

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2006**

PRESENT: Joan Kerr (Chair), Declan Bannon, Frances Hamilton, Alison Logie, Peter McIntyre, Robin McKinlay, Sue Pringle, Stuart Ritchie

IN ATTENDANCE: P.C. Colin Muirhead, Jean Houston

APOLOGIES: Ian Anderson, Jim Christie, Les Ferguson, Bobby Halliday, Marjory Russell, Councillor John Holliday

BA275 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting held on 18th April 2006 was submitted for approval.

Decision

The Minute of the meeting held on 18th April 2006 was approved as a correct record of proceeding.

BA276 POLICE REPORT

P.C. Muirhead reported that the antisocial behaviour teams had been out in the village to address issues on youth disorder and thought that they were making some progress in getting to the root of problems. He was able to confirm that the main core of the problem seemed to be caused by people coming into Bridge of Allan from other areas. A number of youths had been apprehended over the past two weekends. Some appeared in court; whilst some were allowed home once sober – this depended on the gravity of any offence. If under 16 years, their parents were contacted.

In addition, P.C. Muirhead had visited Wallace High School and addressed some 80 pupils in 3rd year on antisocial behaviour and youth disorder issues.

Comments were passed on to P.C. Muirhead that his surgeries could perhaps be advertised more prominently.

P.C. Colin Muirhead went on to present the latest Crime Report. Since the last Community Council meeting, a total of 30 crimes had been reported, 20 of which had been detected and 10 were still under investigation. Twelve road traffic offences had been detected.

Crimes included those of assault, breach of the peace, consumption of alcohol in public place, possession and supply of drugs, theft, and there were again some problems of general vandalism.

Discussion reverted back to the subject of youth disorder. It was suggested that youths might be coming in to Bridge of Allan from areas where there was CCTV, knowing that Bridge of Allan did not have CCTV. P.C. Muirhead acknowledged that CCTV does tend to move problems from one area on to other areas.

It was also suggested that businesses in Bridge of Allan were looking for a bigger Police presence – if this wasn't possible, Frances Hamilton wondered if community wardens could be the solution. P.C. Muirhead explained that community wardens were not funded and appointed through the Police and specific communities were identified for wardens. However traffic wardens also act as community wardens and this is the case with the Bridge of Allan traffic warden.

P.C. Muirhead reported that his last surgery had been well attended. He reminded members that the surgeries are advertised in the Library, Allan Centre, Laundrette, Strathallan Chemist and Paper Shop.

Decision

The Crime Report was noted.

BA277 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the current balance as at 5th May was £2,726.99. A grant of £475 had been received towards the cost of hanging baskets. The Traders Association had indicated however there may be some problem meeting the balance of the cost of the hanging baskets.

Mike Hockley of the Traders Association was present at the meeting. He explained that the Traders Association had undertaken a major project which had incurred a high amount of investment, and funds were limited as a result. The Association asked if the Community Council could contribute an additional £150 in 2006 – making a total of £625. The Traders Association would make a contribution of £170. This was agreed.

In response to an enquiry, the Treasurer agreed to check whether the project grant of £1,000 to be made to every Community Council as indicated in a letter dated 23rd January from Stirling Council, had been paid yet.

Decision

The Treasurer's Report was noted. It was agreed that for 2006 only, Bridge of Allan Community Council would contribute £625 towards hanging baskets and the Traders Association would contribute £170.

The Treasurer agreed to check whether the project grant of £1,000 to be made to every Community Council as indicated in a letter dated 23rd January from Stirling Council, had been paid yet.

BA278 REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE

- Frances Hamilton briefed members on the current state of the Ice House at the foot of Alexander Road. Rutherford Court residents had raised concerns about youths gathering at this location and causing vandalism and there had been a request to renovate the Ice House. As a result of a meeting held with Tim Dixon, a clear up had been arranged for the coming weekend. It was planned to reinstate paths and steps and a contribution of £200 was requested to meet costs of cement and other materials. This was unanimously agreed.
- Joan Kerr sought a contribution, probably around £50-60, for environmental maintenance and enhancement to be undertaken by Roy Baker to improve the area. This was also unanimously agreed.

Decision

It was agreed that the Community Council would contribute

- £200 towards renovation of the Ice House and surrounds;
- £50-60 towards environmental maintenance and enhancement.

BA279 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Holliday's monthly report was circulated.

BA280 PLANNING

Since the last meeting of the Community Council, 9 applications had been recommended for approval, 4 of which were household. Other applications included –

- Extension to the Parish Hall
- Turf Accountant at 31 Henderson Street, subject to soundproofing conditions
- Extension to form restaurant space at 26 Henderson Street. The Community Council had submitted concerns about lack of car parking and access for service vehicles
- Two storey extension to Clive's

With regard to the powerline, Peter Pearson advised that there were concerns that Stirling Council officers were not taking concerns seriously enough, nor were they preparing a sufficiently detailed submission. Other councils were making submissions with greater attention to detail than that of Stirling Council. He also indicated that SAGE were looking at health issues across the whole country, and would be reporting on health implications relating to powerlines. In addition, he advised that a Parliamentary Group formed by Mark Ruskell, MSP, would be looking at the implications of powerlines and telecommunications masts on health. Scotland Against Pylons were hoping to bring an expert speaker from Italy to address the Parliament. Peter also informed members that during the past month, archaeological work had been carried out at Sheriffmuir battle site by [Tony Pollard/Neil Oliver of Two Men in a Trench fame] and it had been established that the proposed powerline would go straight through the Jacobite lines.

Since the last meeting 4 new planning applications had been submitted – all of which were household.

No decision had been reported on the proposed stables at Blairforkie.

Robin McKinlay advised that the telecommunications mast at Drumbrae had now been replaced, but otherwise all was quiet with regard to masts.

BA281 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair presented correspondence in the absence of the Secretary.

- Consultation on Community Council boundaries. Changes were proposed to fit better with the new multi-member wards that would take effect from the elections next May. A copy of the correspondence and maps would be sent out along with the minute of the meeting to all members. A response would be agreed at the next meeting of the Community Council.
- Under-age drinking – A letter had been sent to SPAR asking staff to be vigilant when selling alcohol and try to reduce the sales to youths under age.
- A copy letter had been received from a resident who wrote to SPAR asking them to remove Buckfast from the shelves. SPAR have apparently agreed to withdraw this from sales. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent from the Community Council.

- Tennis Courts – a letter had been sent to Active Stirling requesting that the remaining two tennis courts at Keir Street be made fit for use. A reply had been received from Jacqueline Lynn advising that these courts had been removed from the maintenance schedule. This was the first indication that the Community Council had of this.

In addition, it appeared that the top surface had never been applied to the single renovated all-purpose court.

The Community Council felt strongly that these courts should be made fit for use by the youth of Bridge of Allan, many of whom could not afford the expense of the Tennis Club or Indoor Tennis Centre at Gannochy. Whilst attempts were being made on the one hand to reduce antisocial behaviour and youth disorder, on the other hand Stirling Council were reducing facilities for the youth. It was not intended to let this matter drop.

Decision

It was agreed that proposals on Community Council boundaries would be copied to all members for a response to be agreed at the next meeting.

It was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to SPAR for withdrawing Buckfast from sale.

It was agreed to pursue the matter of the tennis courts with Active Stirling.

BA282 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Frances Hamilton read a letter received regarding the area of open ground on Sunnyslaw Road. This area had been preserved as a public amenity and was well used for play and sport. However the grass had not been cut. It had been anticipated that under the new grass-cutting scheme savings would be made by not strimming round trees and the perimeter – however it appeared that the whole area was left uncut. This was putting youngsters onto the streets. Sue Pringle agreed to check this matter.
- It was also brought to Sue's attention that the grass at the corner beside the Clydesdale Bank was not being cut. Sue would also raise this matter.
- Robin McKinlay reported that there had been an improvement in rubbish being cleared behind Chalmers Church. This was due to the new roadsweeper.
- Stuart Ritchie reported to members that the youth club had closed 3-4 weeks ago instead of running to the end of the school term. He thought that there may not be anyone prepared to run this at present and yet another youth facility was lost. There did not appear to be any summer clubs/activities in Bridge of Allan.
- Alison advised that the Bridge of Allan Times was still thriving. There was now assistance from a former Media Studies staff member who brought new ideas.
- Sue Pringle confirmed that she had written letters as agreed at the last meeting of the Community Council raising concerns about the relocation of the Mart, and supporting planned work by Scottish Woodlands.
- Joan Kerr brought to members' attention, the contribution to the community made by Mr Heggie and Mr Forbes. These gentlemen were identifying matters of concern, such as the toilets not opening at agreed times, and raising them with Joan to take up with Stirling Council. Joan had indeed taken this up with the Council who had advised that this had been due to staff sickness.

Another matter raised had been the dangerous state of the wall on Henderson Street just north of the mini-roundabout at Station Road. Joan had raised this with the Bridges Engineer at Stirling Council and immediate action had been taken to cone this area off with a view to making safe.

- It was noted that the playpark on Fountain Road was littered with broken glass amongst the play equipment. Broken glass was a major problem not only within Bridge of Allan, but also on cycle routes into Stirling.
- It was also brought to members' attention that there was a machine called "Mosquito" which was being installed in some towns outside shops to deal with groups of youths congregating. The machine emits a high pitched noise which is intolerable to young people, but not noticeable by mature adults.

Decision

It was agreed that Sue Pringle would raise the grass cutting issues with Derek Robertson at Streetscape.

It was agreed that letters of appreciation should be sent by the Community Council to Mr Heggie and Mr Forbes.

BA283 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Community Council will be held on Tuesday, 20th June at 7.30pm.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Tuesday, 16th May 2006 at 8.00pm.

AGENDA

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

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.