



STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 3rd March 2008 in the School

1. **Members Present:** - David Anderson, Fiona Murray, Margaret Vass, Finlay Fountain, Marjorie Peddie, Elspeth Posnett, Alastair Smith, Robert Flashman, Philip Graves, John Gray.
Apologies: Willie Oswald (chairman), Pam Campbell (SC), PC Barr. **In attendance:** - Cllr O'Brien, 4 public.

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

2. **Welcome:** - Philip Graves (PG), vice chairman, welcomed all present.
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved. Proposed: Fiona Murray. Seconded: Alastair Smith.
4. **Matters arising.**

Scottish Power (SP)

- David Anderson, secretary, reported that he and Willie Oswald had received phone calls from SP apologising for the most recent power cut which was caused when the overhead line was damaged during the tree cutting programme.
- It was confirmed that SP would report back at the CC May meeting.

5. **Police matters** – PC Barr was not present to give his usual report.

6. **Planning** - Update from Margaret Vass (MV) planning correspondent.

a) **Valhalla** – The CC's response to the section 75 had been recorded in full in the SC planning schedule and had also been reported on in the Stirling Observer. However the CC's subsequent comment asking planners to consider the option that the house could be removed and built elsewhere rather than demolished should the business fold, had been omitted. The CC will ask for this to be added in. MV also pointed out that SC had not picked up that the proposed house is to be financed by business profits and that there will be no need for a mortgage. (ACTION MV)

b) **Outline application for house in garden at 40 Old Mugdock Rd** – Approved by SC with a Section 75 linking it to SC Roads Policy - see 7a.

c) **Proposal for a bus shelter by the stop opposite the Kirkhouse Inn.** – The application is being made by the Community Development Trust. Robert Flashman (CC rep on the CDT) outlined the plans. Neighbours had been consulted and were concerned about potential noise nuisance as was experienced when the previous shelter was in place. In response the CDT had agreed to make the shelter smaller and to remove or reduce the seating.

It was suggested that the CDT should be a regular agenda item, but RF thought it more appropriate only to include it when there was something particular to share,

otherwise it would be misleading. It was generally agreed that the agenda should be more specific and members were encouraged to send in topics to the chairman.

d) Extension proposals

- To farmhouse at Craigmole - no comment.
- To house annexe at Easterton of Mugdock – No objection provided that it is not more than 50% of the original footprint. (This is in Green Belt) (ACTION MV)
- To house at Craigmiln, Moor Rd – No comment.
- To house and garage at Fir Tree Cottage, Moor Rd – No comment.

e) Proposal for Helipad and shed at 20A Campsie Dene Rd – Neighbour notification has been served but notice is not yet in the planning schedule. MV will ask for the consultation time to be extended to allow for consideration at the April CC meeting. (ACTION MV)

f) Wind farms

- PG has submitted the CC's response to the Balindalloch Muir proposal.
- WO has circulated minutes of the ACC which includes discussion about the possibility of permitting wind turbines in the National Park, when on a small scale and with community agreement.

g) Illegal caravan – Cllr O'Brien offered to make inquiries about the enforcement timetable for the caravan in the field north of Valhalla on Old Mugdock Road.

h) Edenmill Farm – No further developments

7. Roads Update from Bob Flashman (RF), Roads correspondent

a) Old Mugdock Rd (OMRd) policy. – Three documents had been received: the original report, August 2007, (prior to the public meeting); an updated report, Jan 2008; and an appendix with comments received from individuals and the CC in response to the first report. Copies of all three have been placed in the library. The recommendation is for no further development that accesses on to OMRd until funding is secured to upgrade the road – details still to be determined in consultation with the CC and other bodies. RF to investigate timescales and invite Kate Smithson (KS) to a CC meeting to discuss the details.

(ACTION RF)

- It was noted that the Jan. report described OMRd as a rural type road in an 'urban' rather than a 'rural' setting, and that this was misleading and may have influenced the committee to approve the policy.
- Cllr O'Brien had opposed adopting the policy because the CC had not been informed and consulted as promised. He advised the CC to take the initiative and invite KS for a meeting as soon as possible during the design stage.
- It was noted that the Roads policy regarding a limit of 4 houses on a private road was confusing and Cllr O'Brien advised the CC to raise this with KS.

b) Muddy road – It was reported that lorries dumping spoil at Muirhouse quarry were leaving mud on the A81. It was unclear what arrangements were in place. Margaret Vass (MV) will check the planning files, Philip Graves (PG) will check with SEPA, and Cllr O'Brien offered to make inquiries at SC. (ACTION MV & PG)

c) Station Road accident – It was reported that a car had crashed into the garden of the house at the junction of Station Rd and the A81 and that this is the second accident here within two years. RF will inform SC and chase up the replacement of the 30mph warning light at the north entrance of the village. (ACTION RF)

d) Council budget - Cllr O'Brien reported that in SC's new budget, roads was the first priority with £28million set aside over the next 5 years to bring the SC network up to standard; £20million of this is for rural roads.

The second priority is primary school buildings and the third is community care services. There are cuts of a few million in other services and a pot of money has been set aside to maintain some of the programmes run by voluntary organisations which were previously funded by central government.

8. Environmental issues - Update by Elspeth Posnett, environment correspondent.

a) Volunteers – Pam Campbell has advised that HSBC are keen to get more involved with communities and voluntary groups with practical help rather than funding. EP will hold the details for future reference.

b) Flooded path - Drains beside the newly upgraded path by the KGV field appear to have been damaged by Council vehicles when removing dead trees from beside the burn at the foot of Danny's Brae; the path is now flooding during heavy rain. Countryside and Community Services are looking into this.

c) Helicopter flights – John Gray (JG) had received a telephone call from the chief pilot of Lothian Helicopters in response to his letter, on behalf of the CC, regarding noise nuisance from flights from Muirhouse quarry. Flights must be low because of the flight path of planes higher up. The business is concerned to be a good neighbour and the pilot will reply in writing and include a schedule of forthcoming flights.

d) Flower tubs – Many need to be replaced and replanted. Fiona Murray will contact Dumgoyne distillery for new ones, and EP will ask HSBC for help. (see 8a)

(ACTION FM & EP)

e) Village welcome signs – Following discussion about replacement signs, it was agreed that Alastair Smith should contact Brenda Pell from Killearn CC for information about wooden signs. Stone signs were considered too costly.

(ACTION AS)

f) Replacement CC notice board - JG to get quotations. Number, location(s) and type of boards to be discussed at next meeting. It was noted that permission had been given by the Royal Bank of Scotland several years ago for the CC to erect a board on the grassed area by the bank.

(ACTION JG)

g) Forestry Commission – Willie Oswald had passed on a letter from a researcher asking for any data we might have on 'interaction of deer with people in the peri-urban environment' and whether or not the CC was interested in participating in the research project. Philip Graves offered to reply.

(ACTION PG)

9. Correspondence – David Anderson, secretary, reported that there were only two items of note that had not already been covered.

a) SC has asked for a CC contact for roads and traffic issues. RF was appointed.

b) Copies of letters had been received from the MP and MSP addressed to Scottish Power regarding the recent power cuts in Blanefield.

c) PG reported that Peter Spinney (Mugdock Association) had forwarded a copy of his letter to the Water Ombudsman complaining of Scottish Water's failure to respect planning conditions for providing permanent visitor parking for the reservoir.

At the next SW community forum PG will ask about removing the traffic lights from the access onto the A81.

10. Finance – Update from Alastair Smith, treasurer.

Alan Campbell had written to thank the CC for the donation towards the community web site.

11. Area Community Planning – Report from JG and AS.

a) Roads maintenance - In response to widespread complaints about the state of the roads, the Council maintenance budget has gone up by 75% over the next five years, and this is expected to bring SC roads into line with other Scottish roads.

b) Police action - The marshalling of troublesome youngsters onto buses, by police officers, has proved effective in reducing nuisance behaviour. Police need to be informed by the public and the bus companies, of any problems.

c) Future consultation – The forum is to set up two working parties along the lines of the roads group, namely health services and economic development. JG was interested in economic development. The CC recognised that the pressure for consultation was coming from the government and that the opportunity for real influence on decision making was minimal, however there did appear to be some advantages, in particular that of better information for SC.

12. A.O.B.

DA to arrange informal CC meeting to discuss matters of procedure. (ACTION DA)

13. Dates of next two meetings: Mondays, 7 April in the Village Club and 12 May in the school.