

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2008**

- PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Jim Christie, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Sandi Grieve, Frances Hamilton, David Middleton, Elizabeth Rankin, Mike Watson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Calum Campbell, P.C. Wendy Alexander, Allanwater News, Jean Houston (notes)
- APOLOGIES:** Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, Marjory Russell

BA459 POLICE REPORT

P.C. Alexander reported that in the period since the last meeting of the Community Council on 17 June 2008, there had been 13 offences reported – 6 detected and 7 still under investigation. There continued to be a number of thefts, one incident each of breach of the peace, shotgun without certificate, fraud, possession of drugs, urinating in public and drunk and incapable. Two of the incidents involved bogus workmen and the public are warned to be on their guard.

11 road traffic offences had been detected, which were varied - use of mobile phone, speeding, lights, seat belts, as well as drinking & driving.

P.C. Alexander said that she intended talking to the new student intake once term started about having lights on bicycles, and, in addition, would be monitoring the 20mph when the schools return. It was pointed out to her that pavement parking continued to be a problem during the holiday period and was of concern.

The Chair reported resident concerns about speeding on Henderson Street at the east end of the village. HGVs and buses were frequent offenders and there were no deterrents. P.C. Alexander said she would be taking out the speed board. She also stated that the numbers of vehicles speeding could be recorded with a radar gun and the information used to support a request for a permanent sign.

A resident brought to the attention of the Community Council a collision that had happened at the Melville Place/ Keir Street junction. Cars tended to drive straight through the junction along Keir Street even though they did not have right of way. The road markings are not clear and need redone and signage could be better. It was agreed that the Community Council would contact Brian Roberts about this.

Decision

- The Police Report was noted.
- The Secretary to contact Brian Roberts to request repainting of road markings and better signage at junction of Melville/Keir Street.

BA460 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 17 June 2008 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

Matters Arising

War Memorial – Jim Christie reported that the Quantity Surveyor's estimate was considerably over the expected amount and would be monitoring this situation.

Tenders were due on 15th July, with works starting 1st August and completion around 20 September. Jim had submitted a request via the Lord Lieutenant for VIP attendance at the rededication.

Toilets – Mike Watson reported that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request for a copy of the structural report and other reports from the past 3 years, which the Council is basing its decisions upon. He expected to have this information within 10 days. He suggested that there should then be a second opinion.

BA461 COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Elizabeth Rankin gave feedback on a meeting she had attended. She advised that Lesley Middlemiss, Programme Manager – Community Hospitals, was prepared to come and make a presentation to the community council on an agreed date.

Elizabeth reported that community hospitals would remain at Clackmannanshire, Bo'ness, Stirling and Falkirk. The Stirling community hospital would offer a wide range of inpatient services – including ambulatory care, physiotherapy, x-ray, podiatry, day hospital procedures, stroke rehabilitation, palliative care, diabetic care. Negotiations were underway with a nursing home in the rural area for palliative and terminal care. Consideration was being given to beds for the elderly for rehabilitation and long stay at the community hospital; and whilst all A&E would go to Larbert, minor injuries could be treated locally. GP out of hours service would continue from the Stirling site.

Services would be phased in at the new acute hospital over two years from 2009 to 2011. It would take 5 years for full completion. Discussions were still ongoing about access and a motorway slip road at Glenbervie. NHS Forth Valley were also looking at a dedicated bus route. Staff were being encouraged to car share and use public transport. Parking would be managed by a Perth company, but would be free of charge up to 4 hours.

NHS Forth Valley were aware that there was a public perception of a lack of consultation and were planning to open up web links.

BA462 TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to holidays, the audited accounts had been delayed. However it was reported that there was a balance of £685.02 in the General Fund. The sums of £135 had been paid out towards a seat in the village, and £195 towards plants and paint. These sums would be reimbursed once the Provost's Panel approved the current request for monies from the Museum Hall Funds.

BA463 PLANNING

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	5
Recommended for approval	3
Enforcement actions	2

None of which were contentious.

BA464 CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter from John Lloyd of Allanwater Gardens regarding the condition of the footpath behind Chalmers Church. This path was included in the leaflet on Walks in Bridge of Allan and appeared to be moving. It was agreed that the community council would write to Stirling Council asking that action be taken on health & safety grounds.
- Two letters of concern had been received regarding the state of the Memorial Park. Urgent action was now needed to improve the gardens and there were concerns that Stirling Council was not taking any action. Councillor Houston reported that there had been meetings with Council officers and there was a willingness to undertake the work, and it was a case of finding the resources.

Residents raised their concerns about the gathering held by the Scottish Youth Parliament on the grass area at the Memorial Park and wanted to know who had organised the event, and who had given permission for use of the ground. There were strong objections to any use of the Park other than as a place of remembrance. The Chair stated that the Community Council would feed back the views of the community. However all houses in the immediate vicinity were hand delivered notification of the event.

- Chief Constable's Annual Report
- Notification of Health & Safety Panel on 18th August at 2pm
- Roads Maintenance 5 year work programme – local roads were scheduled for work.
- Guidance Note for Community Councils on the Data Protection Act. It was noted that some Community Councils were objecting to this, and the Stirling Council held the view that Community Councils should be exempt from paying the fee and would reimburse them. It was agreed to pay the fee and submit a claim.
- Doorstep Crime – Neil Chalmers sent notice of a meeting
- Notice of Community Council vacancy elections

Decision

It was agreed that

- Stirling Council be asked to take action on the footpath beside Chalmers Church on health & safety grounds
- The views of the community would be fed back on the SYP event
- Community Council fees under the Data Protection Act would be paid and claimed

BA465 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Somerfield car park – A meeting had been held with Alan Ogilvie, Development Control Team Leader, regarding the damaged walls at the entrance and exit to the car park. There were proposals to widen the entrance, which is used by delivery vehicles entering and exiting, whilst the exit would be made narrower. In addition there would be improved pedestrian access. Somerfield had agreed to contribute to improving the car park surface and work would be carried out in the autumn.

- Frances Hamilton advised that she had met with Stevie Harrower, Streetscape Officer, to discuss an application for fund from the Community Pride Fund. They had walked around making a list of trees and shrubs to improve the village, e.g. at the car park at the community centre, the area at the centre of the Somerfield car park, and bulb planting from the west end of Henderson Street.
- It was confirmed that an application for Museum Hall funds was being considered by the Provost's Panel this week.
- John Gill raised the matter of overgrown hedges along the road to the meat plant.
- David Middleton advised that permission had been received for repainting of the Henderson Clock; Colin MacKay, Playgrounds Team Leader, had confirmed money available for improving playparks (but did not know if Avenue Park and Westerlea Drive were eligible); Play Services had distributed questionnaires at Hawes Park which had been completed; and work was underway on the Fountain.
- Mike Watson raised the issue of only two sets of nets being available for three tennis courts. However it was pointed out that one court had not been taped for use.
- He also advised that drain covers were missing on Sunnylaw Road – one was coned, but the cone was missing from the other.
- The Community Council were advised that residents of Coneyhill had recently met with Kate Smithson, Public Transport Team Leader. The road was still slipping and the closure caused problems with emptying of bins. There were major concerns over soundness of houses and the residents would welcome the support of the Community Council.

Councillor Houston shared the concerns and said that every effort was being made to find the cause. Whilst there may be a correlation between the development works and the slippage, he understood that pipe leakage was also being investigated. It was easy to apportion blame, but the underlying cause had to be determined.

- Mr Franks gave thanks to Streetscape for removing the rubbish from the litter-pick at Beaconcroft.
- Chalmers Church – there was no news of the development but it was understood that there was a hold-up with SNH. Councillor Houston advised that Planners were waiting for information to be provided by Crammond Homes.
- Inverallan Road – it was noted that there was dangerous bad parking during the day between the Bridge and the Bridge Inn. This needed to be reported to P.C. Alexander.
- Les Ferguson suggested that the matter of the Memorial Park should be carried forward to the September meeting to look at ideas for maintenance of trees, shrubs and paths – after which a long term plan needed to be developed.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Application would be made to the Community Pride Fund
- Absence of cone at missing drain cover on Sunnylaw Road be reported
- The Community Council would give full support possible to the residents of Coneyhill Road

- Bad parking between Bridge and Bridge Inn be reported to P.C. Alexander
- Memorial Park improvements to be discussed at September meeting

BA466 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No meeting will take place in August. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16th September 2008 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

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

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm