

**A.G.M. OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008**

- PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Desiree Ashton, Jim Christie, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Marjory Russell, Sam Shortt, Mike Watson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor David Goss, Douglas Ross (Merchants' Association), Jean Houston (notes)
- APOLOGIES:** Sandi Grieve, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, David Middleton, Jamie McNicol

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair reported with some satisfaction on the past year's achievements. The largest project had been the continued fundraising for the rebuilding of the War Memorial. The successful coffee morning had raised over £2000 and he gave thanks to all those whose work had made the event a success, and to the community for its support. It was expected that sufficient funding would be raised from local businesses, members of the community, the Museum Hall fund, and other sources to complete this project by Remembrance Day 2008.

The continued pressure for a Community Constable to be reappointed resulted in welcoming P.C. Wendy Alexander to Bridge of Allan. Her presence had been noticeable and the Community Council was confident that she would continue to serve the village well.

The Community Council had alerted the community to proposals to relocate Bridge of Allan Sports Club and invited a representative to a meeting to make their case. However proposals had been somewhat premature and Club members voted against any move.

The Community Council had participated in the December Fun Day and Ian Anderson had put on a fine display of old photographs and books. The aim to raise the Community Council profile was achieved and the Chair thanks those who manned the stall.

The Community Council alerted residents to the proposed new link road from Kildean to the University and will continue to oppose any such proposal.

The poster campaign against dog fouling resulted in an improvement of the "Chicken Run" between Avenue Park and the Fire Station. It was hoped culprits would not relapse.

A number of interesting speakers had attended meetings, with talks on diverse matters such as flooding and upgrading of Mine & Mid Woods. Litter picks have been welcomed with grateful thanks to residents and organisations that arranged these.

Most recently, the Community Council arranged filling of the hanging baskets as the Merchants Association had been unable to take on the task this year. Thanks to volunteers for making this possible at very short notice.

The Chair felt that contact with officers at Stirling Council had been improved with faster responses to enquiries. This reduced frustration and was probably in part due to a stronger relationship with local Councillors.

Members of the Community Council had attended a number of meetings held by Stirling Council and were pleased to be part of a Community Planning Area Forum more suited to this community.

There had been success in getting a substantial grant from Stirling & Clackmannanshire Trust for play equipment in play parks. Gras cutting had generally improved; the bus stop in Fountain Road had been moved; a seat had been installed in the bus shelter at Strathallan Court; plus other achievements.

After the Community Council elections in March, there had been a full quota of members. There had also been an increased attendance at recent meetings by members of the public which was gratifying. In addition support from the Allanwater News had been welcome.

An email address for the Community Council had been suggested along with a suggestion box in the Library, giving easy access to the community to make contact with concerns/suggestions.

However there were areas of ongoing concern – the Community Council had continued to fight for reopening of the public toilets, improved facilities in play areas, upgrade of the Keir Street tennis courts, reduced impact of HGVs through the village, to clamp down on speeding and inconsiderate parking, improve the condition of the Memorial Park and campaign for a safer route to Wallace High School. Work was planned to repaint the Paterson Clock and the Fountain, clean up the Avenue Arch, install more benches and generally improve the amenity of the village.

Finally the Chair gave thanks to Office Bearers and all members of the Community Council for their unstinting support.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary endorsed the Chair's comments. She acknowledged the substantial contribution by all members in dealing with projects and correspondence. She reported that email had speeded up communications with Stirling Council.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer reported that the Accounts were still with the Auditor. However he advised that for the period 26 September 2007 to 5 April 2008 the general account had shown income of £1789.35, with expenditure of £372.24. With a debit of £90 due, there was a balance of £1417.11.

The War Memorial Fund showed a total of £23,739.20 with contributions still coming in.

**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008**

- PRESENT:** Les Ferguson (Chair), Ian Anderson, Desiree Ashton, Jim Christie, Claire Gibbons, John Gill, Frances Hamilton, Marjory Russell, Sam Shortt, Mike Watson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor David Goss, Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Jim Thomson, P.C. Wendy Alexander, Anne Law (Architect), Alan Petrie (Facilities Officer), Douglas Ross (Merchants' Association), Jean Houston (notes)
- APOLOGIES:** Sandi Grieve, Keith Ironside, Alison Logie, David Middleton, Jamie McNicol

**BA466 POLICE REPORT**

P.C. Alexander reported that in the period since the last meeting of the Community Council on 20 May 2008, there had been 11 offences reported – 4 detected and 7 still under investigation. There continued to be a number of thefts, one incident each of assault, breach of the peace, urinating in public and drunk and incapable. There had been 17 road traffic offences, one of which was undetected. These were mostly speeding and seat belts, as well as parking on zig-zag lines.

P.C. Alexander said that the speed board had been in use on Cornton Road where drivers had been detected. It had also been in use on Keir Street and Westerton Drive, but not many cars had been caught on the day the board was used. She planned to use it on Henderson Street next. Ian Anderson pointed out that there was also a problem with drivers speeding along Station Road at rush hours when going to/from the station for commuter trains and asked if P.C. Alexander could look at this. In addition she was asked to check if drivers were adhering to the 20mph limit around the school, and the problem of parents parking on pavements.

She reported that Causewayhead Community Council proposed to hold a meeting with the Headteacher at Wallace High School to discuss any areas of concern and suggested the community council may wish to consider a joint meeting in September/October. The Chair agreed to take this forward.

An evening for young drivers had been successful with around 50% uptake by those invited to attend. A DVD on the consequences of bad driving had been shown.

P.C. Alexander was asked to check if cyclists were committing an offence if travelling against the flow of motorised traffic. This was a common problem, probably with the student population, as was the number of cyclists without lights.

**Decision**

The Police Report was noted.

The Chair to take forward a joint meeting with Causewayhead Community Council and the Headteacher at Wallace High School.

## **BA467 WAR MEMORIAL**

Anne Law, Architect, attended with a set of finalised plans for the reconstruction of the War Memorial. These plans had the agreement of Planning and Conservation Officers and a set was provided for display at the Library for members of the public.

She explained that the main work area would be around the Memorial and to the pathway towards the Museum Hall, which would give future disabled access. Landscaping around the bottom of the Memorial would also be looked at.

The Keir Street entrance would be used for access to the site. Portacabins would be located on the area at Graham Street because it had been found that considerable damage would be caused to trees if these were lifted in from Keir Street. Only two portacabins were proposed – one for storage and one for worker welfare facilities.

The works, which would last 6 weeks, would be going out to tender the following week and were expected to finish in September.

Anne also offered to provide plans of the full park area to the Community Council from GIS (Geographical Information Service).

The Chair gave a vote of thanks to Jim Christie for all his work and to Anne Law.

## **BA468 PUBLIC TOILETS**

Councillor Jim Thomson, Environment Portfolio Holder, attended to explain the current position on public toilets. He stated that there were 28 Council-maintained facilities and an audit had been carried out in March 2007 on their level of use and condition. He had been presented with a range of proposed closures and was consulting with various communities affected and listening to their feedback.

The Chair stated that Bridge of Allan Community Council's views were well-documented. The public toilets were considered a vital necessity, not only for residents, but also because the village is a tourist destination. In addition the population can double to 10,000 people for events such as the Bridge of Allan Games.

Frances Hamilton reported that the Running Co. (a recently established business) had three running groups of up to 40 runners each with no appropriate facilities. Walkabout Stirling – walks primarily for retired people on Wednesdays/Thursdays – were now experiencing walkers reluctant to come to Bridge of Allan for this reason.

Whilst the Community Council was aware of structural problems, movement appeared to have stopped. The mural on the front of the building was completed in 2002 and shows no cracks. Costs of work were thought to be modest, and not much internal work was required.

Douglas Ross presented the views of the Merchants Association. He said that the Merchants work hard to bring in tourists and the current situation of portaloos is an embarrassment to the community. (These were brought in during 2006 for 3 months.) The Merchants Association wanted the toilets to be reopened and did not want "Comfort Break" grants for public use of business facilities.

Mr Allan (resident) stated that he held the title deeds for the Provost's Lamp on the site and he provided background on the site which he stated was given as a "public space" to the community.

Councillor Thomson stated that a recent report confirms there is still movement of the building and offered to arrange for a structural engineer to attend a future meeting to explain the report. Members thought it might be preferable to get a second opinion. He detailed the options –

1. Repair and refurbish the toilets – however he had been advised that a recent report showed the building to be still moving – this is the preferred option
2. Demolish and give “Comfort Break” grants to businesses
3. Demolish and rebuild – costs are needed
4. Demolish, sell site and rebuild elsewhere – it was pointed out that the Council does not own the site to sell it – this was donated by the Church for public use

Councillor Thomson indicated that the community would need to prove ownership if they wished to contend option 4. Mr Allan stated that the site was given to the community in 1948, to be administered by the Burgh Council, and that documentation should be available at Archives. When flats were recently developed on an adjacent site, the Church objected to any proposal to develop the site – the Church still has a say in use of the land.

It was pointed out to Councillor Thomson that if the toilets were demolished and rebuilt, there was a need to retain the mural. The community would also want an environmentally friendly, sustainable replacement with disabled access which is not currently available. Netta Malcom (resident) indicated that the disabled toilets at the Library had recently not been fit to use and are only available during Library hours.

Finally, Mr Allan asked everyone to note that this site is called Mine Road Gardens and is not called “Provost’s Park”.

### **Decision**

It was agreed to continue this matter. Mike Watson to pursue the opportunity to have sight of the structural report suggesting that there is still movement taking place, and if possible to arrange a second opinion.

## **BA469 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Councillor Thomson also reported on safe routes to Wallace High School. He stated that at the time of planning permission in 2005, money had been set aside to take account of safe routes to the school and speed control. However this only seemed to have been taken account of on the Causewayhead side and a full Travel Plan should have been developed prior to the school opening. (It should be noted that planning gain from development on the old school site would go towards the area of the old school.)

Councillor Thomson had walked the route from Bridge of Allan with Larry Gilmour, Facilities Management Office - Children’s Services, and had drawn up a list of issues to be addressed. This list was circulated round the table. Clair Gibbon asked if he could add the foot of Kenilworth Road as a hazard area.

Councillor Thomson indicated that whilst no resources had been set aside for this, he would be raising the issues with the Director of Children’s Services.

The Chair asked if a strip of land on the south side of the road could be used to widen the pavement and cycle lane. Sam Shortt also pointed out that there is a partial footpath which comes to an abrupt stop opposite the entrance to the Institute of Sport and this is causing problems. He thought it would be better to have no pavement, than one which goes nowhere.

Councillor Thomson advised that he would be meeting Brian Roberts, Road Improvement Manager, along with the Deputy Headteacher about a travel plan and he would report back to the Community Council.

**BA470 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minute of the meeting held on 20 May 2008 was approved as a correct record of proceedings.

**BA471 PLANNING**

Claire Gibbons reported on planning issues since the last meeting –

Planning applications received	2
Recommended for approval	2

None of which were contentious.

**BA472 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Stirling Council volume of Minutes – February-May 2008
- Notice of temporary road closure at Coneyhill Road
- Report from Scottish Water (to be carried forward to next meeting)
- Invitation to attend Scottish Youth Parliament event - SYP in the Park. The event would take place on the grass area at Graham Road
- Climate Change Fund – letter from Helen Geddes – agreed to pass to Sandi Grieve to take forward
- Letter from Dr Moss regarding speeding on Keir Street
- Email from K Somerville on various matters – one of which was the dangerous state of the pavement to wheelchair and buggy users at the level crossing and a proposal to take this up with Railtrack. It was agreed that the Community Council would provide a letter of support.
- Letter from Mrs Lumsden (resident) opposing any proposal for a cafe or children’s play facilities in the Memorial Park, which she maintained should remain a place of peace and reflection, and not be used for any other purpose.

The Chair wanted to clarify any misunderstanding over any proposals to reinstate the beauty of the Park, which had become an eyesore. Many ideas had been tabled with no concrete proposals decided yet. He stated that there was no question of this becoming a playpark.

Desiree pointed out that Angus Cameron, who was keen to improve the area, had suggested that the community come forward with suggestions and that “Friends of the Park” should be formed to take forward improvements. However this is obviously an emotive matter and requires full community consultation.

- Mr Allan asked everyone to note that whilst this was sometimes referred to as Pullar Park, having been donated by Edmund Pullar, the correct name is The Memorial Park. He also thought it was nonsense to build a cafe or hall – that this is a green space in a conservation area and is not zoned for this type of development.
- Notice of Community Planning Area Forum meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm at Riverside.

### **Decision**

It was agreed that the Community Council would provide a letter of support regarding the state of pavements at the level crossing.

## **BA473 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Jim Christie gave an update on the Development Trust. This would be up and running in August. He asked that the community think about the kind of day they want for the unveiling of the Memorial. For instance he could arrange to invite veterans and involve bands such as the RBL Band and a marquee could be set up on the flat grassy area. Jim thought funding might be available through Events for All.
- Frances Hamilton advised that there had been no acknowledgement yet of the letter requesting funding from the Common Good Fund. She had submitted a request covering 6 projects, and totalling £7684.99. These were -

Clean, seal and repaint Fountain	- £2994.99
Clean & seal Avenue Arch	- £2290.00
Circular hardwood seat	- £200.00
Various tubs, plants & benches	- £1500.00
Paint, brushes etc for railings	- £200.00
Rehailing & painting wall at Howff	- £500.00

- John Gil raised the matter that the street cleaning lorry is appearing spasmodically and appears to cover the same ground each time. The Secretary would write for a programme of work.
- Ian Anderson indicated that he was unable to get access to a filing cabinet at the Library. It was suggested he asked the Library if they have a key.
- Joan Kerr raised the matter of road works undertaken the previous week that had required 3 sets of traffic lights and 6 men to complete a minimal amount of work.
- Councillor Houston acknowledged the sense of frustration felt about the general state of the area.

### **Decision**

It was agreed that

- The Secretary would contact Street Cleaning for a programme of work
- Ian Anderson contact Bridge of Allan Library for a key to filing cabinet

## **BA474 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER**

The Chair reminded members that David Inglis had resigned as a member and that had left one place which could be filled by co-option. He proposed Elizabeth Rankin for co-option and this was agreed unanimously.

**BA475 COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

Elizabeth Rankin advised that she would be attending a presentation on the Community Hospital in July and would report back to the Community Council.

**BA476 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 7.30pm.

**AGENDA**

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

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm