

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2007**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: P.C. Paul Colquhoun, Councillor Graham Houston, Jean Houston,

APOLOGIES: John Gill

BA366 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 15th May 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

BA367 MATTERS ARISING

Public toilets – The Chair reported on an on-site meeting with David Crighton, Streetscape Team Leader, Stirling Council. He confirmed that an independent survey had been carried out. The building structure had been deemed unsafe, but it had not been determined how unsafe. There had been no further deterioration over the past 8 months. To reopen the toilets required at least some remedial work both inside and out and it was proposed to carry out an in depth survey of the foundations. The total for these was estimated at £8-10,000. However Stirling Council did not propose to carry out any work until a survey of all conveniences in the Stirling Council area was complete. Although the Council had agreed to replace the current two portaloos with three larger ones in the short term, the Community Council thought that the cost of the remedial work would at least in part be offset by the saving of not having to replace the portaloos.

It appeared that cleaning of the portaloos was taking place. It had been agreed that the padlocks would not be visible during the daytime in future as people were under the impression that the toilets were locked when this was not the case.

Area Community Planning Forum – Dunblane maintained their position of wanting their own Forum as they had nothing in common with Bridge of Allan and Blairlogie. Stirling Council were not prepared to support a separate Forum. Discussions would take place with Logie Community Council on how to go forward, and a meeting was required with Dunblane. It was noted that Logie Community Council needed to revitalise itself.

Grass cutting – Apologies had been received from Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads, Transportation and Streetscape, Stirling Council, who had been unable to attend. He had given an assurance to come along to a future meeting. There had been a meeting with Colin McNicol, Roads Support Manager, Stirling Council, at Memorial Park, which had resulted in proposals to improve grass cutting and lifting in the centre circle bedding planting, pruning, restoration of blaze paths and edgings. It was agreed to give Stirling Council four months to achieve these commitments.

However Colin McNicol had advised that the triangle at Keir Street would not be “cut and lift” but be “cut only” due to costs.

It was noted that the flower bed at Coneyhill had been planted.

War Memorial – The Chair advised members of a letter received from Jim Christie. Jim was disappointed both in lack of progress in fundraising, and also with the appeal that had appeared in the Bridge of Allan Times. He was also saddened by the lack of support from the community. Jim was considering whether to resign - this would have implications on the Museum Hall Trust which requires two Community Council members.

It was noted that a contribution from the Victory Fund was being considered by that Committee.

Fountain Road bus stop – Marjorie Russell reported that a shelter should be erected 29th June. She had expected timetables that very day, and these would be displayed at the Library and Post Office.

Voyager Taxi advertising boards – P.C. Colquhoun had approached this firm about the regular indiscriminate parking of the vehicle and advertising board. The parking whilst a nuisance, was not illegal. The advertising board was no longer displayed in Bridge of Allan, but was now seen at Causewayhead and around Stirling. P.C. Colquhoun asked that any obstructions be reported and thought that the problem may be a matter for the Licensing Board.

Parking – P.C. Colquhoun confirmed he had approached the Traffic Wardens for increased presence in Bridge of Allan.

Community Council Conference - This had been attended by Les Ferguson and Frances Hamilton. Frances reported that it had been very well attended – she thought probably by every community council. It had been an energetic meeting and both thought the conference had been informative and well worth attending.

The four newly elected Councillors had identified a rota for attending Community Council meetings and holding surgeries. They had made a commitment not to be party political but to act in the interests of Bridge of Allan.

New Link Road – Les advised that a meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st June at the Braeport Centre. It was agreed that Sam Shortt attend this on behalf of the Community Council.

Blairforkie flowerbeds – Alison Logie was pursuing this. She advised that she had planted out the tubs.

Fountain Road Playpark – Stirling Council had confirmed, unfortunately, that there was no plan to provide a portaloo at the playpark. Members agreed that priority should in the meantime be given to pursuing the reopening of the toilets at Well Road.

A letter had been received from Colin McKay, Play Services, Stirling Council regarding the playpark. When the Community Council had received £13,266 Area Forum funding, it had been handed over to Play Services for the provision of a climbing boulder, chosen by the primary school pupils for the playpark. Colin was writing to advise that there was a residual sum of £2,747 and suggested that this be combined with a potential Landfill Tax Grant of £4,000 to replace some play equipment. It was agreed to apply for such a grant.

Ian Anderson asked Members to note that a grid was required to keep dogs out of the Avenue toddlers' play area. It was agreed to proceed with this.

Roads – Members were pleased to learn that the chicanes on the bridge were being reinstated after re-surfacing works due to be carried out from 15th July for 5 days. Blairforkie Drive would also be closed during this time.

It was confirmed that the reported signs would be cleaned. Marjorie Russell advised that some road signs were currently obstructed by trees.

BA368 POLICE REPORT

P.C. Paul Colquhoun presented the Police Report.

Total crimes reported	16
Total detected	10
Under investigation	6
Total Road Traffic detected	17 (speeding, seat belts etc)

Crimes detected included those of assault, attempted fraud, breach of the peace and urinating in public. Still under investigation are an attempted housebreaking, two of theft and vandalism, as well as wilful fire-raising.

P.C. Colquhoun reported that Sgt. Duncan had now moved on to another post and was being replaced temporarily by Sgt. Joyce Greenhorn, who hoped to attend the next meeting of the Community Council.

He advised members of a current issue concerning football being played on the grass area adjacent to the Memorial Park. It had been reported that adults were arriving in cars to play. It was suggested that there could be improved signage for "children only ball games" and agreed to approach the Council for such signage. It was also suggested that the area could be broken up with flower beds, mounds etc to lessen the area for ball games.

BA369 TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Ironside reported that the Amin. Grant was due to be paid by Stirling Council within the next couple of weeks. He confirmed that a Treasurer's Report would be brought to the next meeting for subsequent auditing and submission with the AGM report to Stirling Council.

BA370 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Graham Houston reported that Councillor Jim Thomson was on the TACTRAN Board and offered to arrange for Sam Shortt to meet with him.

BA371 PLANNING

Stuart Ritchie reported on current planning issues –

Planning applications received – 9

Recommended for approval – 2

Delegated to Planning Committee – 2

Enforcement actions – 3 – including use of house as an art gallery in Alexander Dr.

Application by the Queen's Hotel for an extension for use as an entertainment area would be investigated. If this encroaches on the car park an objection would be lodged.

BA372 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Going Carbon Neutral Stirling – seeking support and participation in a survey
- NHS – information on new acute hospital development
- Temporary road closures – Hillview Drive and Pendreich Road.
- Letter from Mr Sidney Darbon concerning disruption to residents and bus operators by closure of railway crossing without signage; proposed housing in Inverallan Road adjacent to the factory; poor public transport services on Sundays. Mr Darbon was advised that there has not been any planning application submitted for Inverallan Road. It was also suggested that Sunday services were reduced everywhere, but display of the new bus timetable would greatly help resident.
- SEPA - "Flood Awareness Campaign. Alison Logie agreed to liaise with SEPA to plan suitable action.

BA373 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Frances Hamilton reported that Brian Whitby from the Allan Centre Council had attended the Community Conference and had indicated they were keen for the Community Council to be represented on the Council. It meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. It was agreed that Marjorie Russell would attend from October.
- Frances also stated that the Avenue Garage was due for demolition and alternative storage was needed for the Nativity Scene. The Treehouse had provided temporary storage. Graham Houston suggested that Adventure Scotland be approached.
- Frances reported that the flower beds in the Avenue were weed-ridden. Ownership was proving difficult to ascertain and she would pursue this.
- Frances reported that the "suggestions box" had raised
 - more flowers in the village
 - restoration of the clock
 - a heritage centre
 - more benches
 - creation of a Civic Trust
 - a ramp at the white bridge

She also reported that the Fountain project had ground to a halt.

- Stuart Ritchie raised the matter of 'No parking' at all at the bottom of Blairforkie Drive and asked if this was not overkill and resulting in increased parking problems on Henderson Street.
- Stuart also said that he had emailed his questionnaire on sport to Barbara Allan (Service Manager Communities) at Stirling Council for assistance, but had not had any response for 3½ weeks. Jean Houston agreed to contact Barbara on his behalf.

- Marjorie Russell stated that she had noticed “Bin Police” in action and wondered if this would be given publicity.
- Alison Logie reported that she had attended the recent meeting of the Merchants Association. The hanging baskets were now in place.
- It was agreed that an ad hoc payment of £50 be made to Roy Baker towards expenses he incurs carrying out improvements in Bridge of Allan.
- Mrs Gilchrist (resident) expressed disappointment in the lack of public support at Community Council meetings.
- Mr Franks (resident) asked that consideration be given when rebuilding the War Memorial to ensuring that the names on the Memorial are up to date.

BA374 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 17th July 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 9.00pm