

Buchanan Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting held 14/01/08 at Buchanan Memorial Hall

In Attendance: A. MacFadyan, G. Bannerman, J. Macfarlane, G. Lambie, S. Pask, W. Nisbet, K. Lilburn, A. Hunter, A. Hannan, C. Meara, J. Taggart, R. Taylor, D. Fraser, S. Fraser, B. Crooks, W. McAllister, J. Bannerman, J. Milner

Apologies: J. Twaddle

1. Constable Tony Cummins, recently appointed Community Police Officer, reported to the meeting. An anticrime initiative, held in November/December had had some success in the identification of criminals and road traffic offenders in the area. Central Scotland Police were planning a Winter Road Safety campaign with high visibility patrols to take place over the holidays and busy periods. There had been fewer reported incidents of antisocial behaviour.

Constable Cummins reported on Operation Ironworks, targeting antisocial behaviour and crime on the Lochside. Constable Cummins answered questions on the proposed ban on drinking in public areas. He stated that the consensus was the where such bans had been introduced in other areas, the feedback had been overwhelmingly positive

2. Sid Pask, Community Warden gave a brief introduction to the role of Community Wardens and explained how they could liase with the police and local community

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved (W. MacAllister proposer, A. Hannan, seconder)

4. Correspondence: Gordon Watson had written responding to complaints about the dumping of waste from Millarochy Toilets. It was brought to the attention of the meeting that one of the contractors had been let go.

Bruce Crawford MSP had responded regarding the National Access Forum and the problem of antisocial behaviour by fly campers arriving by vehicle. Chief Inspector Findlator was now a member of the National Access Forum, bring representation on the forum to the Police Service. Mr Crawford indicated that limiting camping to areas more than ½ mile from a road was unlikely to be a practical solution.

Angela McGibbon had written confirming that Stirling Council planned to re-instate clearway signs where these had gone missing. The clearway could be extended beyond the Rowardennan Hotel, but this would require removal of the existing double yellow lines. The opinion of the meeting was that the possibility of extending the clearway beyond the bottom of the pass in Balmaha should be explored. However it would be necessary to explore how this might affect delivery vehicles in Balmaha. It was suggested that the existing sign prohibiting buses from proceeding beyond Balmaha was insufficiently clear and that clearance foliage obscuring signs was required.

5. Planning. The meeting was wholehearted supportive of the application for Phase 2 of SCENE. However, it was suggested that a policy would be required to ensure that Contractors' vehicles were properly parked and did not cause obstruction to the road.

The Application for 23 Apartments at Montrose house was also discussed. The Community Council has a longstanding policy of opposing such commercial developments until such time as the new local plan comes into operation. However, it was agreed that from a purely aesthetic point of view, the new plans were an improvement on previous proposals. It was unclear however how the new roofline would impinge on the views in Balmaha. Problems of access from the road and infrastructure (sewage, water) remain unresolved from previous applications.

6. Any Other Business: The problems of light pollution from the high intensity security lights at the Moorings, Balmaha were raised. These were a nuisance to neighbours and a potential road safety hazard. It was agreed that the Community Council, should approach the owners to discuss amicable resolution of the problem. This might avoid the need for official action.

Cllr Lambie gave an update on the progress of plans for wind farms in the locality. Budgets for refurbishing the A811 and other roads were as yet unclear.

The desirability of ensuring flexibility in any future re-run of Ironworks was discussed. One of the previous crackdowns had occurred on a very wet weekend, this wasting effort. Management of the Car Parks would be discussed in 2 weeks.

7. The meeting adjourned at 21.10.