

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2007**

- PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Jim Christie, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, Stuart Ritchie, Marjory Russell
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Jean Houston
- APOLOGIES:** none

The Chair welcomed all returning and new members to the first meeting of the newly inaugurated Community Council.

He expressed sincere thanks and appreciation of the exceptional work put in by Joan Kerr (former Chair) and Bobby Halliday (former Secretary) and proposed this be recognised by the Community Council.

BA338 POLICE REPORT

P.C. Muirhead was not present and therefore there was no Police Report.

Decision

Jean Houston would inform P.C. Colin Muirhead and local Councillors of schedule of meetings.

BA339 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- An email had been received from Keith Brown, SNP candidate for Ochil Constituency in the May elections to the Scottish Parliament, who would like to attend the March meeting of the Community Council to hear views and concerns relating to Bridge of Allan.

It was agreed to invite Mr Brown to the next meeting. Any other candidates wishing to speak at a meeting of the Community Council would likewise be invited to a future meeting.

It was also suggested and agreed that all candidates for the new local ward in the Council elections should be contacted and invited to attend a local hustings on a date to be agreed at the next Community Council meeting.

- Mr Willie Stevenson, who had been responsible for the new war memorial in Cowie, had asked for his contact details to be passed on. He had learnt much during the process in Cowie and offered to pass on lessons learnt from his experience. His telephone number was passed to Jim Christie.
- The Chair reported that Bob Jack, Director of Corporate Services at Stirling Council, had written advising that new procedures had been put in place, along with timescales, for dealing with enquiries from community councils. In addition, a tracking system was being put in place to ensure enquiries are dealt with within those timescales. Community Councils would be given a named officer contact who would pursue outstanding enquiries across all services of the Council. This contact officer had yet to be named.

- The Chair was confident that the new procedures would benefit community councils would result in better progress on issues.

Decision

Jean Houston to contact Keith Brown and provide details of other Scottish Parliament and Council candidates to Chair and Secretary.

BA340

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE

- It was confirmed that members could co-opt two more members to the Community Council.
- The Chair stated that a Youth Representative was a valuable member of the Community Council. Stuart Ritchie had fulfilled this role in the past but it was recognised that he would be leaving school summer 2007. Members unanimously agreed that Stuart be invited to continue this role in the short term and that Wallace High School should be contacted in due course for a successor.
- It was agreed that staff/pupils of Beaconsfield be invited to attend Community Councils meetings. The same consideration also to be given to the University.
- Whilst it was acknowledged that regular contact with the primary school was desirable, Community Council meetings were too late in the evening for regular attendance by this younger age group and pupils would need to be accompanied by a teacher. Representatives of the pupil council would continue to be invited to attend one community council meeting during the year.
- It was agreed that some Community Council meetings should concentrate on youth issues and all schools and the students should be invited to attend in particular on these dates.

Decision

It was agreed that

- members would co-opt two more members.
- Stuart Ritchie would continue as Youth Representative
- Wallace High School be contacted for a successor Youth Representative
- Staff and pupils of Beaconsfield and the University be invited to attend the Community Council
- Certain meetings of the Community Council concentrate on youth issues

BA341

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Ian Anderson asked whether, in the event that any co-optees failed to maintain attendance, they could be replaced. It is confirmed that they can be.
- Having agreed to be Acting Treasurer in the short term, Ian asked if Declan Bannon could be contacted regarding handover of financial records. It was also agreed to contact Bobby Halliday for handover of any correspondence files.
- Marjory Russell advised that in the past she had acted as liaison with the primary school and indicated that she would like to continue this role. This was agreed.
- Jim Christie updated members on the War Memorial. This funding project had come to a halt while there had been no Community Council but would now take off again. He reported on fundraising and that P7 pupils had raised a remarkable £500. Jim recommended that the money so far raised be put into a separate account and this was agreed. The next steps would be to approach local businesses and then consult with residents.

- Jim also updated members on the Trust. The Museum Hall sale had been completed at the end of 2006 and the Articles of Association had now been written. With membership of the Community Council changing, it was necessary for two members to join the Trust Committee. A Chartered Accountant had been invited to join the Trust and there was already a legal representative.

(Marjory Russell left the meeting at this point.)

- Frances Hamilton asked all members if they could bring a list of matters to be tackled to the next meeting of the Community Council.
- Ian Anderson said he would post a notice of members on the noticeboard. A schedule of meeting dates would also be provided for this purpose.
- It was agreed that the local press should be advised that the Community Council had reconvened.
- A local resident, Robert Franks, suggested that the Community Council set up a website. This suggestion was welcomed and Frances Hamilton would check out other Community Council websites. It was likely that this could be done at minimal cost.
- Members' telephone numbers and, where available, email addresses, would be circulated to members. These details would not be for public information.
- It was also recommended that a suggestion box should be placed in the library to encourage public feedback.

Decision

It was agreed that

- the former Treasurer and Secretary be contacted for files/correspondence
- Marjory Russell would act as Primary School liaison
- All members bring a note of issues/concerns to the next meeting
- Local press be contacted
- A Community Council website be set up
- Jean Houston circulate contact details to all members
- A suggestion box be place in the library

BA342 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 20th March 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 7.55pm