

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

- PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Jim Christie, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, Stuart Ritchie, Marjory Russell
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor John Holliday, Jean Houston
- SPEAKERS:** Keith Brown, SNP Parliamentary Candidate; Mark Ruskell, MSP (Green Party); Simon Spencer (The Fountain Society)
- APOLOGIES:** none

The Chair welcomed members of the community and press and remarked on the good turnout for the meeting. He advised who the speakers for the evening would be.

The Chair then invited Joan Kerr (former Chair), Bobby Halliday (former Secretary) and Declan Bannon (former Treasurer) to accept a small gift from the Community Council to mark the significant contribution they had made over the years through their hard work and dedication.

BA343 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 20th February 2007 was submitted for approval.

Decision

The Minute of the meeting held on 20th February 2007 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

BA344 MATTERS ARISING

Local hustings – After discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council would facilitate and chair a hustings for Bridge of Allan ward candidates in the forthcoming local government election. It is likely that this will take place on **Wednesday 18th April, 2007 in the Allan Centre.**

Police Report – It was noted that P.C. Colin Muirhead had moved to another post at Police HQ. His replacement P.C. Paul Colquhoun would take up post the following week. As a result there was no Police Report.

Community Council email address & suggestion box – Residents of Bridge of Allan can now contact the Community Council by email to bofacc@hotmail.co.uk. Future consideration may be given to developing a website. A suggestion box has been reinstated at the Library.

Decision

It was agreed that a local hustings should be arranged to take place in the Allan Centre on Wednesday 18th April 2007.

BA345 MARK RUSKELL, MSP – TACTRAN REPORT

Mark Ruskell (Green Party) explained to the meeting the implications of proposals by TACTRAN – Tayside & Central Scotland Transport Partnership – to build a link road from Kildean to the University as part of a wider Draft Regional Strategy. This strategy covers Stirling, Perth & Kinross, Dundee and Angus Councils.

The deadline for comments/objections on the Draft Regional Strategy was Friday, 16th March, but there had been an assurance from Alison Scambler, Planning Officer, that there was still time to lodge objections. However at the Council meeting on Thursday 15th March, the TACTRAN report was strongly supported by Council and it did not now appear possible for the Community Council to object to proposals via this consultation. The Draft Regional Transport Strategy would be submitted to the Transport Minister by 31st March for consideration and approval.

Mark Ruskell stated that there had been similar lack of consultation regarding projects at Perth and Dundee. He intended raising the issue of lack of consultation with Ministers at the Parliament and would feed back to the Community Council in due course.

There was an urgent need for communities to be informed of the proposals so that any objections could be fed in through the Structure Plan process. The deadline for comments is 30th April 2007.

The proposed link road aims to move congestion from areas such as the Clock Roundabout and decrease lorry traffic through Bridge of Allan. However this would erode the green belt, and the likelihood was that any remaining green belt areas would be taken up by developers.

It was agreed that the Community Council would object to this proposed link road, but would give positive support to the new village at Durieshill.

Decision

It was agreed that a strong objection to the proposed link road from Kildean to the University be lodged via the Structure Plan consultation.

BA346 KEITH BROWN – SNP CANDIDATE FOR OCHIL CONSTITUENCY

Keith Brown, who hopes to succeed George Reid at the forthcoming election, introduced himself to the meeting. He set out some of the SNP's proposals including the abolition of council tax which had increased in the area by 60% over the past 10 years. He also stressed the need for Stirling Council to be more responsive to the needs of its communities and to concentrate its efforts on core services such as grass cutting and litter.

BA347 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Letter from Stirling Council on grass cutting. New maps were being produced for each area and there would be a fresh consultation exercise. Grass cutting had commenced at Memorial Park the previous day.
- Letter from Stirling Council detailing waiting restrictions around the station and the Meadowpark.

- Details of proposed bus service by Morrisons running down Cawdor Road, up Inverallan Road, then proceeding into Stirling providing a much needed service to the Infirmary. A trial run had been successful and was supported by the majority of residents in the area. The service is due to start from April and is expected to run four times a day, Monday to Friday.
- Leaflets had been received on How to Vote in the forthcoming elections. These leaflets are available at the library.
- A letter had been received from Malcolm Allan of the Dr Welsh Trust, suggesting names for the developments at Chalmers Church (Chalmers Court and Chalmers House) and Museum Hall (McFarlane House). It was agreed that these suggestions be passed on to Ken McDonald at Stirling Council.
- Licence application received for Bridge of Allan Games.
- Disabled parking – it was agreed to suggest a space on Henderson Street.

Decision

It was agreed that

- suggested namings of new developments be submitted to Stirling Council
- disabled parking space be suggested for Henderson Street

BA348 TREASURER

Since the last meeting of the Community Council, John Gill had agreed to become Treasurer of the Community Council.

BA349 THE FOUNTAIN – SIMON SPENCER

Simon Spencer of The Fountain Society specialises in restoring old fountains. He approached the Community Council with a view to undertaking a survey of the Fountain, which has been in a state of disrepair for many years. The survey would hopefully show whether the Fountain can be brought back to working order. Mr Spencer had approached Stirling Council who had shown no interest. The survey would be at no cost to the Community Council.

The Community Council welcomed and supported this approach and Ian Anderson would pass on details of the former Burgh Foreman to Mr Spencer.

Decision

It was agreed to support the proposed survey of the Fountain by Simon Spencer.

BA350 PLANNING

In the past month three new planning applications had been received by the Planning Authority, none of which were contentious.

BA351 ROADS/PAVEMENTS/LITTER

- It was noted that the mechanical sweeper had been through the village 4 times in the last few weeks.

- Members of the Community Council were not clear about what was happening at the Bridge. It appeared that problems had started with water leaks at the centre section, resulting in the current roadworks. It was hoped that the chicanes would be reinstated soon.
- Alison Logie raised the problem of flooding at the foot of Blairforkie every time it rains. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Stirling Council asking them to check the drains for blockages.
- There remained bad flooding problems at the corner of Fountain Road/Keir Street. This had been reported to Stirling Council many times over the past year to no avail.

Decision

It was agreed that letters be sent to Stirling Council regarding flooding problems at Blairforkie Drive and Keir Street.

BA352 PARKS/WOODLANDS

- Stirling Council had agreed to prune overgrown bushes at Memorial Park to reduce the “hidden areas” for youths to gather. Work had been due to commence December but no action had taken place yet.
- Alison Logie stated that about two dozen rose bushes at the bottom of Blairforkie Drive had been lifted. Stuart Ritchie advised that he had seen workmen carrying this out. Alison would keep an eye on whether these are replaced.
- Alison also reported that trees at Blairforkie Drive were covered with ivy and in danger of dying. She recommended that the Woodland Trust be contacted.
- There was also the matter of trees by the river getting undermined by the water and the need to plant some more further back from the river.

Decision

It was agreed that the Woodland Trust be contact regarding trees in Blairforkie Drive.

BA353 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Holliday's report was circulated.

Councillor Holliday expressed his surprise at the Council paper proposing that the Museum Hall money be put into a Common Good Fund, to be managed by the Provost's Panel. One of the elected members for the new ward would join the Provost's Panel to discuss disbursement of the funds.

Councillor Holliday had this paper deferred to a later meeting after the elections and hopes that this fund can be managed by the Trust.

It was noted that the first meeting of the Trust would take place in April and two Community Council members were needed on the Trust.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- War Memorial - Jim Christie reported that the final cost was now expected to be £27,000. Members of the Community Council would need to consider how to raise money from the local community. It was noted that whilst Bridge of Allan had succeeded in getting a grant of £9,500 – Cowie had been awarded £20,000 by the same Community Development Fund.
- It was agreed that an application should be submitted to the appropriate fund for money towards hanging baskets for community enhancement.
- Les Ferguson suggested that the Community Council needed closer liaison with the Merchants Association. Meeting take place quarterly and the community council should be represented. The Merchants Association would likewise be invited to attend Community Council meetings. It was agreed to make this approach and Alison Logie agreed to represent the Community Council.
- Peter Pearson updated the meeting on the Pylons Inquiry, which started on 6th February and would run until 20th December. The current strategic session would end in May and be followed by sessions in Inverness, Aviemore, Perth & Stirling – the Stirling session taking place in November. Undergrounding now seemed to be an option for consideration and it appeared that under-sea cabling was almost as cheap as overland. Peter advised that SNH were strongly against the route proposed around Stirling, and were examining underground options.
- Members were asked to defer their lists of outstanding matters until the next meeting.
- Ian Thomson, resident, approached the Community Council to ask for support of a sport development plan for the village. He proposed a multi-agency approach to ensure a broad range of choice for all age groups, looking at all facilities including the new High School, Strathallan Games Park, tennis courts etc. Stuart Ritchie reminded members that Jacqueline Lynn had given an assurance to make better provision of facilities to youth, but there had been no action since she attended the meeting in August 2006. It was agreed that a sub-group should be formed by Ian Thomson and Marjorie Russell to take this forward.
- Bill Davies, resident, asked if there was any way of stopping bad parking in Fountain Road at and opposite the Post Office. It was agreed that this was not policed and there was never evidence of a traffic warden, and this matter should be raised at the next meeting with the new Community Constable.
- It was noted that dog owners were allowing their dogs to foul in the Memorial Park and that it was also bad at Cawdor Road.

Decision

It was agreed that

- An application be submitted for funds towards hanging baskets;
- Alison Logie would represent the Community Council at Merchants Association meetings
- The Merchants Association be invited to attend meetings of the Community Council
- A sub-group be formed to look at a sport development plan for Bridge of Allan
- The issue of parking at and opposite the Post Office be raised at the next meeting with the Community Constable

BA355

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 17th April 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 9.20pm