

Strathfillan Community Council

working for and representing the people



St. Fillan's Crozier
The Quigrich

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2008 IN CRIANLARICH VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

1. Present: Alan Smailes, Elizabeth MacLellan, Mary Anderson, Moira Robertson, Isla Craig, Cameron Taylor, Cllr. Tony Ffinch, PC Craig Murray

Apologies: John Riley, Joyce Russell, Angela Sclater, Owen McKee [NPA] Suzanne Player [SC]
Rev. Liz Gibson

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting [14.7.08]

Proposed, Isla Craig, seconded Cameron Taylor

3. Police Constable Craig Murray's report.

3.1 It has been exceptionally quiet this summer, the tourist numbers have been down which meant quieter roads.

3.2 People with oil tanks whether for heating or red diesel are advised to make sure they are secure as there has been an increase in thefts from them.

3.3 Copper cable was stolen from the Crianlarich substation.

3.4 There were 2 incidents at the Falls of Falloch; in each case a man had to be rescued.

3.5 Targeting illegal noisy exhausts on motorbikes. It is Environmental Health which deals with this problem and Craig will try to get them involved at the next traffic operation.

3.6 It has been reported that people regularly camp in the playpark in Crianlarich. Is this illegal? The new Scottish Access Legislation is not clear and because the playpark is classed as a public open space, it is probably not against the law. The code needs clarification in this area.

3.7 The minutes of the Area Community Planning, Breadalbane Area Network meeting held on 5th June 2008 state under item 3 that *Flytipping – someone from Tyndrum came down to Lochearnhead and dumped HGV lorry tyres*. This is not correct; someone dumped lorry tyres at several sites between Tyndrum and Lochearnhead. Moira will write to get this corrected. **Action Moira**

Craig left the meeting.

4. Office Bearer's reports

Chair John's report

John was not present.

Secretary Moira's report

4.1 Invitation from Stirling CND to attend their Covenant for Peace on 6th August and sign the covenant and to commemorate Hiroshima Day

4.2 Joint meeting of Rural Area Forums – Open Space Strategy on 11th August in Council Chambers

4.3 ASCC newsletter and Constitution consultation – National Ballot. Closes 30th September

The newsletter was circulated.

- Article on Data Protection and CCs in the form of an interview with ICO Assistant Commissioner [Scotland] Ken Macdonald and it looks as if we will need to register.
- Member's survey gives a cautious welcome for SNP's proposals for stronger CCs.
- CC good policing practice highlighted
- Progress of the Scottish Parliament motion on CCs.
- Draft ASCC Policy statement on CCs and Community Empowerment.

Ballot on constitution of ASCC – at a recent meeting your elected representatives agreed unanimously to recommend that you vote Yes in this ballot. It was agreed to vote in favour of the constitution.

4.4 Report of consultation on the NP Local Plan Issues report and draft Environmental report. Both documents are available on the NP website at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org or telephone the Policy team on 01389 722600 for a hard copy. For more information on the preparation of the local plan and how you can be involved in each stage of the process please refer to the Development Plan Scheme.

4.5 Stirling Council is moving away from providing hard copies of agendas to electronic circulation.

4.6 NHS Forth Valley newsletter Community News:-

- Parking is to stay free of charge at both infirmaries.
- The FV dementia project
- Good take up for flu vaccinations
- Improving waiting times
- Improving services

4.7 Consultation into Marches and Parades in Scotland by the Scottish Government. It was agreed that this is not very relevant to our area, so we would not be participating.

4.8 The Nature of Scotland by SNH

4.9 Invite to the AGM of RSHA on 17th September in the Brigend House Hotel Callander at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Bruce Crawford MSP. It is doubtful if anyone will be available to attend.

4.10 Workshop on Building Relationships and Managing Behaviour in the school setting. Invite from Mackay Hannah Ltd.

4.11 Poster for Councillor surgeries

4.12 Scottish Government consultation on Town Centres and Local High Streets. An informal consultation with key stakeholders led by Stirling Council with a joint meeting with CCs from Stirling, Falkirk and

Clackmannan is to be held on Saturday 20th September in Council Chambers, Old Viewforth Stirling from 9.30am for a 10am start. This is not really relevant to our CC so no representative will be attending.

4.13 Information from Tenant Participation Advisory Service [TPAS] with a newsletter and information on their Conference in October, which is being attended by Moira and Joyce as members of the Strathfillan Housing Group.

4.14 Reminder about the training workshop organised by the NP in October 08 on Make it Work [or make it not too painful] which covers meetings, boards, action groups, AGMs, company secretaries and records and annual returns. There is no date on the leaflet, but we expect more information nearer the time.

4.15 Agenda for Executive meeting of SC on 14th August which included reports on Review of Disposable Procedures and Less than Best Value. [circulated previously]. The first report included:-

*Item 3.8 Under S74 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council must ensure that it receives the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained when it disposes of its assets. Council assets are held for the benefit of all of the community of the Council area, **not just the specific community within say a village or town that is fortunate enough to have Council assets. This concept is often misunderstood by community groups who view assets in their community as "theirs"**. However, this protection has been put in place to protect communities who have no such assets and could therefore be at a disbenefit. It is therefore imperative that Council policy and decisions in terms of assets, are made on the understanding of how they affect the entire Council area community rather than the specific community in which the asset is located.*

And the 2nd report

Communities also perceive assets such as parks and community centres as "theirs" even when the Council does not have any statutory or mandatory duty to provide such assets. At present there are a number of groups who have expressed an interest in the Council transferring assets to them at less than best value. These are:-

Gargunnock Community Centre Management Committee for the Community Centre, which has been leased to them previously for 21 years at a nominal value.

Strathfillan Community Development Trust wish housing land transferred to create a Play Park/MUGA.

Balfron Community Futures Development Trust wish a former office that they have leased while they fund raise transferred to create a business/community centre.

There are numerous other groups currently carrying out feasibility studies and it is likely other requests will be forthcoming for the Braeport Centre in Dunblane and for financial assistance for community facilities in Kinlochard, where a Council property has recently been sold.

Cllr Tony Ffinch said that it has recently been agreed to sell an asset in Gargunnock for less than best value. This could be used as a precedent for presenting again the Lower Station Yard issue, once 6 months has elapsed since the Council decision to sell it to the community at market value.

4.16 Helen Geddes sent an email regarding awards for Community Newspapers. All entry forms and info on awards criteria is on the website. The deadline for entries for this year's Awards is Friday 15th August and the Awards will take place on Friday September 26th.

4.17 Community Council Enquiry Service – this is a new facility set up by Stirling Council of a dedicated number/email address for Community Councillors to raise queries/issues with or about Council services.

4.18 Community Pride Fund – this is for Community Council projects that enhance the local community under 3 headings;

- Physical, e.g. improvements to existing facilities; structures, benches, fencing
- Environment e.g. sustainable floral displays, recycling facilities, spring cleans.
- Activity that promotes your community or fosters community spirit.

There are several closing dates for the application, which takes 8 weeks to process. Decisions will be based on the level of community benefit and the CCs financial reserves. The maximum grant is £1000. It was agreed that we must give this some thought as there are projects that would suit the criteria. **Action All.**

4.19 Community News from NHS Forth Valley:-

Articles on:-

- NHS Board has decided to apply for Royal Status for the new hospital at Larbert
- Nicola Sturgeon MSP Secretary for Health and Wellbeing visited the new hospital
- A new nurse-led fracture clinic has been set up at Stirling Royal Infirmary

4.20 Poster for Stirling Community Health Partnership Public Partnership Forum Open meeting on 24th September from 7-9pm at Stirling Royal Infirmary. The topic will be 'Primary Care Services for Stirling City and an update on Stirling Community Hospital and the Acute Hospital Larbert.

This is well represented by many CCs in Stirling district. No-one is available to attend.

4.21 Received a letter from Bruce Crawford MSP regarding a planning application for a hydroelectric scheme on the Allt Fionn burn just south of Crianlarich. The proposed scheme consists of an intake weir to be built across the burn with an underground pipeline leading from it to a powerhouse. The capacity of the hydroelectric scheme is estimated to be in the region of 2.1MW with the potential to generate enough electricity to supply 2000 homes. An assessment of the environmental impact has been undertaken by the developers and Bruce would like to hear any comments we have. Unfortunately no comments on the actual scheme could be made as the environmental assessment has not been seen by the CC; it is on view in Crianlarich store. It was agreed to write to Bruce and say that in general the CC is in favour of renewable energy schemes. The statutory bodies such as SNH and SEPA will oversee them for any detrimental effects. It was also agreed to find out if any of the schemes for renewable energy could bring benefits to the community. **Action Moira**

Treasurer Mary's report

Nothing new to report.

5. Delegated Groups' reports

Transport

5.1 Bruce Crawford MSP responded to the letter from the CC asking for more details on the questionnaire on the by-pass that Bruce had circulated. For Strathfillan as a whole 51% were in favour of a by-pass, 38% opposed and 11% undecided. There were 49 responses from Crianlarich with 22 in favour, 22 against and 4 unsure.

Bruce enclosed copies of letters he has sent to Transport Scotland, NP and SC stating that the CC would like to see some benefits to Crianlarich.

So far there has not been a date set for a meeting between Bruce, the CC and Transport Scotland.

Isla has contacted A82.org to ask for their views on the proposal for the by-pass and pulpit rock and they are supporting any improvements suggested by the government. Tony said that the NP Board has taken the same stance.

Transport Scotland will shortly be given a press release on where money is to be spent on the roads network.. This could be relevant especially as the new Government may not have the same objectives as the last one. Cameron and Isla will use the Action Plan prepared last year under Community Futures to present to the CC at the next meeting a way forward for the implementation of the proposals.

Planning

5.2 There were 3 planning application received:-

- A monopole in Inverardran Community Forest
- The creation of a wetland near the substation that is in the process of being erected by Inverarnan
- Application for proposed change of use of part of the filling station building from Class A (Retail) to Class 3 (Cafe) at the Green Welly Stop. There were no objections from the CC.

Communications

5.3 The deadline for the Killin News is Friday 12th September

Environment

5.4 Nothing

Housing

5.5 Tony was asked to find out if 1 Strathmore Terrace has been allocated. **Action Tony**

5.6 Dampness in 1 to 3 Strathmore Terrace is being tackled. There have not been any repairs to the front and back paths to the houses in Strathmore Terrace. **Action Moira**

Lower Station Yard Project

5.7 Moira emailed Lesley Malkin, but she is on holiday until tomorrow.

6. Councillor Tony Ffinch's report

6.1 There is a Council meeting on Thursday, but nothing contentious on the agenda.

7. Matters arising [not covered in minutes]

8.2 The snack van has not been on the site since our last meeting.

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 SWS have been working on the water/sewage upgrade in Tyndrum. The road in front of Mansefield and the track above the cemetery have not been reinstated to their original condition yet. It was agreed that this is usually done at the end of the contract and if this did not happen we would contact SWS and Stirling Council.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Monday 13th October 2008 in Crianlarich hall at 7.30pm

At the end of the meeting during a general discussion it was muted that it might help to foster the community spirit if all the bodies working to enhance the area, such as STAG, village hall committees, SCDT, badminton, youth club, school and nursery reported to the CC any achievements, fund raising activities, problems etc. at the CC meetings either by memo or popping in for a short while, [the same way as PC Craig Murray does] If any members of groups would like this to be taken forward, would they please contact a Community Councillor.