



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 16th June 2008 in the School

Members Present: - David Anderson , Fiona Murray, Willie Oswald, Margaret Vass, , Marjorie Peddie, Alastair Smith, Robert Flashman, Philip Graves, John Gray.

Apologies: Finlay Fountain, Elspeth Posnett. .

In attendance: - PC Barr, Cllr Lambie, Pam Campbell 3 public.

(SC = Stirling Council. CC = Community Council.)

1. Welcome: - Philip Graves (PG), newly elected chairman, opened the meeting and thanked WO for his faithful service as chairman over many years.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

Approved with two amendments now incorporated into the final minutes. Proposed: Willie Oswald.
Seconded: John Gray.

3. Matters arising:

a. Meeting with Keith Yates (SC Chief Executive). - Willie Oswald (WO) apologised for failing to make arrangements but said that he would try to fix a date for some time during the summer recess.

ACTION WO

b. Helicopters – John Gray reported that he had still not received any feed back from Lothian Helicopters but that he had written an article for the Blane stressing the importance of logging flights. Robert Flashman reported that local residents had contacted SC directly and been informed of the 28 day limit. Cllr Lambie reported that he had written to MSP Bruce Crawford about the problem of helicopter flights over residential areas.

4. Police matters:

PC Barr reported on events of the past month and answered questions

a. Crime report – 12 crime files had been created with 4 detected and some others with positive lines of inquiry; they appeared to be random events.

- Theft of a vehicle from Mugdock Country Park Visitor Centre car park.
- Damage to vehicle at Scout Hall during the annual village clean- up; this may have been an accident by youngsters.
- Fire at derelict cottage on Carbeth Estate – undetected.
- Report of speeding motorist on A81 passing Post House Gallery.
- Reckless discharge of air weapon – inquiries on-going.

- Robbery from youths camping at Mugdock Country Park – a 17 year old from Bearsden has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- On 9 June the window of a bus was broken when it was pelted with stones whilst passing the War Memorial at 6am - there was a passenger on the top deck.
- Minor assault on a bus.
- Report of ornamental Koi stolen from a garden pond. (PC Barr noted that this is a trend and these fish can fetch to £80, depending on their markings.)

b. Traffic issues

- A lorry with a full-size articulated trailer became stuck at the junction of Milndavie and Old Mugdock Roads after following Sat. Nav. directions to Bishopriggs! The lorry had to be towed out.
- There were 3 Road Traffic Incidents with vehicle damage only.

c. Deer strike – PC Barr confirmed that an incident, 10 days ago, near to the lodge by the Country House Hotel, had not been reported to the police.

PG noted that the A81 had been in the Deer Commission's list of top priority sites in Scotland, though it had since been removed due to fewer reported incidents.

WO noted that the area around Loch Ardingning and Mugdock Country Park had one of the highest densities of deer in Scotland. It was not clear what impact the recent cull had had on the number of hits by traffic but there had been a drop in the figures of reported strikes. WO stressed the need to report any such incidents.

d. Roads repairs – Cllr Lambie suggested that the roads maintenance schedule could be adjusted in light of police accident statistics but PC Barr felt that most accidents were caused by driver error and he reported instances of motorists even ignoring Road Closed signs.

5. Planning: - Update from Margaret Vass (MV), planning correspondent

a. Proposal for change of use to convert workshop to two residential flats at 7 Blane Avenue. – Approved by SC. Peter Morgan, SC, has apologised for not including the CC's comments in the planning schedule.

b. Illegal caravan in field on Old Mugdock Rd. – An appeal has been lodged against the enforcement order to remove the caravan and MV has responded, in line with the CC's previously raised concerns, to oppose the appeal.

c. Outline application for a house at 18 Campsie Dene Rd. – MV referred to the history of the site and noted that there is a Section 75 attached to the land and that a previous bid for a house, as well as a separate attempt to have the condition removed, were both refused by SC. She also noted that the site of the new house would overlook Dene Cottage and would require the felling of lovely mature trees. The CC unanimously agreed to oppose the application, underlining that there is a Section 75 in place and referring to the Planning Panel agenda item 08/00/414/OUT. ACTION MV.

d. Outline application to erect a house on land north of Corriknowe, Campsie Dene Rd. (Green Belt) - MV referred to justification details circulated to members prior to the meeting: the house was needed for an agricultural worker linked to Ballagan farm; the farmer wishes to increase stock numbers; the designation of core path for the water track had led to increased pedestrian use and increased need for shepherding etc. The CC unanimously agreed to oppose the application commenting that whilst additional accommodation may be required there was no justification for this site; that there are other more appropriate sites; that the farmer already visits the area twice a day; that the reference to core paths is spurious; that trees have been cleared from the site. ACTION PG

e. BT proposal to remove phone box on Dumbrock Rd. – MV apologised for forgetting to raise this at the May meeting. Comments sheets had been placed in Browns shop and the Chemist to gain public response; there were 112 names, 109 wanted the box kept and 3 wanted the box removed, mainly because it provided a focus for littering. A summary of the responses, along with the comments sheets,

will be sent to SC. A summary of the comments was also passed to Cllr Lambie to take to the planning committee.

ACTION MV

6. Environmental issues

- a. Report on play area funding** – WO reported that Simon Jones, chair of Greenheart, had hoped to update the CC and present the new design for the play park, but had had to postpone this as the drawings were not yet available; he sent his apologies.
- b. Flower tubs** – It was agreed that Fiona Murray should speak to Jenny Elliott (SC) to arrange for the new tubs to be moved from Fiona's garage to the redundant recycling pavilion.
- d. Community Action Day** – WO suggested that, in light of the poor turn out on 27th April, the CC arrange and pay costs for volunteers from BTCV to help at the next action day on 29th July. This was agreed.

ACTION WO

7. Roads – Up-date from Robert Flashman (RF) Roads correspondent.

a. A81 Traffic management

- The latest phase of the scheme is almost complete. The delay in installing traffic islands is because SC are proposing to use a new lit version and these are not yet available. A site visit will be arranged with SC and the police accident officer, once these are in place.
- Provision of a roundabout at the junction of Ballewan Crescent (cost £30,000) has become a higher priority in light of the recent accident at the junction of Station Rd.
- The B821 junction was recently surveyed. The damaged garden fence has been replaced and WO said that he had been informed by SC that the vertical supports are stronger than before and have been sunk into heavier concrete. He will pass a copy of the letter to Gillian Waugh (homeowner).

b. Maintenance - PG reported that the Sheath Road has been resurfaced.

8. Correspondence.

A list of correspondence had been circulated by David Anderson, secretary, prior to the meeting and he referred to the following items.

a. Provost's Civic Awards – nominations due by 14 July.

b. Public Conveniences – Offer from Cllr Thomson to attend CC meeting to discuss problems. It was agreed to accept the offer and send dates of the next two meetings.

ACTION DA

c. Consultation on CC governance (deferred from last meeting) – It was explained that at present each local Council (32 in all) has its own code of conduct for CCs and the Scottish Government is reviewing these with the intention of creating one system for all. PG asked WO to review the document and report back at the next meeting. The consultation is also available at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/current.

ACTION WO

d. Invitation to the official opening, by the Queen, of the Water Treatment Works, on 3rd July. – PG reported that as he was unable to attend DA would represent the CC.

9. Finance – Nothing further to add to the report at the AGM.

10. Area Community Planning – Report from meeting of 9 June

Two CC members had attended. Topics for discussion were health and access to the new hospital at Larbert. It had been conceded that there were no direct links by public transport and journey time could be anything from an hour up to a whole day's expedition!

11. Dates of next two meetings: - Mondays, 7.30pm, 4th August in the Village Club, and 1st September in the school.