

**Strathard Community Council
Minutes of meeting 2nd February 2017
In Aberfoyle Memorial Hall at 8.30pm**

1.	Present:	J Clow , M Colquhoun, R Dingwall, T Geraghty, A Goulancourt, F McEwan, J Quinn, G Short, C Smith, S Stephen, M Wright, Cllr. F Wood, P Campbell (Stirling Council) plus 7 members of the public.	Actions
2.	Apologies	Police Scotland.	
3.	Minutes	January minutes proposed by J Clow, seconded by C Smith.	
4.	Active Travel Hub Project	Representatives of Trossachs Business Partnership which had carried out a Feasibility Study funded by Transport Scotland were welcomed, and they provided an overview of the report and the current status of this project. James Worrall explained that the aim is to provide differing facilities, suitable for all abilities, for travel in and out of the area. Emphasis is on Active, but to include electric bikes and cars, possibly bike racks on buses, but also hoped it will attract more people to the area. Noted that the project timescales had been and were still very condensed, and this impacted on the ability to do an extended consultation. Also that the paths section of the bid could perhaps be expanded as currently it focuses more on bikes, while paths for all purposes were seen locally as of wider interest.. There are 6 Transport Scotland major awards for the whole of Scotland and it was expected TBP would work with Stirling Council, and potentially get the necessary matched funding from the City Development fund. The bid deadline was 28 th February, with the likely level approximately £250k for Aberfoyle. A Hub Advisory group was to be set up and the community council agreed to join this group and to support the bid. Suggested that costings for disability trails could come from the Trossachs mobility project.	
5.	Matters Arising	<p>Flood scheme update: This was now at the stage of approval being sought for a comprehensive flood scheme from a Stirling Council Committee. The scheme had been designed to be sufficiently comprehensive to provide a degree of protection which would allow funding to be accessed. This comprises protection for Lochard Road, the village centre and past the Scottish Wool Centre. Details should be available for viewing soon on the internet. Stirling Council will then come back to the community to provide information and receive comments and opinions. Provided the community agrees, funding will then have to be sourced from other agencies. Members of the public voiced concerns about the flood risk caused by river and burn blockages which prevented water clearing quickly, many of which had been reported to the Council, or pointed out to Flooding staff. It would be ensured that this was followed through. Tree blockages were mentioned in Aberfoyle including the Manse Road Bridge and Milton. Also at Gartnerichnich on the B829, which AG would check and report.</p> <p>Buses and DRT: Revisions to services ongoing. DRT to Buchlyvie surgery now available. FW will investigate if this can be removed from the pre-booking requirement, since advice had been given that this was Council policy and there could be no exceptions to the general rule without policy change by councillors' decision. DRT officials had been helpful in supplying leaflets and answers to information requested, and if there are still problems occurring, then an officer will attend a CC meeting. If any problems are identified in future then full details should be passed to Council staff to investigate. TG queried the possibility of flagging down a DRT driver if one passed by, and this possibility and any other suggestions identified which could improve the service would be queried with the Council.</p>	<p>FM</p> <p>AG</p> <p>TG</p>

		<p>Road closure on A81 at Ballat: There had been a useful information session, clarifying that the work required was more like replacement than repair. This would not start until after Easter (date tbc) and would take approx. 16 weeks. Scottish Water would look at arrangements to allow a break in work for the main holiday period. A further meeting to look at procedures for traffic management and signs would be held with all affected community councils on 21st February in Balfron. JQ to attend.</p> <p>Lochs Chon and Ard camping arrangements: In line with our request there would be a public update meeting on the Your Park developments and camping byelaws on 22nd February in Kinlochard.</p> <p>Branding meeting: Attended by MW and TG. This had been very positive and it was emphasised that rural areas are definitely to be included.</p>	JQ
6.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stirling Council - notice of traffic lights at Altskeith corner for roadworks 6th February. ▪ Stirling Council - from 6th March, 2 extra bus journeys between Balfron, Gartmore and Aberfoyle. ▪ Steven Paterson, MP - now holding surgeries in Stirling every Friday. ▪ Two letters from parents, prompting other concerns by those attending regarding dog mess, particularly on Lochard Road, Trossachs Road and behind the Wool Centre. Martin Earl was assisting, including with school liaison. The dog warden had been notified, although responses to complaints had not been forthcoming yet, and so PC to follow up. If bad, areas will be sprayed, also notices to be put up, then zero tolerance regarding fines if it continues. ▪ National Park - copy of Local Plan. CS will hold this, as Planning correspondent. 	PC
7.	Stirling Council Issues	<p>During recent closure periods at Loch Chon inadequate signage at Aberfoyle, although residents beyond Loch Chon had been visited. Essential that period of possible closure had advance warning on the road. PC to pass this feedback to relevant teams.</p>	PC
8.	Planning	<p>Pended since nothing required urgent discussion, to be circulated and minuted at next meeting.</p>	
9.	Reports	<p>Finances: Regular payments would to be up to date before year-end for new Treasurer. Hall invoices – some Aberfoyle ones missing, had been queried. Scotways – it was agreed to pay an annual subscription. Web space hosting - could save money by sharing webspace with more local organisations if this helped them e.g. check with Strathard News. Green Routes - donation of £100 a year made to support work on planters. FM to be paid for copying expenses for meeting papers. The previously agreed Community Pride application for refurbishing planters, benches and noticeboards would be submitted before the deadline on 9th February.</p> <p>Councillors: The Council budget meeting soon will be the last of this administration.</p> <p>National Park (FW): Noted that sewage at Altskeith was highlighted in a planning application. The plant in Kinlochard is only used by Forest Hills, so the issue of having to using septic tanks in Kinlochard should be raised again. The acidity of Loch Ard is too high. Pam will refer back to Fintry CC who had similar problems. National Park officials will be at Loch Chon next week to look at work on camp site provision. Query as to whether signage could be used there to promote local facilities, e.g. Pier Cafe? Community Action Plan: Roadshow on 25th Feb, visiting Kinlochard and 3 venues in Aberfoyle, with final draft of Plan for comment before publication, hopefully by end of March.</p>	FM

		<p>Police: Two incidents of antisocial behaviour and one of equipment theft. Noted that although there had been an incident, the Dukes Pass was gritted as far as Hill Cottage this year to ensure safe access for residents.</p> <p>Broadband: In Kinlochard, questionnaires to be sent out to 130 residents and Forest Hills, to assess the need for a better service. In Aberfoyle there are likely to be problems for those more than half a mile from the cabinet. Residents advised by Stirling Council to go online to Digital Scotland to complain if superfast service was poor, although action was not guaranteed. A £350 voucher scheme for satellite installation was available, although running costs advised by TG to be expensive for heavier users such as businesses. Government commitments had been made to deliver superfast broadband to all areas by 2021, although this could be by various methods and was still at an initial stage.</p> <p>Community Trust: Strathard Community Trust has now received the £20k due to the community from the sale of the Craigmore Centre, which had been a good outcome from the Community Council efforts. Plans would need to be made regarding the process of using this in line with Council approval. Some of those attending were unfamiliar with the Trust, which is more visible when projects are ongoing. More information on local community bodies could be organised and made available to raise awareness.</p>	
10.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Strathard News is struggling financially, and PC will discuss with Jane Fifield the editor. ▪ Query from MW as new CC member as to roles and duties of members. PC apologised on behalf of Stirling Council that information had not been sent out, as the Handbook is being reprinted. 	PC

Next meeting 2nd March 2017 in 7.30pm in Kinlochard Village Hall