

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Torbrex Community Council
Wednesday 10th May 2017 7.15pm - Conference Room, Stirling High School

1. Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Barry McDonald, Matt McGrandles (Treasurer), John Buchan, Fiona Rayfield.

In Attendance: Irene Torrance, Pat Ferguson, Richard Sawyer, Valerie Milligan Margaret Pitcaithley, Wilma Comrie (Stirling Council), Elaine Stewart, Margaret Wylie, Ian Cairns, John Walters and Lauren Beyer (Minutes).

Apologies: Annette Van Schalkwyk, Sheila Cairns, Margaret Palmer and Alistair Palmer.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes were approved by members subject to the addition of Joyce Hunter in attendance.

3. Matters Arising:

After discussions with Ogilvie, PS informed the meeting that the steps connecting Torbrex Lane and the new estate are currently being replaced by a ramp. This and final tarmacking of the road are due to be completed by June. The 3 houses on the Janitors plot are estimated to be finished by July. Thereafter the roads for which Ogilvie is responsible should be adopted by Stirling Council.

The street lamps where Rollock Street meets Ogilvie Road have been observed on as early as 4.30pm and remaining on until 9am. WC has agreed to follow up the matter.

Following correspondence with Geraldine Donald, PS advised the meeting that contractors deny any damage done to the hedge by the Old Ice Rink Site. FR has agreed to email relevant photographs to help resolve the issue.

Nevertheless the littering on the site has greatly improved. It was also raised that the litter around the area of Beechwood Park has decreased thanks to the school children and volunteers who have been litter picking on a regular basis. PS further reported that the contractors are scheduled to be off site by 17th July and the maintenance of the site thereafter is still in discussion.

FR raised concerns over conflicting documents enclosing plans for the site. The Planning Brief outlines the building of over 21 affordable homes while the Proposed Planning Document plans for 20 marketable homes. It is unclear whether Stirling Council, the Cricket Club and Ogilvie are responsible for the plot or whether only the Cricket Club and Stirling Council are responsible. FR agreed to contact Stirling Council planners on behalf of the Torbrex Community Council. This led to the ongoing discussion of access to the Old Ice Rink Site.

4. Community Police Report:

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR One vandalism to a motor vehicle outside an address in Birch Avenue. One male charged after smashing window within Torbrex Road after throwing bottle at same. One damage to motor vehicle parked within Torbrex Lane.

DRUG MISUSE No incidents of note.

VIOLENT CRIME No incidents of note.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY No incidents of note.

ROAD SAFETY A person charged after driving motor vehicle onto pavement in Torbrex Road.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE No incidents of note.

PC Paterson and PC Munro have regularly patrolled the Torbrex Community Ward Area, in particularly the area surrounding the Primary School targeting highlighted complains of illegal parking and speeding near to the school. They have also regularly patrolled Beechwood Park in relation to reports of anti-social behaviour. On several occasions over the last month PC Paterson and PC Munro have carried out Speed Checks on Tobrex Road regarding complaints of speeding on these areas. No drivers found to be driving at excessive speeds. PC Paterson and PC Munro have also conduct patrols on Pedal Cycle engaging with the community at any opportunity along with attending the Friday Night Football initiative at Stirling High School.

5. Chairman's Report:

Since the 2016 AGM, the Community Council held six meetings and we welcomed a new member, Fiona Rayfield. The police have submitted police reports for the Torbrex area for every meeting and attended most of the meetings. The Torbrex area continues to have a very low crime rate.

In the last year Beechwood Park was re-awarded a Green Flag by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Four more swings have been placed in the park. Unfortunately, vandalism has occurred on the Roman bench in Beechwood Park. The graffiti has been removed. There has been complaints regarding a fitness club at the park. Investigation into this matter is continuing. The litter picking in Beechwood Park has continued on a weekly basis. The efforts of the Stirling High School staff and pupils are greatly appreciated as are the efforts of local residents who support the project, particularly Valerie Milligan who organises the rota for the local residents.

Hedge control in Torbrex Lane is now very good. Ogilvie Homes have placed the footpath between Torbrex Lane and the south side of the new development. We objected to the original plans for 4 houses on the location of the former Janitor's house in Rollock Street. Planning was approved but the number of houses was been reduced to three. At the old ice rink site and adjoining car park, the SG08 planning brief from Stirling Council webpage includes a map and states that the 20 dwellings planned for the site must include affordable housing. At present the site is due for development in 2024.

Friday night football training at the High School was started in February with the assistance of a grant from the Community Council. It has been a success with over 20 teenagers attending.

Our Minute secretary, Ryan Beyer, has moved onto University and we were pleased to welcome our new Minute Secretary, Lauren Beyer.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the active support of members, office bearers, our minute secretary, our Honorary Auditor, members of the public, Friends of Beechwood Park, local councilors, community police, staff and pupils of Stirling High School. We are extremely grateful to the Stirling Council staff for their guidance and financial and physical support for the activities of the Community Council.

6. Treasurer's Report:

During the year the Community Council received an administrative grant from Stirling Council of £312.90, a minute taking grant from Stirling Council of £240.00 giving an income of £552.90.

Expenditure included £210.00 for our minute takers, £58.55 to P Smith as reimbursement for printing of Community Council newsletter / photocopying, £150.00 to M Cook for costs covering carbon dating the stones at Stirling Police Station and £430.00 to kick start the Community Football initiative led by local police officers, giving a total expenditure of £848.55

The balance of £3,850.48 is carried forward from last year together with the deficit of £296.09 from this year leaving a balance of £3,554.39 in the Torbrex Community Council bank account for the 2016/17 year.

The Annual Accounts of the Community Council were presented by Matt McGrandles, our Treasurer. They will now be submitted to Stirling Council.

7. Reappointment of Office Bearers:

The Community Council agreed to reappoint all current office bearers and their efforts this past year were acknowledged by VM and those in attendance.

8. Beechwood Park

PS advised the meeting that there had been more of the same graffiti on the Roman bench in Beechwood Park. It has been removed and IC added he had heard that the culprits had been caught and dealt with by Stirling High School.

PS reported that the fitness club is still running in the mornings and evenings sometimes with over 30 people in attendance. The music has been turned down. The fitness instructors have been observed asking children to leave the basketball court so that the fitness club can use it and they do not have the right to do this. RS agreed to email Stirling Council again and PS will contact Christine Simpson for help in resolving this matter.

RS asked about the map but PS was unsure whether it was yet on display.

MM raised concerns over the reduction in size of the football pitch in Beechwood Park. The current 5 a side pitch is no longer being hired out leaving just the SHS pitch available for matches. Balls have been reported being kicked into neighbouring gardens and members of the public climbing into said gardens to retrieve them. A garden wall was also damaged. The residents do not want the football to stop but they would like a bit more respect for their property. PS agreed to contact Stirling Council and Active Stirling who rent out the Stirling High School's pitch regarding this matter.

PF questioned the concrete slab covering the old well next to the scout hut and suggested it should be covered with grass as children play here. PS will take this matter up with the Council.

PF raised concerns over the old pavilion in Beechwood Park. It remains unused but whenever Stirling Council are asked, they state they still deciding what to do with the many abandoned pavilions across Stirling.

9. Planning: No matters arising.

10. Other Correspondence: No matters arising.

11. A.O.C.B.:

PS informed the Community Council that there is a Forum 5 meeting on Thursday 25th May at 7pm in Stirling High School with the main agenda item of road improvements for 2017/2018. Members were welcome to go along on behalf of Torbrex Community Council.

RS raised the issue of the lack of a Councillor at the last few meetings. PS agreed to ask if a Councillor would be able to attend the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th July 2017.