

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JULY 2007**

PRESENT: Les Ferguson (Chair), Jim Christie, Frances Hamilton, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, Stuart Ritchie, Marjorie Russell

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Callum Campbell, Jean Houston,

APOLOGIES: Ian Anderson, John Gill, P.C. Paul Colquhoun

BA375 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 19th June 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

BA376 MATTERS ARISING

Public toilets – This matter is still ongoing. Frances had obtained a copy of the structural report which does not state that the building is unsafe. It appears that the toilets could be reopened with a moderate amount of work and expenditure and this information had been passed on to Councillor Graham Houston who was in discussion with David Crighton, Streetscape Team Leader. However, it was noted that the Games would be taking place soon and any works are unlikely to be carried out by then.

Area Community Planning Forum – Dunblane still maintain their position of wanting their own Forum. The Chair of Dunblane Community Council is presently on holiday and talks would take place on his return.

Grass cutting – Work at Memorial Park had improved, but was not yet a satisfactory standard or as agreed with Colin McNicol, Network Manager, Stirling Council. It was agreed not to make any complaint in the short term, but to give Stirling Council the rest of the season to improve. Around September/October, members would give constructive comments to the Council.

War Memorial – Jim Christie reported on the current situation. He reported almost £13,000 had been raised and responses were still awaited from Historic Scotland and the Victory Fund. It was agreed that it was important to get a phase of community fund raising organised. Whilst some members of the community had contributed, the newspaper appeal did not generate much activity. The verbal support needs to be translated into donations. Members were asked to consider ideas.

Jim advised that Stirling Council were still imposing restrictions on the disposal of Museum Hall funds. If the proposed Trust were to be given responsibility for the funds, it was in a position to be up and running immediately.

Jim thought that, all being well, the tender process to undertake the work could commence January, with construction starting in the Spring. The information on the Memorial would be updated at time of reconstruction. It was hoped that there could be an announcement on Remembrance Sunday to confirm that funds were in place to have a new Memorial for 2008.

Jim was investigating whether the Memorial Fund could be registered as a Charity. This would enable contributions by Gift Aid.

The Community Council committed to supporting Jim in any way necessary.

Fountain Road bus stop – Marjorie Russell reported that the shelter was erected on 29th June as promised. The old bus stop markings had yet to be removed. Kenny Sneddon, Environment Services, would be contacted to get this done, as buses were still stopping at the Post Office where there is now no bus stop.

Local Councillors – It had been noticed that only three of the four Elected Members were attending Bridge of Allan.

New Link Road – It was noted that Sam Shortt had attended the meeting on our behalf on 21st June at the Braeport Centre. He had hoped to be able to report to the Community Council at this meeting, but had been called away on business. He expects to update us at the next meeting.

Blairforkie flowerbeds – Planting had been done and new gravel had also been laid.

Fountain Road Playpark – An application was being submitted for a Landfill Tax Grant of £4,000 to replace some of the play equipment.

Roads – Works had started on resurfacing north from Blairforkie.

Football at grass adjoining Memorial Park – Wording of the current sign had been passed to Jim Fisher, Streetscape Protection Officer, Stirling Council. This read “For safety reasons child ball games only”. There had been discussions with Willie Hamill, Grounds Maintenance Project Officer, and Anne Allan, Antisocial Behaviour Service Manager – but there did not appear to be anything Stirling Council can do to prevent the playing of football as there is no way of enforcing a “No ball games” sign. The only way of helping the residents affected would appear to be better fencing, or by landscaping in a way to dissuade adults from playing football.

Les favoured the landscaping option, which would maintain sufficient open space for young children but reduce the size of the open space to make it unsuitable for adults to play football. The work would cost in the region of £4,000 - Anne Allan had indicated that her service could match fund £2,000 to carry out this landscaping. This was perhaps another suitable project for the Museum Hall funds. In the meantime approaches would be made to the Victory Fund and the Council “Green Fund”.

Jim Christie pointed out that people should remember that this area is part of the Memorial Park and it should be treated with respect.

It was acknowledged that this matter was also part of the larger problem of lack of facilities for youth. Marjorie thought there should be a Youth Co-ordinator and that this should be looked into. There was also a need for inter-generational mix in Bridge of Allan to break down barriers.

In the meantime all incidents should be reported to the Police.

Avenue flower beds – Frances reported that she had contacted Registers of Scotland who had been unable to confirm ownership of the ground, but had provided other avenues for her to pursue.

Barbara Allan – Stuart reported that he had now successfully contacted Barbara (Communities Service Manager) who had given assistance with wording of the sport facilities survey. The questionnaire had now been given to Jacqueline Lynn and the Sports sub-committee to look at, and would be made available in the schools at the start of the new term.

Action:

- Councillor Houston to pursue the matter of the public toilets
- Members to consider ideas for fundraising for the War Memorial

- Jim Christie to investigate whether War Memorial Fund can be registered as a charity
- Stirling Council to be asked to remove old bus stop marking on Fountain Road
- Funding options for landscaping the grass area adjacent to Memorial Park to be investigated

BA377 POLICE REPORT

The Chair presented the Police Report in P.C. Paul Colquhoun's absence.

Total crimes reported	6
Total detected	1
Under investigation	5
Total Road Traffic detected	12

The single crime reported was under the Communications Act 2003 – this could relate to misuse of mobile or landline phone, e.g. threatening calls.

There had been one attempted housebreaking, and one theft by housebreaking. The public were warned that these had taken place in the daytime.

Marjorie Russell reported that since works had been carried out at the level crossing, metal bars and other rubbish had been left lying. She had reported this to the Police, but it was still there. The Community Council would also report this, as there was a danger that bars could be placed on the railway line.

Marjorie also brought to attention the need to advise Police of Freshers' Week dates.

Action:

It was agreed that the Police be contacted regarding

- metal bars lying close to the railway crossing
- Freshers Week

BA378 TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Ironside reported on donations that had been received for the War Memorial. The balance of the Community Council account stands at £450, with a net Admin. Grant of £467.41 due from Stirling Council on receipt of the Audited Accounts.

BA379 PLANNING

Stuart Ritchie reported on current planning issues –

Planning applications received – 4

An application had been lodged for change of use of the Old Manor on Henderson Street. It was proposed to change this from residential to a health spa. This did not involve any external change. The Community Council agreed to neither approve nor oppose on this basis.

BA380 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Community Council:

- Central Scotland Police Report

- An anonymous letter of complaint had been received and was read out to members. However, it was agreed that because no contact could be made with the writer to verify or help resolve the issue, the matter could not be pursued.
- More suggestions for the Museum Hall funds had been received. These included
 - Upgrade Centenary Walk
 - Extend the river walk to link to the Bridge
 - Upgrade the flood prevention scheme
 - Repair the War Memorial
 - Assist establishment of a Bridge of Allan Development Trust
 - Refurbish the Arch at The Avenue with a plaque and improve Avenue
 - Refurbish The Fountain
 - Repair and maintain Well Road Toilets and Park
 - Refresh Blairforkie shelter site [The Howff]
 - Develop viewpoints in the Mine Woods with seating
 - Redefine football pitches by the river

A list of all suggestions received was being compiled.

- Roads Consultation Document – this had been received from Stirling Council and was not an easy document to read or understand. The Community Council did not see how they could give constructive comments on such an indistinct document. For example, it showed Westerton Drive on the list of roads works, but with no money allocated; and there was a reference to “nimpactocote” which was not understood. This consultation document would be put in the Library for the public to comment on. A meeting was scheduled to take place on 3rd September at which the Community Council would be represented.
- A questionnaire had been received by all members for feedback on roads, traffic management, cycle routes, parking, walkways etc. Comments would be co-ordinated and submitted by Alison.
- Community Conference – Workshop questions which had not been considered at the conference due to time constraints, had been sent out by Bob Jack. It was agreed that Les and Frances, who attended the conference, would complete this.

Action:

- Alison Logie to co-ordinate and submit comments on roads, traffic management, cycle routes, parking, walkways etc.
- Les Ferguson and Frances Hamilton to complete response to Community Conference Workshop questions

BA381 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Jim Christie had seen a notice in the Stirling Observer concerning compulsory land purchase by Scottish Hydro Electric, presumably for access roads for the pylons, which were still being considered by Public Inquiry. Councillor Campbell agreed to investigate this.
- Les informed members that Sam Shortt, who was already assisting the Community Council with the TACTRAN Report, had agreed to be co-opted onto the Community Council. This was unanimously agreed by members.
- Marjorie stated that she was unhappy with the way Stirling Council had calculated the population of Bridge of Allan, taking the student population into account. The Census appeared to include only “economically active” students and she did not understand what this included. Bearing in mind the Community Council covers the students residing on campus as well as off – 2038 appears low and inaccurate.

This influenced that percentage of money allocated to Bridge of Allan through the Area Forum. Jean Houston would ask Colin Morrison (Research & Quality) to explain how the calculations were made.

- Alison asked if there was any update on Chalmers Church site, which was in a state of severe disrepair, and wondered whether the developers were waiting for the Church to start to fall down so they could demolish. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the developers asking when work was likely to start, and that the site be tidied up.
- Mr Franks (resident) raised the matter of the tennis courts. Only one court had ever been resurfaced, despite commitment from Andrew Bain and Jacqueline Lynn that more would be done.
- Netta Malcolm (resident) asked what could be done about overgrown hedges and bushes obstructing pavements. It was explained that an approach should be made in the first instance to the householder asking them to prune the hedges or bushes, before any complaint could be made to the Council.
- Stuart advised that he would be at the August meeting of the Community Council, but a new Youth Member would need to be co-opted after that. Stuart hoped to bring along a prospective candidate to the August meeting.
- It was noted that campers had been at Cameron Haugh for at least two weeks. This situation would need to be monitored.
- It was noted that a tree has snapped at Memorial Park and needs to be reported.
- It was agreed that another letter should be sent to Stirling Council advising that the City of Stirling sign was incorrectly located and asking that it be moved to its correct location, near the Institute of Sport access road.

Action:

- Councillor Campbell to investigate matter of compulsory land purchase by Scottish Hydro Electric
- Colin Morrison to be asked for explanation of population calculations
- Letter to developers of Chalmers Church site asking for update and that the site be tidied up
- Letter to be sent to Active Stirling regarding tennis courts
- Snapped tree at Memorial Park to be reported
- Letter to be sent to Stirling Council asking for City of Stirling sign to be relocated

BA382 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 21st August at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

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

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm

