19 8PQ t: 01877 384338 e: alan@tullochlodge.co.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2007 IN STRATHYRE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Pamela Hopkins (Chair), Alan Clarke, Mal Dingle, Marguerite Kobs, Tom McClean, Malcolm McNaughton, Catriona Oldham,.

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

Apologies: Angus Cameron, Neil Gregory, Suzanne Player (Stirling Council)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 19TH SEPTEMBER

Paragraph 5.6 was not clear. It was agreed that instead of the sentence "Initial inspection of the plans shows that there may still be several issues", the sentence should read "Initial inspection of the plans identified several issues, as follows: (1) the plans had very few or no measurements, (2) the site boundary line appears to be different from the site boundary line in the outline planning permission, (3) the tree report mentions felling of trees as part of the SSSI Site Management Plan which was not available, and (4) the buildings on plots 1, 2 and 3 are still very large." With this amendment the Minutes were approved: proposed by M McNaughton, seconded by M Kobs.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Pavement at Lochearnhead from the Watersports Centre

It was agreed to arrange a site meeting as requested by TranServ to help sort out plot ownership issues with local people (Angus Cameron will be invited). Concern was expressed that TranServ is not able to pursue this matter using their own resources. It was noted that at least one plot may be in an ownership transfer phase. P Hopkins will speak to the owners of Earnbank concerning their possible objections to the footpath project.

2.2 Strathyre village gateway signs

Strathyre Village Association (SVA) has input details into the Order to extend the speed restrictions to the south of the village. It is expected that TranServ will convene a meeting in February 2008 to review the results of the public consultation. TranServ and the SVA are also working together to get a repeater sign on the A84 at the south of "Anie's Straight" to help motorists for Strathyre village not to turn left to the Strathyre forest cabins.

2.3 Broadband in Balquhidder Glen

The Scottish Executive proposal is that they will provide a "one-system-fits-all" approach to all areas needing broadband, and that all residents in these areas must individually apply for broadband. C Oldham will follow up with phone calls to all persons affected. The CC will also write to the MSP with the community's concerns - including the fact that people just on the boundary of the proposed system will have to make do with the existing poor service without a hope of betting anything better.

2.4 Review of Local Action Plan, and status of new Community Trust

A Clarke reported that the Community Gathering on 20th October was well attended, with over 80 dropping in. Staff at the National Park will be drafting an updated Local Action Plan for review by the five members of the Steering Group (A Clarke, L Hopkins, I Inglis, G MacNicol, D Richards).

A Clarke reported that the Board of the new BLS Community Trust was having difficulty in finding time to pursue business, in the absence of any specific projects, and have agreed to leave the Trust dormant until a use is found for it. No membership recruitment will take place at this time. The CC agreed to pay the cost of the recruitment brochures (£260), which are undated and so available for use when required. The CC also agreed to pay the annual fee of £15 to Companies House to keep the Trust registered as a charitable company.

2.5 Blocked drains in Balquhidder

F Wood reported that he was told that the blocked drains near Balquhidder Hall had been sorted out. A Clarke will confirm (or otherwise) from the Hall management.

2.6 Community Noticeboards

P Hopkins reported that work is in hand to provide a specification for Glenochil Prison to carry out the work.

2.7 Strathyre Suspension Bridge over the Balvaig

F Wood reported that this investigation is on-going with the Forestry Commission.

2.8 Ratification of Constitution

It was agreed to request a change of name of the Community Council from “Balquhidder” to “Balquhidder Lochearnhead & Strathyre”. It was agreed that there is no need to change the name of the bank account, but the short name “BLS Community Council” could be used as payee on cheques. The CC will write to Helen Geddes in Stirling Council, requesting the change.

2.9 Ward Boundaries within the Community Council Area

The large-scale maps were inspected and boundaries agreed to delineate the Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre wards. In particular, the Balquhidder Station settlement area is within the Lochearnhead Ward. The CC will return the maps to Helen Geddes.

2.10 Road signs at the A84/A85 junction in Lochearnhead

The CC has written to TranServ requesting that the word ‘NORTH’ be added to the sign to Crianlarich. A reply has not yet been received.

2.11 Schedule of Community Council meetings in 2008

This was agreed, and is appended at the end of these minutes.

2.12 Community Council Vacancies for the 2008 Election

It is noted that co-opted members need to be formally elected to the Community Council in the elections to be held early in 2008. The number of vacancies in each ward were confirmed as follows: Balquhidder 2 (due to the current co-option of M Kobs and M McNaughton); Lochearnhead 1 (due to the previous resignation of V Crighton); Strathyre 3 (due to the co-option of M Dingle, the deemed resignation of J Black, and the existing one vacancy); making a total of 6 vacancies. The CC secretary will confirm these numbers to Stirling Council, and also write to J Black. It was suggested that 3 Youth Members will be sought, one from each ward (this is in addition to the 12 elected members allowed). MacLaren High School will be contacted.

3. ANY FURTHER BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR

F Wood reported on the following matters:

- 3.1 There will be a Roads meeting held on 15th November in the Council Chambers at 7pm (details have been provided: A Clarke and C Oldham plan to attend).
- 3.2 The Scottish Parliament are abolishing the “right to buy” for council tenants: this may have a positive impact on the issue of affordable housing.
- 3.3 The Scottish Parliament is considering improvements in respite provisions for families with a disabled child.
- 3.4 The Scottish Parliament is considering abolishing or merging some of the Scottish Quangos.

4. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

- 4.1 From Michael Vipond, Strathyre: copy of letter to SC on condition of Laggan Road. The CC Sec will write to Hunter Jamieson, Stirling Council Roads Department on this.
- 4.2 From Stirling Council: results of Port of Menteith Roads meetings, and a letter giving budget details for the Rural Roads meeting 15th November.
- 4.3 From Stirling Council: Draft Statement of Licensing Policy. O McKee reported on the potential impact on small licensed shops.

- 4.4 From Stirling Council: letter re Public Liability Insurance Cover for Festive Lighting (the CC is covered for public liability only if electrical work is carried out by a qualified electrician).
- 4.5 From Stirling Council: Committee and Council minutes June-September 2007
- 4.6 From Stirling Council: letter re Public Art Audit (the CC believes there are no commissioned public works of art in this area).
- 4.7 From Stirling Council: review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (there is no impact on this area)
- 4.8 From ASCC: various proposals for AGM 3rd November, plus Newsletter
- 4.9 From NHS Forth Valley: Discussion Document "Better Health, Better Care" for meeting 6th November at Stirling Royal Infirmary; also "Community News" newsletter
- 4.10 From Scottish Landscape Forum: report and brochure.
- 4.11 From WaterWatch Scotland: notice of public meeting 15th November at Falkirk.
- 4.12 From Forth Naturalist and Historian: details of symposium 17th November at Stirling University. M Kobs is planning to attend.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

- 5.1 A Clarke reported on his consultation with Planning Aid for Scotland on 18th October. The CC was advised that as the applications were formally in line with the conditions attached to the outline planning permission (especially the condition that the footprint of the building should not exceed 250 square meters), the only grounds for objection would be based on design and layout, and whether the proposals will alter the character of the area. We were advised that the absence of measurements on the submitted plans was not normally grounds for objection. Regarding tree felling within the SSSI, we were advised to approach SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage). We were also advised that under the Freedom of Information Act we may request from the NP access to specific planning files. The CC agreed to make formal objections to (ie to recommend refusal of) all three detailed planning applications (for Plot 1; for Plot 2; and for Plots 3, 4 and 6 within the application for the remaining plots) on the basis that the massing and frontage of these particular buildings were significantly in excess of the indicative designs given to the community in 2002 during the outline planning discussions, even though they technically meet the outline planning permission requirements.
- 5.2 From the NP website, it was noted that there is an application to install an additional pole on a PMT (pole-mounted transformer) in Strathyre, and that renewal of planning permission has been granted (with conditions) for a house at The Grigg, Ravenscourt Road, Lochearnhead.
- 5.3 The results of a survey of local buildings of good design (new and old) was postponed until the next meeting.

6. AOB

- 6.1 Mal Dingle reported that a survey of traffic in Strathyre has been undertaken by pupils of Strathyre Primary School, and the village is reviewing traffic calming proposals with the Police and the MSP.

7. NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 12th December 2007 at Balquhidder Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

BALQUHIDDER LOCHEARNHEAD & STRATHYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, 2008

NOTE: all meetings are open to the public, and local residents are encouraged to attend.

All dates are Wednesdays

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 16	7.30 pm	Lochearnhead Village Hall
February 27	7.30 pm	Strathyre Village Hall
April 9	7.30 pm	Balquhidder Village Hall
May 21	7.30 pm AGM; 7.45 pm business	Lochearnhead Village Hall
July 2	7.30 pm	Strathyre Village Hall
August 13	7.30 pm	Balquhidder Village Hall
September 24	7.30 pm	Lochearnhead Village Hall
October 29	7.30 pm	Strathyre Village Hall
December 10	7.30 pm	Balquhidder Village Hall