

BORESTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Borestone Primary School Wednesday 16 January 2008

Present: Jim Bruce (Chair), Maureen Allan, Alec Black, Mary Bruce, Mary Burns, David Cooke, Pat Coyne, Ian Crawford, Matt Curry, Raymond Knox, Alex Smith, George Weir

In Attendance: Councillor Scott Farmer, Councillor Andrew Simpson, Gerry McLaughlin (COP), P.C. Hogg, Andy Davis, Caroline Hamilton, Jason O'Rourke, Mr & Mrs Robertson, Jean Houston (notes)

1. Apologies

None

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the meeting held on 21 November 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

Proposed by Alex Smith
Seconded by George Weir

Matters Arising

Any matters arising were on the agenda of the meeting.

3. Police Report

In the period since the last meeting of the Community Council on 21 November 2007, there had been 48 offences reported – 26 detected and 22 still under investigation, 5 of which had suspects. 29 road traffic offences had been reported – however there appeared to have been a reduction in seasonal drink/driving offences.

P.C. Hogg confirmed that the CCTV was still not operational, but he had not been given an explanation for this. Gerry McLaughlin had been told this was due to trees blocking the line of the camera.

P.C. Hogg advised the Community Council that there would be changes in the community policing strategy, and neighbourhood policing teams were being piloted. This means that he would be covering a larger area, but with two other community constables and a special constable. The plan is that there should always be cover for sickness and holidays – and someone will be available to attend the Community Council meeting. The community will need to get to know the other constables.

P.C. Hogg asked the Community Council to think about three problems that they would like to community police team to address and advise him at the next meeting – he would be asking the neighbouring areas to do the same and recognised that the areas may have different priorities.

Current issues – whilst vandalism continued to be a problem, a recent case had resulted in remands. P.C. Hogg acknowledged that he had not yet spoken to the Headteacher at St Modans about parking by parents. Speeding along Barnsdale Road and Borestone Place was also still a problem.

The Chair reported that a recent exercise to monitor the volume of traffic on Glasgow Road had indicated a volume of 20,000 vehicles each day – most cases of speeding being in the southbound direction.

P.C. Hogg brought to everyone's attention the need for the public to phone in when they saw suspicious behaviour or criminal activity, otherwise the police cannot be in the right place at the right time. However everyone agreed that the Police were not getting adequate support from the Court system.

In response to an enquiry, P.C. Hogg said that if two or more people witness a driver using a mobile phone, then they can report the registration number to the Police.

Action

- Community Council to prioritise three problems for the community policing team to address
- P.C. Hogg to contact the Headteacher at St Modans regarding parent parking problems

4. Arnold Clark

Mr Robertson reported that despite recent meetings and agreement with Stirling Council, there continued to be parking and vehicle movement problems. Newly delivered vehicles were being parked on the public highway without trade plates, tax, insurance; and transporters were not adhering to the agreement of entering the site on the north side and exiting south side. CCTV cameras had also been installed without any statutory warning signs. At weekends, the garage was parking vehicles for sale where visitor parking should be.

Mr Robertson passed a report on to the local councillors and Councillor Farmer said he would forward these issues on to Lynn Currie for her immediate attention.

Action

- Councillor Farmer to contact Lynn Currie

5. Cultenhove Post Office

The Chair read a letter from Rebecca Maxwell, congratulating the community on their efforts in saving the post office.

6. Area Community Planning Forum – 29 November

Because there had been a clash of meetings on this date, it had been understood that no decisions would be taken affecting Borestone. However a decision had been taken on membership of the Public Partnership Forum (2 places) to the exclusion of a representative from Borestone. The Chair intended raising this for reconsideration.

Action

- Jim Bruce to raise issue of Borestone representative on Public Partnership Forum

7. Play Areas

Gerry McLaughlin advised that C.O.P. received funding in 2007 for an audit of green space areas and how the community wanted to use these areas. This will be undertaken mid-February to March. C.O.P. was looking at retaining and improving green space areas as places for community use.

There were concerns about losing the facility of the Astro turf at St Modans – and that the facilities at the new Stirling High School will only be available at a cost and to organised groups. Gerry wondered what the Community Council thought about locating this facility elsewhere, such as behind the garage at Thistle Park. He thought that if all community groups got together to look at applying for funding, there would be a greater chance of success. It was thought that this would cost in the region of £100,000, plus maintenance. It was agreed that St Ninians Trust and C.O.P. could jointly apply for Lottery funding.

Action

- Gerry McLaughlin to take forward funding application

8. Planning Matters

Raymond Knox reported on the following planning applications – none of which were contentious:

- Change of design of social housing in the Wordie Road development – now proposed as 2-storey instead of 3.
- Extension to dwelling house at 25 Sauchie Street
- Similar extension at 35 Sauchie Street
- Conservatory at house in Sauchieburn

He also reported on a proposed change of use of ground at Cambusbarron Cemetery. This change of use had already been approved at Bannockburn Cemetery for the applicant to set up a display of headstones for sale. There was general feeling that it was inappropriate to have any commercial enterprise at a cemetery. The Community Council would submit an objection, but at the same time ask that the toilet facilities be open for funerals, if not 9-5. It was noted that Cambusbarron Community Council were not in favour and were going to consult with the local community.

Action

- Community Council to lodge objection to Cambusbarron Cemetery application

9. Sauchieburn House

Jason O'Rourke brought to everyone's attention that new owners of Sauchieburn House, who owned the land up to the Craggs, were denying public access by erecting a 300m fence with signs diverting people via Swans Water. It was understood that an order had been issued and the owners were to comply with Council conditions by 31st January. This pathway was included in the Core Paths document but there was currently no access – local Councillors had taken this up with Countryside Rangers.

10. Any Other Business

- Matt Curry raised the matter of flooding in Nailor Road with Councillor Farmer.
- Traffic problems on St Ninians Road at Newhouse due to parking on both sides of the road, making two-way traffic impossible at times. This appeared to have been caused by parking restrictions at Police HQ, putting extra vehicles onto the public road. Councillor Farmer was awaiting a response from Environment Services on this.

- Poor heating in Borestone Primary School. There had been a commitment in 2005 by Children’s Services to improve this situation for evening meetings but no work had been carried out.
- Councillor Simpson confirmed that a surgery rota had been sent out – this had not yet been received.
- Waste – in response to an enquiry about a special uplift being made on Wednesday nights (even if the bin was overloaded), it was confirmed that the property in question was classified for “trade” waste uplift.
- The Chair notified the meeting that Raymond Knox was leaving Borestone and moving to Dundee temporarily. He gave a vote of thanks to Raymond for the contribution and work he had put in over the years. However this meant that the Community Council needed a new Secretary and expressions of interest were invited. Raymond had returned the laptop computer and this would be passed on to the new Secretary. Alec Black, who had previously served as Secretary indicated he would be prepared to do so again.
- Paragon - George Weir reported that despite having been assured at the Paragon AGM that housing officers would be going round on a regular basis to ensure that tenancy conditions/missive rules were being met, a neighbourhood problem with rubbish building up in a garden continued. It was now a reasonable time past the holiday season and nothing was being done.

Councillors Farmer & Simpson agreed to write to Paragon and suggested that the Community Council could consider inviting the housing association along to a future meeting.

George was able to report, however, that some work had been carried out on the flower beds.

- Pat Coyne raised the issue of tree roots lifting the pavement at Thistle Park/McGregor Road.

Action

- Councillors Farmer & Simpson to write to Paragon Housing Association

11. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 20th February at 7.00pm.**