

BORESTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Borestone Primary School Wednesday 21 March 2007

- Present:** Jim Bruce (Chair), Maureen Allen, Alex Black, Mary Bruce, Mary Burns, Pat Coyne, Ian Crawford, Matt Curry, Andy Davis, Raymond Knox, A Simpson, Alex Smith, George Weir
- In Attendance:** Councillor Scott Farmer, Ken Macdonald (Broomridge CC), Gerry McLaughlin (Cultenhove Opportunities), P.C. Will Hogg, Sue Gutteridge (Play Services), Jean Houston (notes)
- Apologies:** David Cooke, Kitty McWilliam,

1. Minute of Previous Meeting

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

Proposed by M Curry

Seconded by A Smith

Matters Arising

Paragon Housing

G Weir was happy to report that Paragon had uplifted the offending rubbish and expressed thanks on behalf of residents to Councillor Scott Farmer.

Health Centre Proposals

It was noted that discussions were still ongoing regarding the Mayfield Health Centre which residents were keen should remain open. The public meeting scheduled to take place on 28th March had been cancelled, but R Knox advised that Eddie MacDonald of NHS Forth Valley had stated that the health centre would remain operational. The practices would write to patients in due course to advise of arrangements.

Atkins Report

It was noted that there had been no contact from Brian Roberts (Traffic Management Team Leader, Stirling Council).

Laptop

R Knox confirmed that the laptop and printer had now been purchased.

2. Police Report

P.C. Hogg presented the latest Crime Report.

Since the last meeting of the Community Council there had been 30 detected offences – a significant reduction on the previous report - and 20 road traffic offences, mainly for not using seatbelts and for use of mobile phones while driving. He was also pleased to report that the series of vehicle break-ins had stopped.

P.C. Hogg reported that since the last meeting there had been an operation targeting drugs, resulting in two arrests in St Ninians area.

It was noted that the problem of parking illegally around the school continued despite a letter going out to parents from the head teacher. Traffic wardens had been notified.

Members of the community indicated they would like better feedback from the Police when a crime was reported and an arrest made. P.C. Hogg explained the process and assured everyone that victims of crime should feel free to contact the Procurator Fiscal's office to enquire whether a prosecution was still outstanding on a case, or if the P.F. was not proceeding. It may be that the person arrested pled guilty and there would be no trial. The telephone number for enquiries is **01786 462021**.

3. Play Areas

Sue Gutteridge (Service Manager, Play Services) attended to explain to the meeting how contributions by developers of the St Modans site would be allocated for expenditure.

Whilst the PPP agreement states that there should be traffic calming measures on various roads and provision of offsite play and formal recreation facilities, there is no commitment for the money in question to be allocated to the Borestone area. Play Services planned to put into one pot the monies from developers of the Wallace High School, Stirling High School & St Modans High School sites to upgrade facilities at Beechwood Park and Kings Park, which Sue considered were in need of refurbishment. J Bruce pointed out that Borestone and Culterhove were not affluent areas whilst Kings Park and Beechwood were, and indeed Friends of Kings Park had access to other funding.

Members of the Community Council maintained that the £74,000 in question had been committed to the provision of play facilities for the Borestone community and that this had been confirmed by Rebecca Maxwell. Sue responded that Rebecca Maxwell had made that statement in good faith at the time.

Sue advised that there was housing regeneration money available for play provision at the wooded area at the top of Culterhove. No detailed plans had been drawn up yet and consultation would be arranged by Barbara Allen. She also stated that money was designated for new play provision from the Wordie Road development. Members advised Sue that all play area money seemed to be directed to the top of the hill – so what provision would be made for the lower end? She responded that the Council cannot maintain play provision in every local area, and would therefore concentrate on larger parks which serve wider areas, e.g. Kings Park, Beechwood and Causewayhead. She also stated that Thistle Park had recently had money spent on it.

Ken MacDonald, as Chair of the Area Community Planning Forum, did not recall any Community Planning involvement or consultation taking place. He indicated that Broomridge Community Council were already unhappy about continuing with the Forum if Stirling Council were not prepared to consult communities. A letter written to David Cameron five weeks ago but had yet to have a response. Sue Gutteridge indicated that Play Services were not obliged to consult communities on the allocation of resources to play facilities.

I Crawford asked Sue to bear in mind that the community was not asking for a new facility, but for replacement of an existing facility that would be removed, i.e. the all weather sports facility which is used every evening of the week by the youngsters in the area.

G McLaughlin pointed out that there was every likelihood that crime would increase if the youth lose this facility. He stated that the Council would be taking from the "have nots" and giving to the "haves". Many parents in Borestone and Culterhove do not have cars to take their children to the larger parks, and there is no night time bus service for them. Children cannot go safely on foot as there are busy main roads to cross.

When asked if the Council would reconsider the proposals to spend the money on Kings Park and Beechwood, Sue Gutteridge said “probably not”.

It was agreed that representatives of the Community Council should meet with Bob Jack and John Risk to ask if there was a case of maladministration, and Borestone Community Council would also consider withdrawing from the Community Planning Forum.

Councillor Farmer indicated that he had recently spoken with David Cameron (Director of Children’s Services) who had given assurance that the proposals were not a foregone conclusion. The Community Council asked that he continue to pursue this matter on their behalf. They were also keen to know who had ultimately made the decision to spend the money on Kings Park and Beechwood without community consultation.

4. Planning Matters

- R Knox reported one planning application which was not contentious.
- Raymond agreed to check whether a garage in Graystale Road had consent, or if enforcement was necessary.

5. Telecommunications

Councillor Farmer had attended a meeting on telecommunication mast and reported that regular updates would be available from the Planning Development Officer. He advised that a complaint had been made to operators about the lack of consultation on mast sites. Without legislative framework the Planning Authority has limited powers to oppose masts.

It was noted that, whilst in Broomridge area, a 3G mast was proposed on the pavement at Ian Grieve’s on Glasgow Road. Whilst private landowners are paid for siting masts on their property, the Council is not paid for masts erected on pavements.

Councillor Farmer told members that there were now dual purpose masts that also served as street lights. The issue of more shared masts was being looked at and it was hoped there would be more technology sharing and co-operation.

6. Correspondence

- Local Government Elections – Meeting on 22nd March at 7.30pm to explain the process. An information stall would be set up in the Thistle Centre from 29th March until 1st April. G McLaughlin said that there was also an information evening planned through the Adult Education programme at Hillview on 29th March.
- Grass cutting – A fresh consultation process is planned by Stirling Council. New maps will be issued through the Area Community Planning Forum.
- Notice of two disabled parking spaces in the area.
- Notice of Temporary Road Closure at Cultenhove Road from 26th March until 30th May for gas works.
- Notice of Structure Plan update
- Notice of Whins of Milton concert on 29th March at 1.45pm

- Agenda and Minute of Cultenhove Opportunities Partnership
- Core Paths Meeting cancelled – a new date would be notified
- In response to letter of enquiry, Dave Thorogood (Planning) had responded that the Council had no involvement in any community benefit scheme relating to wind farms.

7. Any Other Business

- Councillor Farmer had attended a meeting concerning options to manage the quarrying process. Residents had increasing concerns on safety issues. Councillor Farmer did indicate that the weight of the lorries on the roads may be a matter for consideration.

Notices were circulated for a Quarry Action Meeting taking place on Wednesday 28th March at Cambusbarron Community Centre.

- Councillor Farmer also reported on a C.O.P. meeting where residents had been very worried about health & safety issues relating to the development building works currently ongoing. He needed to speak to Brian Devlin about these concerns and it would be preferable to see a presence on site where people could take their complaints and concerns.
- I Crawford had obtained a grant application form for the proposed audio system which was expected to cost £331.
- Mary Bruce stated that the School Parents Meeting had been cancelled – she would report back at the next meeting.

8. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 18th April at 7.00pm.