

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008**

PRESENT: Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Desiree Ashton, Jim Christie, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, David Inglis, Alison Logie, David Middleton, Jamie Nicol, Marjory Russell, Sam Shortt, Mike Watson

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Calum Campbell, Councillor David Goss, Councillor Graham Houston, P.C. Wendy Alexander, Jean Houston (notes)

APOLOGIES: Sandi Grieve, Keith Ironside

BA439 POLICE REPORT

In the period since the last meeting of the Community Council on 19 February 2008, there had been 46 offences reported – 32 detected and 14 still under investigation. There had been a high number of thefts (9 in total) all of which had been detected and 2 thefts by housebreaking. P.C. Alexander reported that there had been proactive work by the Police against drinking in the street and public urinating. She was pleased to report a low number of cases of vandalism. Nine road traffic offences had been reported, use of mobiles and not wearing seatbelts.

P. C. Alexander advised that the issue of parking around schools had been raised with the Headteachers. People parking on double yellow lines and zig-zag lines had been spoken to and Traffic Wardens were being involved to ticket offenders.

She indicated that whilst action had been concentrated at Bridge of Allan Primary, more time would be spent around Beaconsburst next month. However the Headteacher there has already been asked to speak to the bus driver about the dangers of parking on the corner.

Both schools are keen to increase the number of pupils who walk to school, which would reduce the problems associated with parents parking.

P.C. Alexander noted that parking by staff/students from the University exacerbates the problems – the University will be asked to raise awareness with students.

In response to concerns about speeding on Henderson Street and Keir Street, P.C. Alexander said it may be possible for the Police to use the hand held radar to try and reinforce the message and educate drivers on speed.

Decision

The Police Report was noted

BA440 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 19 February 2008 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

BA441 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting 8th March – Marjorie Russell reported on the meeting which had examined communications between the community, Community Councils, Council, NHS etc. She had found this to be quite a bizarre experience.

Wallace High School – Desiree Ashton was still looking into how the community could book school facilities for use.

Public toilets – Councillor Campbell stated that he had just received copy of a report that day, which was a full audit of public facilities within the council area. The bottom line was that there is no money available to reopen the toilets. The Community Council would continue to pursue this before the summer visitor season –the facility was also very important to the local population, in particular children and the elderly. The structural survey which had been carried out had indicated no further movement. The only way to confirm the long term situation was to dig test holes around the entire foundations. However it seemed significant that the mural which had been painted in 2002, had no cracks in it. It was estimated that it would only take around £4000 to get it up and running. Marjorie suggested that a partnership between the community and the council may be considered by the council.

Removal of swings at Avenue Park play area – The Allanwater News were thanked for highlighting this matter. It was noted that £400,000 was now available to revitalise play areas within the council area. Councillor Houston advised that the new portfolio holder was Councillor Graham Lambie and that a strategic review of all public play areas was being carried out and proposals would be compatible with the Open Space Strategy. The Secretary would write to Councillor Lambie.

Litter bins, Fountain Road Play park– Frances had been advised by Streetscape to contact Play Services for lids.

Strathallan Court Bus Shelter – Members were pleased to hear that a seat would be installed by the end of the month.

HGV Speeding – Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads & Transport, had been contacted regarding a flashing “Slow Down” sign, but had replied that he considered there were sufficient traffic calming measures and it was not usual to have a flashing sign in addition to this. However the Chair disagreed and said that other villages had both measures. He intended to pursue this and thought a survey could be undertaken.

Post Office Closure – Despite a well-organised public meeting, which had had a large turnout, the decision to close the post office had been confirmed that morning to the University. It was anticipated that this would take place in April.

Saturday mornings coach – It was noted that Mark Meechan would be attending the next Allan Centre meeting. Members were reminded by Marjorie that the Centre had originally been opened as a youth centre, but now seemed to be a “healthy hearts” centre.

Decision

It was agreed that the following matters should be pursued:

- Desiree to check how the community can book Wallace High School facilities
- Continued action regarding public toilets
- The Secretary to write to Councillor Lambie regarding the removal of swings at the Avenue Park play area
- Les Ferguson to pursue flashing Slow Down sign for Henderson Street

BA442 PROJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR MUSEUM HALL FUNDS

Projects had been suggested by members of the public and these were split into two categories - (a) immediately achievable, and (b) bigger, long-term projects

These were all listed with some additional suggestions, but in no particular order. (Not all were achievable).

Group (a)

Clean Avenue Arch

Howff – repair wall and turn into a “welcome to Bridge of Allan” point

Repair seat at Clydesdale Bank

Restore Paterson Clock – *it was noted that this is maintained from the Common Good Fund*

Planting around the Health Centre & Library

Bench seats at viewpoints – *to fit in with Core Path Strategy*

Renovation of tennis courts on Keir Street

Skateboard or BMX area

Improve and maintain The Avenue

Tourist Information Board

Improve Provost’s Park

Storage facility and place to meet for local Scout groups

Improve primary school grounds and facilities

Group (b)

Fountain – get working, paint, fence around & landscape

Memorial Park – garden contract

Stabilise river bank)

Drainage of Hawes Park) *responsibility of public body*

Flood prevention scheme)

War Memorial – *this is being undertaken currently*

Public Toilets

Micro renewable power technology

Grandstand for games park

Christmas light scheme for Henderson Street

Furnish Parish Hall

Jogging track

Fund a Development Trust

The Chair suggested that this list be shortlisted to 4 or 5 projects, costs calculated and a subsequent request to the Provost’s Panel for funds. Members discussed the various suggestions, which sections of the community they would benefit, and what the Community Council vision for Bridge of Allan was. It was agreed that priority should be given to youth facilities, with enhancement of the village also to be considered.

It was agreed that stabilising the river bank, drainage of Hawes Park and flood prevention scheme were all linked together and were the responsibility of a public agency.

The Fountain Society had previously indicated that the fountain would take £200,000 to repair and restore – this was too expensive to consider. The Fountain Society had also not replied to further enquiries, so restoration was assumed to be impracticable.

Councillor Goss suggested that it may be a good idea to appoint a Business Manager to cost the projects – and that grant funding may be available for this. Desiree Ashton, on the other hand, thought that some of the smaller projects could be undertaken by members of the community. Jim Christie asked members to bear in mind that they could double their money on some projects by applying for Lottery match funding.

It was agreed that the following projects would be given priority, with named members taking responsibility for costing:

1. Public Toilets (Mike Watson)
2. Tennis Courts – seek match funding and link in to school grounds development (Desiree Ashton and Mike Watson)
3. Improve all play parks (David Middleton)
4. Memorial Park paths & planting (Les Ferguson, Alison Logie and Sandi Grieve)
5. Step access to Provost’s Park from Henderson Street (Clare Gibbons and Sam Shortt)

In addition, sponsors would be sought for benches – and approaches would be made to Gateway, Grahams, M Heron, UCP, and Scotbeef.

It was also noted that Clackmannanshire & Stirling Environmental Trust were looking for projects to take forward, and this would be given consideration, along with the Community Pride Fund and Local Community Development Fund. It was important not to use Museum Hall Funds if other resources were available for projects.

Decision

It was agreed that costings on the agreed prioritised projects should be brought to the next meeting of the Community Council.

BA443 TREASURER’S REPORT

The Chair announced that Keith Ironside would be stepping down in the interim as Treasurer due to family circumstances. John Gil had volunteered to take on this responsibility.

It was confirmed that the administration grant had been paid.

BA444 PLANNING

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	5	
Recommended for approval	5	
Recommended for refusal	2 –	house in Glen Road House at 55 Chalton Road
Not yet determined	1 –	Garden development at Allanwood Court

BA445 CORRESPONDENCE

- Stirling Council – Minutes volume
- Joan Kerr – Publication advertising products for local councils
- Primary School communications focus group – Thursday 20th March am
- Woodland & Green Space Projects – letter from J Begg advising trees to be cut down in mid woods. Will attend April meeting of the Community Council.
- Beaconhurst – The school wants to be more fully involved with the community and is proposing to nominate a youth representative.
- Water Watch – Notice of meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th March at 7.3pm. Alison Logie agreed to complete a questionnaire sent.

- Scottish Government survey of A.S.C.C. questionnaire – Marjory Russell to complete
- Central Scotland Police – Safer Street Awareness event on 26th March from 2-6pm in Golden Lion Hotel. This is a drop-in event re licensing legislation. David Inglis said he would pass this on to a member of the community who had some issues with the Crooked Arm.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Alison Logie would complete Water Watch questionnaire
- Marjory Russell would complete A.S.C.C. questionnaire

BA446 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Alison Logie announced that the Bridge of Allan Times was looking for contributions to the next issue.
- Frances Hamilton advised she would be complaining about flooding at Keir Street/Melville Place. She was also pursuing contacts to repair broken walls at Somerfield and just up from Clydesdale Bank.
- Jim Christie updated members on the Development Trust. Two fiscal trustees had been appointed and the Articles of Association had been completed. They had yet to register with charity regulators. Jim would bring an update to the next meeting.
- War Memorial – Jim Christie advised that at a meeting on 10th March, there had been a site investigation and evaluation. Quotes from three contractors would be obtained by the end of May and it was anticipated that the project would be completed by the end of September. A request would be made for a VIP opening.
- Ian Anderson indicated that a bin was needed for litter at the benches on Fountain Road.
- John Gill asked Councillors present if the recent changes in administration of the Council would lead to senior management changes. Councillor Goss responded that it was up to the portfolio holders to set policies to achieve service improvements. Councillor Houston said that the administration needed to give clear direction to officers on the outcomes expected – the challenge was to get best value for money, address priority areas and deliver services. Councillor Campbell said that whilst keen to see a reduction in bureaucracy, he did not envisage any enforced changes. He encouraged members of the community council to attend Council meetings to see how decisions were taken.
- Sam Shortt gave a brief update on the Kildean link road and draft Structure Plan. He understood that John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, had rejected the TACTRANS report and was looking for a prioritised list of projects.
- Mike Watson reported that the grassy area at the foot of Pendreich had been badly cut up by horse hoofs, with liberal “manure” deposits.
- David Inglis circulated the draft letterhead for the community council. It was agreed that the blue version would be selected. David reported that this would cost £80 for 500 which seemed a reasonable price to other members.

- Desiree Ashton raised the issue of the effect of the closure of Rainbow Slides on the 0-4 age group. Other pools appeared to be at capacity with other classes. The Community Council would write a letter asking for a reservation system to be set up for Wallace High School pool facility.

Decision

It was agreed that

- Frances Hamilton would pursue flooding at Keir Street/Melville Place and broken walls at Somerfield and just up from Clydesdale Bank
- A litter bin be requested at the benches on Fountain Road
- David Inglis to progress printing of blue letterhead
- A letter be sent asking for a reservation system to be set up for Wallace High School pool facility

BA447 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15th April 2008 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

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

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm