

## **MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Held on Tuesday 15 May 2007 at 7.30 pm at the Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan**

**PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Iain Anderson, Jim Christie, John Gill (Treasurer), Frances Hamilton (Secretary), Keith Ironside, Alison Logie (Vice Chair), Stuart Ritchie, Marjorie Russell.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Callum Campbell, PC Paul Colquhoun, Councillor David Goss, Sheila McLean (Minute Secretary), 6 Members of the Public.

**APOLOGIES:** None.

### **BA356 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

On behalf of the Community Council, the Chair welcomed the two recently elected Councillors, Callum Campbell and David Goss to the first meeting since the election on 3 May. PC Colquhoun was also welcomed to his first meeting.

### **BA357 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minute of Meeting held on 17 April 2007 was submitted for approval.

#### **Decision**

The Minute of Meeting held on 17 April 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

### **BA358 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **(a) Bus Stop**

Marjorie Russell reported on successful discussions with Dorothy Walker, Systems & Publicity Officer, Stirling Council which had resulted in the bus stop being moved on 25 April and an assurance given that a cantilevered shelter would be provided shortly, hopefully in around 4 weeks time. It was pointed out that some buses still stopped at the old site as yellow lines were still on the road. It was confirmed that these would also be resited, although no timescale could be given for this. A request had also been made for a dedicated Bridge of Allan bus timetable and it had been agreed that these would be circulated to the Library, Post Office and direct to the Community Council. Marjorie recorded her thanks to Dorothy Walker for her help in this matter.

**Noted.**

**(b) Public Toilets**

Frances Hamilton advised of an e-mail received from David Crighton, Acting Streetscape Team Leader, Stirling Council, confirming that the toilets in Well Road would remain closed due to health and safety reasons. An offer of two further portaloos had been made, but it was agreed this was not a suitable alternative in the long term.

Structural engineers had been employed but had been unable to draw any firm conclusions on the condition of the building. Les Ferguson indicated he might have a contact who could carry out an independent survey at no cost. It was acknowledged that Stirling Council's consent would be required for this course of action.

**Decision** – It was agreed to pursue the independent survey.

**(c) Area Community Planning Forum**

Marjorie Russell reported on a recent meeting of the Steering Group which she had attended with the Secretary of the Allan Centre. No representatives had attended from Logie.

Stirling Council proposed that Forums would be coterminous with the new Multi-Member Wards and so continue to incorporate Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Logie. Dunblane had indicated they wished their own Forum and were not interested in maintaining the joint Forum. Barbara Allan of Stirling Council had stressed that there were insufficient resources to provide additional Forums.

**Decision** – It was noted that the matter would continue.

**(d) Grass Cutting**

It was disappointing to note that Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads, Transportation & Streetscape, Stirling Council, was not in attendance. The Council had agreed to grant an extension to the deadline and to take into account the views of tonight's meeting.

Maps of the proposals had been placed in the library, but the Community Council noted its disappointment at the lack of community feedback. It was agreed that some areas, particularly Memorial Park and the triangle at Keir Street, should be classed as "garden areas" and not "general amenity".

A member of the public, Mr Drummond, reported on discussions with Colin McNicol, Roads Support Manager, Stirling Council which had resulted in improvements to last year's efforts.

**Decision** - It was agreed that the Secretary write to Stirling Council to request that the Memorial Park and the triangle area at Keir Street be classed as "garden area" and be cut accordingly.

**(e) War Memorial**

Jim Christie advised of substantial donations from a local businessman and the Primary School. The Trustee of the Victory Fund had offered support. An appeal had been prepared for inclusion in the Bridge of Allan Times and a submission would be made to Historic Scotland.

**Noted.**

**(f) Museum Hall Trust**

Jim Christie reported that the Trust Lawyer had met with Peter Broadfoot, Chief Solicitor, Stirling Council, who had confirmed that control of the funds would remain with the Council. The legal advice of the Trust Lawyer was that the development of a Trust could not be pursued pending a decision by the Court of Session.

The Community Council requested the two Councillors present to explore the issue with Peter Broadfoot. It was also agreed that a petition be organised to gather support of Bridge of Allan residents.

**Decision** - It was agreed that a petition be organised and noted that Councillors Campbell and Goss would take up the issue with Stirling Council.

**BA359 POLICE REPORT**

PC Colquhoun introduced himself as the new Community Police Officer for the area.

He presented crime figures for Bridge of Allan over the last month:-

- Crimes reported = 14
- Detected = 11
- Under investigation = 2 thefts, 1 fraud
- Road traffic offences detected = 12

The good results were welcomed.

A number of other issues were ongoing:-

Voyager Taxi Advertising Boards – These were being sited at inappropriate locations throughout Stirling. Stirling Council would take action on any breach of licensing conditions, however no criminal offence was being committed as vehicles were parked legally and taxed. PC Colquhoun undertook to approach the firm in an effort to remedy the situation.

Parking – PC Colquhoun would approach the local Traffic Warden to request an increase in time spent by the Warden in Bridge of Allan.

Zebra Crossing, Henderson Street - It was agreed that this presented a danger in terms of speeding. PC Colquhoun undertook to investigate.

Speed Display Sign – A new portable sign had been purchased by the Stirling Community Planning Partnership, mainly as an education tool and for information gathering. Identified hotspot areas could then be targeted with enforcement measures.

In conclusion, PC Colquhoun urged Community Council members to contact him at Bridge of Allan Police Station with any issues of concern.

#### **BA360 TREASURER'S REPORT**

John Gill presented his report. The current bank account balance stood at £1384.93, with an overspend of £657.13. The War Memorial Fund stood at £10,000 and previously advised additional contributions totalling £1400 were noted.

It was agreed that funds should only be retained for operational expenses and members were urged to identify any projects which could utilise the funds.

John confirmed that he would arrange for the accounts to be audited and presented to the AGM in June.

**Noted.**

#### **BA361 GRASS CUTTING PROPOSALS**

It was noted that this had been covered under Matters Arising.

#### **BA362 PLANNING**

Stuart Ritchie reported on current planning issues.

- Planning applications received = 3
- Recommended for approval = 8
- Delegated to Planning Committee = 1

Objections to applications could be viewed as public record. A number of objections to 2 extension applications in Anne Drive and Airthrey Avenue had been taken on board by the Council and the details revised. An application at Coneyhill Lodge did not appear to have attracted any objections.

Frances Hamilton recorded the appreciation of a resident for the Community Council's interest in a particular application, despite the outcome when the Council had overturned her objections.

There were concerns over proposals for mobile phone masts, but it was acknowledged that these fell outwith the Community Council's remit.

**Decision** – Agreed that no action required at this time.

## **BA363 CORRESPONDENCE**

Frances Hamilton reported on correspondence received since the last meeting:-

- Letter from Mr Franks thanking the Community Council for its efforts in relation to the election hustings.
- Licensing Board – details received of licence applications. No issues of concern.
- 2006 Mid-Year Population Statistics – received.
- Notification received of forthcoming charity walk for Cancer Research – ‘Walk for Life’ – through University. No issues.
- Letter received from Stirling Council inviting members to attend a Community Conference on Saturday 16 June 2007 10.00 am – 3.00 pm to meet newly elected Councillors and discuss working with the Multi-Member Wards.

**Decision** – Agreed Community Council keen to be represented. Those wishing to attend to advise Frances who would respond to the Council accordingly.

## **BA364 AOCB**

### **New Link Road**

A member of the public, Sam Shortt, had taken this issue forward and reported on developments.

It was pleasing to note that good press coverage had been achieved.

Sam had put a number of questions to Stirling Council:-

- How many objections had been received? - About 980.
- Next stages and timescales? – No timescales could be given at this stage until a new committee structure established following the election.
- How will objections be considered? – No response.
- Does the Structure Plan take precedence over Tactran proposals? - No response. The Community Council took the view, however, that the Structure Plan represented the definitive position and Sam advised that the Transport Authority had also indicated its concerns.

### **Decision**

- Agreed to continue pressure on Stirling Council.
- Secretary to write to (a) Tactran, (b) New Minister of Transport, when appointed, (c) recently elected Councillors to seek their support.

The Community Council recorded thanks to Sam Shortt for his efforts.

## **Other Issues**

**Blairforkie flowerbeds** – Encouraging response received. Alison Logie to meet with Stevie Harrower to discuss.

**Community Council Champion** – No individual identified yet by Stirling Council.  
**Decision** - To be pursued.

**Playpark at Fountain Road** – Keith Ironside highlighted concerns at the lack of toilet facilities. Agreed to write to Stirling Council requesting portaloos as a temporary measure, whilst acknowledging concerns expressed by a member of the public that this was not a suitable solution. A gate had been installed but no lock was in place and its purpose was of some doubt. The meshing on the White Bridge was inadequate and presented a safety concern. **Decision** – Agreed that the Secretary write to Stirling Council.

**Clean-up** – Iain Anderson reported on his successful efforts at litter clean-up.

### **Roads/Streetscape**

- It was noted that the chicanes remained on the bridge. Poor road resurfacing was also noted. **Decision** – To be pursued.
- Warning that cars still going wrong way on Union Street.
- Should seek additional bollards and encourage early morning deliveries to minimise disruption by lorry parking. Noted that street furniture could be effective in slowing traffic.
- “Bridge of Allan” sign entering the village from the Keir Roundabout and central reservation needed to be cleaned. Sign required to direct people to disabled toilets at Library. **Decision** – Secretary to contact Stirling Council.

**Fence at Cornton Road/Lyon Court** – This had been tightened up, but a member of the public indicated that it was now broken again.

**Swing Park at Fountain Road** – New layer of bark had been installed.

**Hanging Baskets/Tubs** – A grant of £500 was anticipated from Stirling Council. David Berry would organise the hanging baskets and tubs.

**Decision** – Agreed to repeat last year’s practice of adding Community Council funds of £200 which the Merchants had agreed to match.

**Future Planning** – The Community Council welcomed a suggestion from Councillor Goss to set out a 4-year plan of priorities.

**Stirling Council Decision Making Process** – Councillor Campbell confirmed that a Statutory Meeting would take place on Thursday 17 May when decisions would be taken on the appointment of Provost and Council Leader and other progress made on a new decision making process.

**Allotments** – A member of the public raised concern over the condition of the boundary fence bordering the Hawes Park. It was agreed that it was the responsibility of allotment holders to raise this with Stirling Council.

**BA365 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 19 June 2007 at 7.30 pm. The Community Council's Annual General Meeting would take place prior to normal business.

**AGENDA**

1. Present/Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Police Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Councillors' Reports
7. Planning
8. Correspondence
9. AOCB
10. Date of Next Meeting

The Meeting was closed at 9.00 pm